

Traci Nigg – Platform Statement for ASWIS Member at Large

I am honored to be nominated for the role of Member At Large for the Alliance of Social Workers in Sports. As a founding member since 2015, I have remained committed to advancing the Alliance's work. In its early years, I served as a peer editor for blog submissions, reinforcing my belief in connecting research, practice, education, and advocacy.

My career spans social work, sport, and youth development. Within Wichita Public Schools, I have served as a school social worker, coach, and Athletics Assistant Principal. I have taught Social Work in Sports at Wichita State University, supervised aspiring sport social workers, presented at the Alliance's symposium, and contributed to the *Sport Social Work Journal*.

Through my work with Ohio State's LiFEsports team during the development of "Coach Beyond..." professional learning, I built relationships with influential researchers and fellow Alliance members. I brought that learning back to Kansas, where we received an expansion grant to provide coach training statewide. I currently manage the Susan Crown Exchange expansion-grant project for Coach Beyond Kansas in partnership with Wichita Public Schools, the Greater Wichita Athletic League, and the City of Wichita Park and Recreation Department. I also manage the Mental Health Guidelines in Youth Sports research initiative with Wichita Public Schools serving as an anchor partner alongside Adelphi University.

As a collegiate and indoor professional women's soccer player, marathon runner, and high school soccer and cross country coach, I am committed to raising awareness of athlete identity development and serving the whole person. I value mindfulness and physical activity as self care for social work practitioners and healthy coping tools for young people.

I am a systems minded thinker who values relationships, trust, teammates' strengths, and efficient, sustainable solutions. I would contribute thoughtfully to board meetings, strategic planning, and decisions regarding Alliance policies, bylaws, and finances. I would also welcome committee work focused on youth sports, practicum supervision, and supporting coaches. My direct-practice experience in interscholastic athletics brings a "boots on the ground" perspective that can enhance the Alliance's research and clinical committees and help translate research into practical resources.

Looking ahead, I would like to expand the Alliance's presence within interscholastic athletics by presenting at the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association (NIAAA) and building strong partnerships with athletic directors. I also see an opportunity to provide consultation within athletic departments through needs assessments and responsive resources for coaches and athletic directors, while continuing to elevate athlete voice and support parents, schools, and communities.

As Member At Large, I would be an accessible liaison to the broader membership and bring a collaborative, practice informed voice committed to supporting practitioners and advancing equitable sport environments where every young person can thrive.