

Skateboarding as an Olympic sport has even some on Team USA feeling conflicted



For decades skateboarders have tossed on a hot up part of the cooler and hunted for their town's best skate spots. This month, however, eight of the world's best skaters will don their Olympic uniforms and look for judges' point totals to skateboarding make its debut as an Olympic sport in Tokyo.

Some in the skateboarding community — including members of the U.S. national team — have mixed feelings about being a going "specification," however, and have shared fears of further oversight and rigidity in a culture that values independence and self-expression.

"That distance echoes throughout skateboarding. Since becoming popular in Southern California in the 1960s, skateboarders have shaped film, fashion, music, video games, art, photography and writing. Tens of millions of skate workdays now make up diverse and singular to community — and a multibillion-dollar industry — while still retaining a countercultural, go-it-alone known for its rebellious individualism."

"I think as a community, people were situated to skateboarding because it was not part of something like the Olympics, it was not mainstream," said Ian

Micha, the editor of *Iskream Magazine*, a skateboarding and culture magazine. "It was more of an artistic activity you could do on your own independently and shape your own way, be your own person and express yourself."

The month skateboarding makes a new chapter when 10 skaters will represent 26 countries at the sport and park competition in Tokyo. All the while, some still question whether skateboarding is a sport and should be governed by a body like the International Olympic Committee.

"Now with skateboarding becoming a sport, it's a different perspective and then turning it into a sport with numbers and statistics and putting values on 'tricks' and things that were genuinely once just moments of expression, some people are going to say, 'This is not in the spirit of skateboarding,'" Michaels said.

Typically that feeling is expressed among the old guard of the skateboard world, but aspects of that perspective can be found among the U.S. skaters too.

Alanna Sabrine, a member of the U.S. women's street team, has been open about her view on skateboarding's development.

"A queer artist and musician with an MTV degree, Sabrine, 24,

professional skateboarder and NBC Olympics analyst. "When you're talking about skateboarding and trying to explain what it means to people who don't know anything about it, you want to get it right. There's this sense of obligation and responsibility to represent skating the right way."

Even during the on-camera skates, like Tony Hawk — who has often spoken on the concept of "selling out" within skate culture and been denied for a time — have a complicated view of skateboarding becoming an Olympic sport.

"There's a lot of a mixed feeling, obviously about the Olympics because I feel like we were never really for their validation," Hawk told Yahoo! Finance in March, though he added he to see "the benefits of it, and I'm excited that these places where people have been discouraged from doing will now be embraced for it."

Hawk, who declined to comment on this story, joined NBC earlier this month as a correspondent for the Tokyo Summer Games and appeared in an ad for the Olympics alongside Kyah Blass, a member of the U.S. men's team.

Proponents of skateboarding's inclusion in the Olympics have emphasized the message of acceptance. They said they hope a greater number of kids will feel they might be better off if they won't be judged for it, like they might have been in the past.

"Every type of skateboarding is a different kind of skate," said Felipe Gustavo, a street skateboarder from Brazil who said he is excited to represent his home country in the Olympics this year. "It's not doing tricks, you're creating, riding downhill, competing, it means everything to everybody who skates has that same feeling, you know? We just took it a little more serious as a sport," Williams said.

"The best part of skateboarding is about style and counterculture and we don't play by the rules," added Sabrine, who said that skateboarding is more often considered by practitioners to be a lifestyle, art or method of self-expression. "It's like, 'I'm going to make this up and do my own way.' That's what I love about skateboarding."

Others on the team have also expressed similar sentiments, though all have noted the intense hours they represent for the United States in the Olympics.

"It's a fine line and really tough," said Paul Zizor, a former

MM 7.5: Maryland football has five players named to Pro Football Focus's All-Big Ten preseason teams



Maryland football is projected to have a few key players that could elevate the program this upcoming season as the team looks to take another step in the right direction after a 2-5 record in 2020.

There were five Terp named to Pro Football Focus's Big Ten preseason teams for 2021. The most notable mention on the list was junior defensive back Nick Cross, who was named an All-Big Ten player for the first time in his career. He was named to the team for his interception through the line of scrimmage.

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Darius Fulghum is a top US boxing prospect and also a nurse - this is his story

That's because he has a nursing degree - it is an unlikely background for any fighter to emerge from, let alone one of America's most prodigious up-and-coming talents.

"Nursing was what I've wanted to do, but I'm not a nurse," Fulghum tells Sky Sports.

