



## 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Women's Boxing Athletes

### Flyweight/112 lbs

1. Marlen Esparza, Houston, Texas (USA Boxing National Championships)\*
2. Virginia Fuchs, Kemah, Texas (USA Boxing National Championships)
3. Christina Cruz, New York, N.Y. (Olympic Trials Qualifier I)
4. Amanda Pavone, Burlington, Mass. (Olympic Trials Qualifier I)
5. Alex Love, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Olympic Trials Qualifier I)
6. Jamie Mitchell, Las Vegas, Nev. (Olympic Trials Qualifier II)
7. Giovanna Camacho, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Olympic Trials Qualifier II)
8. Melanie Costa, Norton, Mass. (Olympic Trials Qualifier II)

### Lightweight/132 lbs

1. Mikaela Mayer, Los Angeles, Calif. (USA Boxing National Championships)
2. Lisa Porter, Van Nuys, Calif. (USA Boxing National Championships)
3. Jajaira Gonzalez, Glendora, Calif. (Olympic Trials Qualifier I)
4. Rianna Rios, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Olympic Trials Qualifier I)
5. Stalacia Leggett, San Diego, Calif. (Olympic Trials Qualifier I)
6. Tiara Brown, Fort Myers, Fla. (Olympic Trials Qualifier II)
7. Samantha Kinchen, Lexington, Ky. (Olympic Trials Qualifier II)
8. Amelia Moore, Millersville, Md. (Olympic Trials Qualifier II)

### Middleweight/165 lbs

1. Claressa Shields, Flint, Mich. (USA Boxing National Championships)\*\*
2. Raquel Miller, San Diego, Calif. (USA Boxing National Championships)
3. Tika Hemingway, Brackenridge, Pa. (Olympic Trials Qualifier I)
4. Danyelle Wolf, San Diego, Calif. (Olympic Trials Qualifier I)
5. Naomi Graham, Colorado Springs, Colo. (Olympic Trials Qualifier I)
6. Franchon Crews, Baltimore, Md. (Olympic Trials Qualifier II)
7. Iesha Kenney, Alexandria, Va. (Olympic Trials Qualifier II)
8. Cierra Taylor, Rochester, N.Y. (Olympic Trials Qualifier II)

*Event next to name denotes the tournament in which the athlete qualified for the Olympic Trials*

*\* 2012 Olympic bronze medalist*

*\*\*2016 Olympic gold medalist*

# Olympic Trials for Women's Boxing Athlete Bios

## FLYWEIGHT/112 LBS

### **MARLEN ESPARZA**

**Weight class:** Flyweight/112 lbs

**Hometown:** Houston, Texas

**Resides in:** Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Birthdate:** July 29, 1989

**Height:** 5-2

**Occupation:** Boxer and motivational speaker

**Began boxing:** In 2001, because my dad was a big boxing fan so I grew up around it and wanted to try it out. I was given the choice to take dance or box and chose boxing.

**Biggest inspiration:** God, who has taught me how to center myself and be the best person I can be for myself and everyone around me.

**Greatest asset in the ring:** My attitude

**If I wasn't boxing, I would be:** In school full-time (Marlen is currently taking classes online while training for the 2016 Olympics)

**Biggest motivation:** Winning a gold medal at the 2016 Olympic Games

**2015 WORLD CHAMPION**

**2015 PAN AMERICAN GAMES SILVER MEDALIST**

**NINE-TIME USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**2012 OLYMPIC BRONZE MEDALIST**

**2012 OLYMPIC TRIALS CHAMPION**

**TWO-TIME WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BRONZE MEDALIST**

**FIRST AMERICAN FEMALE TO WIN AN OLYMPIC MEDAL IN BOXING**

**OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER RESIDENT ATHLETE**

### **VIRGINIA FUCHS**

**Weight Class:** Flyweight/112 lbs

**Hometown:** Kemah, Texas

**Birthdate:** March 9, 1988

**Height:** 5-4

**Coach's name:** Derwin Richards

**Club name:** Baby Bull Boxing Academy

**Began boxing:** In 2008, one of my friends is a boxer. We met at LSU and I started going to the gym to cross train for cross country my sophomore year and fell in love with the sport

**Outside the ring:** Ginny graduated from LSU in 2011 with a degree in kinesiology and currently works as a personal trainer along with training for the Olympic Trials

