

## **Platform Statement: Candidate for Leadership**

### **Alliance of Social Workers in Sports (ASWIS)**

**Art Romero, MSW, ASW**

#### **Introduction & Foundation**

As a former Division II baseball player, my commitment to sport social work is rooted in lived experience navigating those exact pressures alongside the daily realities student-athletes face.

My professional practice integrates movement, behavior, and mental health. As a California Registered Associate Clinical Social Worker and Sport Social Worker, I promote athlete wellness through direct practice and adherence to the profession's core values.

#### **Practice, Scholarship & Service**

- **Community Impact:** I have developed sports-based programs utilizing soccer and movement to support young people in managing their emotions and fostering healthy relationships. Additionally, I have facilitated wellness workshops for high school athletes.
- **Scholarly Contribution:** I published a narrative reflection in the Sport Social Work Journal, examining topics such as athletic identity, the grief associated with transitions, and strategies to support healing beyond athletic participation.
- **ASWIS Leadership:** As Social Media Director since 2024, I have spearheaded national awareness campaigns, expanded access to critical resources, elevated member scholarship, and boosted attendance at our annual symposiums in New Orleans and Las Vegas.

#### **Strategic Vision for ASWIS**

If I am elected, I will focus on these priorities:

1. **Expanding Career Pipelines:** I intend to collaborate with college athletic departments, youth academies, and sports organizations to establish sport social work opportunities, internships, and post-graduate clinical supervision opportunities.
2. **Elevating Advocacy:** I aim to support ASWIS members in becoming recognized leaders in athlete mental health and equity at both regional and national levels.
3. **Fostering Mentorship:** I will formalize structured mentorship pathways that connect experienced practitioners with students and emerging social workers.

I would be honored to receive your vote and to collaborate in leading ASWIS into its next chapter.