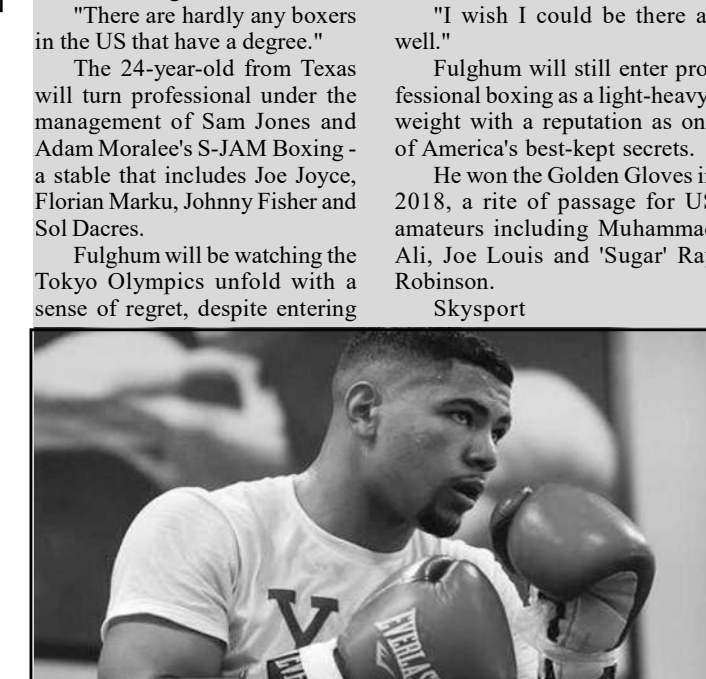
"I was a kid, I was also a pretty large kid growing up, I wasn't the most fit. But I was interested in learning about science and the human body which is why I chose nursing."

There are hardly any hours in the US that have a degree to qualify for the professional ranks. Fulghum, who is 24, is a member of the US national team and has been named to the team for his performance in the US national team.

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Sri Lanka cricket official banned for attempt to bribe minister

Sri Lanka's cricket reputation is under a double blow, Monday when an official was banned for seven years for trying to bribe the country's sports minister, while a top player was fined for giving inspectors criticizing the national board.

The International Cricket Council said it had banned former Sri Lanka Cricket performance analyst, Saman Jayaraman, for offering money to sports minister Hema Fernando to influence an international match.

Jayaraman is the latest in a series of players and officials to be banned for corruption.

Jayaraman's attempt to bribe a minister is a gross transgression while the official was up to his tracks and the lack of

transparency are hugely disappointing. A C.C. anti-corruption chief, A.K. Marshall said in a statement.

"We must continue to conduct in our sport and my team will be vigilant in preventing such behaviour," he warned.

Jayaraman was found guilty of charges of offering a bribe to "improperly" influence the national international game and of attempting to influence the national board.

The bribe is reported to have been offered in 2010 when Fernando said that the C.C. considered Sri Lanka to be the "best country for cricket corruption."

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Sri Lanka Cricket said 29-year-old Rajapaksa was in breach of the contract by giving the bribe to local media and on social media platforms.

His one year was suspended for two years, however, and the board said Rajapaksa has been included in a training squad for a series against India starting July 13.

Rajapaksa gave interviews last month saying that he was unfairly excluded from the just-concluded tour of England where Sri Lanka lost the one-day and T20 series.

He played his first T20 against Pakistan in October 2019 and the last in January 2020 against India.



Wimbledon: Emma Raducanu retires after struggling with her breathing against Ajla Tomljanovic

The teenage sensation has quickly become the story of the Championships, having only played one WTA Tour-level match before this tournament.

But she was noticeably struggling to breathe having lost the opening set and, after consulting with the referee and doctor, she took a medical timeout and then a medical timeout and then a medical timeout.

Wimbledon confirmed on Monday night that the reason for Raducanu's retirement had been "difficulty breathing."

"I am actually shocked because Emma must be hurt if she came to the decision to retire," Tomljanovic said on court. "I am really very for her. I wish we could have finished it. I am wishing her the best."

"I thought I found my groove although Emma was hurt and not at her best which kind of explains

it."

Two months ago Raducanu was sitting her A-level exams and until a month ago she had not even entered a match on the main WTA Tour. It is a whirlwind few days, 18-year-old Raducanu stepped out in the first round of the 2019 French Open runner-up Marketa Vondracek and then in the first round of the 2019 Wimbledon women's singles.

Raducanu, who is ranked 238th in the world, was seeded in the first round of the 2019 Wimbledon women's singles.

Despite the disappointing ending, this has been a career-launching triumph for the teenager, who will climb to 175th in the rankings and look forward to many better nights to come.

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