

Annie Stauffer

ASWIS Executive Committee Platform Statement

I am honored to accept the nomination for the At-Large Executive Board position with the Alliance of Social Workers in Sports (ASWIS). I am committed to advancing the mission of the organization, elevating the role of social work in sport, and advocating for the wellbeing, equity, and holistic development of athletes and to ensure sport-specific support for professionals across all levels.

Presently, I am a first-year PhD student at the University of Kentucky in the College of Social Work as well as an NCAA Division II assistant women's soccer coach. I also hold a social work license in the state of Kentucky, and prior to these roles I worked as a clinical therapist in community health and private practice settings. Through these experiences I developed the skillset to work in cross-care collaboration to adequately meet the needs of individuals and groups in a clinical setting. As a member of the ASWIS executive board I would offer a unique blend of clinical training, research experience, and an on-field applicable perspective.

My interests center on athlete mental health, performance psychology, and policy-level protections for athletes, which are areas that directly align with ASWIS's core mission. Additionally, I am currently pursuing my certification to become a Certified Mental Performance Consultant (CMPC) and am actively engaged in research that bridges sport, social work, and evidence-based interventions through the University of Kentucky's Sport Social Work Research Lab.

In addition to my research and practice contributions, I have been actively engaged in professional service through ASWIS. I currently serve on the Research Committee and the Early Scholars Committee, where I contribute to advancing scholarship, supporting emerging researchers, and shaping collaborative initiatives within the field. I also attended and presented at the 11th Annual ASWIS Symposium, an experience that deepened my commitment to ASWIS's mission. Strengthening my involvement with ASWIS through this nomination is an opportunity for me to expand my service, learn from established leaders, and contribute more intentionally to the Alliance's ongoing development.

If elected to the At-Large position, I am most interested in contributing to the continued growth and accessibility of sport social work. I hope to support efforts that strengthen mental health infrastructure for athletes by helping expand education and resource-sharing for clinicians, coaches, and institutions. I am also motivated to elevate early-career professionals by encouraging their involvement in committees, collaborative projects, and ASWIS programming. With my background in research and applied practice, I aim to help bridge research-to-practice gaps by promoting accessible translations of sport social work scholarship. Across all of these areas, I see opportunities to foster stronger cross-disciplinary collaboration, which aligns with ASWIS's values and reflects how I can meaningfully contribute to the Alliance.

I believe deeply in the ASWIS mission and am committed to serving with integrity, collaboration, and vision. It would be a great privilege to support the continued growth of the organization and contribute to a national movement that centers the wellbeing of all individuals in sport. Thank you for your consideration.