**2015 NATIONAL GOLDEN GLOVES CHAMPION**

**2013-15 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVER MEDALIST**

**2012 OLYMPIC TRIALS PARTICIPANT**

## **CHRISTINA CRUZ**

**Weight class:** Flyweight/112 lbs

**Hometown:** New York, N.Y.

**Birthdate:** December 12, 1982

**Lives in:** Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Height:** 5-5

**Began boxing:** At age 22, my friends introduced me to a boxing gym and I fell in love

**Other sports played:** Softball and basketball in high school

**FIVE-TIME USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**2012 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BRONZE MEDALIST (AT 119 LBS)**

**2011 PAN AMERICAN GAMES FLYWEIGHT REPRESENTATIVE**

**HOLDS THE RECORD FOR THE MOST NEW YORK GOLDEN GLOVES**

**CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER RESIDENT ATHLETE**

## **AMANDA PAVONE**

**Weight class:** Flyweight/112 lbs

**Hometown:** Burlington, Mass.

**Birthdate:** July 23, 1985

**Height:** 5-1

**Club:** Nonantum Boxing Club

**OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIER I SILVER MEDALIST**

## **ALEX LOVE**

**Weight class:** Flyweight/112 lbs

**Height:** 5-1

**Birth date:** June 2, 1989

**Lives in:** Fort Carson, Colo.

**Hometown:** Monroe, Wash.

**Club Name:** U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program

**Began Boxing:** Age 17

**Who has been your biggest influence and why:** My mom because she is the strongest woman I know.

**How did you get involved in boxing:** Conditioning for basketball.

**What is your greatest strength in the ring:** Speed.

**Did you ever play any other sport:** Basketball and track.

**What do you love most about boxing:** I love the training you put in and the satisfaction of feeling the results after a bout.

**Military information:** Joined Army in January 2013 - MOS - (35F) Intel Analyst

**TWO-TIME USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**2012 OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS FOR WOMEN'S BOXING PARTICIPANT**

**USA BOXING REPRESENTATIVE ON USOC ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY'S WORLD CLASS ATHLETE PROGRAM**

### **JAMIE MITCHELL**

**Weight class:** Flyweight/112 lbs

**Currently resides:** Las Vegas, Nev.

**Birthdate:** January 31, 1985

**Height:** 5-2

**Coach:** Anthony Chase

**Began boxing:** Six years ago, I love the sport

**Greatest asset in the ring:** My desire

**If you weren't boxing, what would you be doing:** Personal training

**Biggest inspiration:** My son, he is everything to me.

**Biggest motivation:** My past and knowing what I've come through

**OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIER II CHAMPION**

### **GIOVANNA CAMACHO**

**Weight class:** Flyweight/112 lbs

**Birthdate:** October 18, 1990

**Hometown:** Toa Alta, Puerto Rico

**Resides in:** Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Height:** 5-1

**Coach:** Coach McCoy

**Club:** U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program

**Began boxing:** When I was 16, I was offered free kickboxing classes when I was a janitor working at a gym. I stuck with boxing in college when females were rallying for a team. Joined World Class Athlete Program in March of 2015.

**Occupation:** Medical Officer

**College:** United States Military Academy at West Point (Graduated in 2013)

**Biggest inspiration:** Coach Mays because he coaches from the heart and believes in me even when I don't believe in myself.

**Military information:** Joined the Army in July 2008 - MOS - 70B, Medical Assistant

**OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIER II SILVER MEDALIST**

### **MELANIE COSTA**

**Weight class:** Flyweight/112 lbs

**Hometown:** Norton, Mass.

**Birthdate:** May 17, 1993

**Coach:** Alex Rivera

**Club:** Rivera Brothers Boxing

**Began boxing:** I started boxing at the age of 12. I saw the intensity of the training and loved the push of the body and mind.

**Occupation:** Receptionist at insurance agency/Police Matron

**Greatest asset in the ring:** My defense

**Biggest inspiration:** A mix between Floyd Mayweather due to his untouchable defense and Mike Tyson due to his aggressive push. Both of their work ethics are unstoppable.

**Biggest motivation:** The support of my loved ones and to be the best at what I do.

**OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIER II BRONZE MEDALIST**

**COSTA cont...**

**TWO-TIME NATIONAL GOLDEN GLOVES CHAMPION**

### **LIGHTWEIGHT/132 LBS**

**MIKAELA MAYER**

**Weight Class:** Lightweight/132 lbs

**Hometown:** Los Angeles, Calif.

**Resides in:** Marquette, Michigan

**Height:** 5-9

**Birthdate:** July 4, 1990

**Coach:** Al Mitchell

**Began boxing:** At 17, I wanted to change the path I was on and become involved in something more positive. Little did I know it would change my life so drastically.

**What has boxing taught you:** It made me hungry for success, taught me discipline, and I have learned that you can do anything in life if you set your mind to it.

