

## MOONSHOT BRIEF

# ATHLETICS

With the Athletics moonshot, President Folt is aligning USC Athletics with the university-wide Culture Journey, with high ethics and strong values at the core of everything we do. At its heart, this moonshot reflects the university's commitment to ensuring our student-athletes can compete at the highest level athletically – and achieve at the highest level academically.

“Athletics and our student-athletes and coaches are important to the fabric of our university – and our Trojan community. They bring together our students, alumni, and community in ways that nothing else can.”

– PRESIDENT CAROL L. FOLT, [STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY 2022](#)

## BUILDING ON COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE



*President Folt introduced Jennifer Cohen as USC's 10th Athletic Director, August 21, 2023.*

### TITLES AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Women's beach volleyball: Third straight NCAA title
- Women's lacrosse: Second-ever Pac-12 Tournament championship
- Men's water polo: MPSF Tournament champions
- Women's golf and men's tennis: Pac-12 Tournament champions



### USC FOOTBALL IS BACK!

Successful first season under new head coach Lincoln Riley:

- Finished season ranked #12 nationally.

# #12

### RECRUITMENT

Six teams (men's and women's basketball, football, men's volleyball, women's golf, and men's tennis) recruited #1 player in the 2023 class.

# #1

### ACADEMICS

USC student-athletes celebrated a fall 2022 GPA of 3.158 and an all-time high 2022 Graduation Success Rate of 93 percent.

# 93%

## RESOURCES

### PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHES

April 2022:  
[State of the University - UPC](#)

March 2023:  
[State of the University - HSC](#)

### EDITORIAL

[Athletics news on USC News](#)

### VIDEOS

[Title IX: 50 Years of Progress](#)  
[2022-23 Year in Troy](#)

### COMMUNICATIONS

[Announcing Jennifer Cohen as USC's Director of Athletics](#)

## Winning in the Classroom

- Continued focus on winning the right way, while achieving academic excellence in the classroom:
  - All 12 women's teams earned a GPA higher than 3.0 and 10 teams earned their highest-ever cumulative GPA: football, women's lacrosse, women's basketball, men's swimming and diving, baseball, women's rowing, men's tennis, women's track and field, men's volleyball, and women's volleyball.
  - Football had its highest ever cumulative GPA and in spring 2023, 58 students (more than half of the team) earned a GPA greater than 3.0.
- USC Athletics set a new department record with a multiyear 2023 NCAA Academic Progress Rate (APR) of 990.
  - Nine teams scored a perfect 1,000.
  - 17 teams equaled or improved their 2022 APR scores.



## A Move to the Big Ten and a Larger National Stage

- Our [move to the Big Ten](#) in **August 2024** continues USC's commitment to put students first.
  - Our student-athletes have earned the right to compete at the highest level, with the greatest exposure and the best levels of support. This move will allow us to better fulfill their expectations.
  - The Big Ten aligns with our values of academic excellence and athletic competitiveness for student-athletes and provides enhanced exposure and growth opportunities for USC's student-athletes.

*“Our move to the Big Ten positions USC for long-term success and stability amidst the rapidly changing sports media and collegiate athletic landscapes. Equally important, we are joining a conference that shares our values of academic excellence, athletic competitiveness, and diversity and inclusion across all sports. The enhanced resources from this move will enable additional support for our student-athletes as well as benefit initiatives surrounding academics, accessibility, and affordability.”*

– PRESIDENT CAROL L. FOLT, [letter to the USC Community, June 2022](#)

## Allyson Felix Field

- Named the field at the Katherine B. Loker Track Stadium in honor of Allyson Felix.
  - USC Rossier School of Education alumna; most decorated U.S. track and field athlete in Olympic history; national voice for women in sports, women's health, and maternity rights.

*“I think it's really important when you think about the very special places we have on campus, that we chose to name it after a person because of who she is. She exemplifies character and grace, integrity. And I see her as a real inspiration to the community. So there really wasn't a question.”*

– PRESIDENT CAROL L. FOLT, LOS ANGELES TIMES (1/18/23)

## Expansion of USC's World Class Athletic Facilities

- USC football will receive a new performance center.
  - Includes three levels dedicated to team operations, as well as a rooftop hospitality deck and player lounge.
  - A second full-length practice field will be added directly across from the new center.
- Rawlinson Stadium: a brand-new home for USC women's soccer and lacrosse.
  - Named for the family of L.A. philanthropist Joseph Rawlinson, the \$38 million stadium will have a capacity of 2,500 and a natural grass field.
  - Made possible by a \$10 million gift from the Fritz B. Burns Foundation.
  - The foundation's president, Rex Rawlinson, is a graduate of the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.
  - Features include an LED video board, a state-of-the art press box, and a formal entry plaza.
  - Student-athletes will benefit from dedicated locker rooms for both soccer and lacrosse, as well as a team meeting area, a sports medicine space, and a nutrition fueling station.
  - Scheduled to open in 2025.