**Did you know:** Mikaela is a former model

**THREE-TIME USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**2012 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BRONZE MEDALIST(141 lbs)**

**2012 CONTINENTAL CHAMPION**

**2012 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION (141 LBS)**

**2012 U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS RUNNER-UP**

**USA BOXING BOARD OF DIRECTORS ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE**

**LISA PORTER**

**Weight class:** Lightweight/132 lbs

**Hometown:** Van Nuys, California

**Birthdate:** September 21, 1988

**Height:** 5-6

**2012 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVER MEDALIST**

**JAJAIRA GONZALEZ**

**Weight class:** Lightweight/132 lbs

**Hometown:** Glendora, Calif.

**Birthdate:** February 13, 1997

**Height:** 5-5

**Coach's name:** Joet Gonzalez

**Club name:** Azusa Youth Boxing Club

**Boxing family:** My two older brothers, my younger brother and I all box

**Began boxing:** I started boxing when I was eight-years-old because my two old brothers were in the sport so I decided to try it

**Greatest asset in the ring:** Pressure and non-stop punching

**Biggest inspiration:** My dad because he goes out of his way to make me a champion and he's the reason for my success. My older brother as well because he's pushing me to do my best.

### **GONZALEZ cont...**

**Biggest motivation:** Seeing my older brother push himself to the limit encourages me to do the same.

**Did you know:** I like to volunteer and help out as much as I can, I like to dance and I'd rather be at the boxing gym than out with friends

**OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIER CHAMPION**

**2015 YOUTH WORLD CHAMPION**

**TWO-TIME YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**2014 YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES GOLD MEDALIST**

**TWO-TIME JUNIOR AND YOUTH OPEN CHAMPION**

**2013 JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPION**

### **RIANNA RIOS**

**Weight class:** Lightweight/132 lbs

**Hometown:** Alice, Texas

**Resides in:** Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Birthdate:** October 10, 1994

**Club:** U.S. Army World Class Athlete Program

**Military information:** Joined the Army in August 2013 - MOS - 12N, Horizontal Construction Engineer

**OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIER I SILVER MEDALIST**

### **STALACIA LEGGETT**

**Weight class:** Lightweight/132 lbs

**Hometown:** San Diego, California

**Birthdate:** June 25, 1987

**Height:** 5-3

**Occupation:** Lawyer

**College:** Undergraduate at San Diego State and law school at University of California, Hastings College

**Began boxing:** 2010

**OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIER I BRONZE MEDALIST**

### **TIARA BROWN**

**Weight class:** Lightweight/132 lbs

**Hometown:** Fort Myers, Fla.

**Resides in:** Oxon Hill, Md.

**Height:** 5-7

**Coach Name:** Barry Hunter & Patrice Harris

**Club Name:** Headbangers

**Began boxing:** In 2001 because two of my older cousins were boxers and I wanted to do it also.

**School:** Columbus State University

**Occupation:** Currently attending the Police Academy in Washington DC

**Greatest asset in the ring:** Focus, combinations and body work

**Biggest inspiration:** Lamont Peterson, he is a true champion in and out of the ring

**BROWN cont...**

**Biggest motivation:** God and my spiritual walk and my family

**THREE-TIME USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**2014 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BRONZE MEDALIST**

**2012 WORLD CHAMPION**

**U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS FOR WOMEN'S BOXING PARTICIPANT**

**SAMANTHA KINCEN**

**Weight class:** Lightweight/132 lbs

**Hometown:** Lexington, Ky.

**Height:** 5-7

**Birthdate:** November 8, 1995

**Coach's name:** James Doolin

**Club name:** Lexington Legends Boxing Gym

**Occupation:** Crew member at City BBQ/Evangelist

**Started boxing:** At age 12 because my brother was already boxing and I wanted conditioning for basketball. I was hesitant at first because it was a "boy's sport" or so I thought but I tried it and immediately fell in love.

**Greatest asset in the ring:** My tenacity, determination and the joy I fight with

**If you weren't boxing, what would you be doing:** I'd be in school full-time and working instead of school online.

**Biggest inspiration:** My Lord and savior, Jesus Christ. He's used my little brother Thomas. We are so close and I know that he looks up to me and I just want to be a good example for him and make him proud.

**Biggest motivation:** Knowing that winning gives me a platform to share my story and how Jesus' love for me has radically changed my life.

**2015 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVER MEDALIST**

**2013 YOUTH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BRONZE MEDALIST AND TEAM USA CO-CAPTAIN**

**2013 USA BOXING YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**2013 NATIONAL GOLDEN GLOVES CHAMPION**

**AMELIA MOORE**

**Weight class:** Lightweight/132 lbs

**Hometown:** Norway, Maine

**Resides in:** Columbia, Md.

**Birthdate:** February 4, 1990

**Height:** 5-8

**Coach:** Robert Crawford

**Club:** Laurel Boxing and ABC Boxing

**Began boxing:** In 2008, I was going in to the military, trying to get in to the Naval Academy and had a real passion for the sport

**Occupation:** Accountant

**Greatest asset in the ring:** Fast jab

**MOORE cont...**

**Biggest motivation:** To inspire others

**Biggest inspiration:** My first coach Thomas Langley, Sr. He was the kindest man I've ever known. I fight for him.

## **MIDDLEWEIGHT/165 LBS**

### **CLARESSA SHIELDS**

**Weight class:** Middleweight/165 lbs

**Hometown:** Flint, Michigan

**Resides in:** Colorado Springs, Colorado

**Birthdate:** March 17, 1995

**Height:** 5-9

**Coach:** Leon Lawson

**Began boxing:** At age 11 after hearing about Laila Ali from her father

**The baby of the team:** Claressa won the Olympic Trials at 16 and was 17 when she won Olympic gold

**History maker:** Claressa won the first-ever Olympic gold medal in the middleweight division, becoming the first American female to become an Olympic champion

**Youth over experience:** Claressa defeated an opponent nearly twice her age in her final bout at the Olympic Games to win gold.

**Did you know:** Claressa has only one loss in career and has won every national and international title possible. She is looking to become the first American boxer (male or female) to win two Olympic gold medals.

**2015 PAN AMERICAN GAMES CHAMPION**

**2015 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**2014 AIBA BOXER OF THE YEAR**

**2014 WORLD CHAMPION**

**2014 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**2013 AIBA YOUTH BOXER OF THE YEAR**

**2013 YOUTH WORLD CHAMPION**

**2012 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST**

**2012 OLYMPIC TRIALS CHAMPION**

**OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER RESIDENT ATHLETE**

### **RAQUEL MILLER**

**Weight class:** Middleweight/165 lbs

**Hometown:** San Francisco, California

**Resides in:** San Diego, California

**Height:** 5-8

**Coach:** Basher Abdullah

**Began boxing:** In 2010, I wanted to prove to myself I could do anything I put my mind to.

**Biggest inspiration:** God and people that love and believe in me

**Greatest motivation:** When someone tells me I can't

**Biggest goals in boxing:** Win a gold medal in Rio 2016

**Biggest goals outside of the ring:** To own my own business, inspire others to reach their dreams no matter who they are



**MILLER cont...**

**2015 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVER MEDALIST**

**2012 WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVER MEDALIST**

**2012 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**U.S. OLYMPIC TEAM TRIALS BRONZE MEDALIST**

**TIKA HEMINGWAY**

**Weight class:** Middleweight/165 lbs

**Birthdate:** September 15, 1986

**Height:** 5-7

**Began boxing:** 2004

**Who has been your biggest influence and why:** People who never give up and take no for an answer.

**What is your greatest strength in the ring:** It's a secret

**Did you ever play any other sports:** Basketball, volleyball, track

**What are your goals in and out of the ring:** To be a positive role model and to be successful in everything I do.

**What is something interesting about you that most people don't know:** I actually work harder than people think I do. I write bible verses and quotes on my hands before they are wrapped.

**OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIER I CHAMPION**

**2012 OLYMPIC TRIALS SILVER MEDALIST**

**2011 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS BRONZE MEDALIST**

**2010 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVER MEDALIST**

**2009 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION**

**DANYELLE WOLF**

**Weight class:** Middleweight/165 lbs

**Resides in:** San Diego, California

**Hometown:** York, Pennsylvania

**Birthdate:** September 8, 1983

**Height:** 5-11

**Occupation:** Personal Trainer/Nutritionist

**Began boxing:** I picked up my first pair of boxing gloves in mid 2008 and started competing in local fights in 2010. I had only 5 fights when I entered into the first ever female Olympic Trials in 2011. I was a year round athlete since I was 4 years old. I played every sport from K-12. I also went on to playing 3 sports in college. Out of college, I knew I needed to pursue my God given athletic ability and wanted to compete in a sport professionally. I wasn't sure which sport I was going to choose to be my focus since I competed in so many. I then started training for triathlons. I was then approached by multiple people who asked if I was a boxer because of my build and that I should give it a try. Once I stepped into that ring, I knew this was going to be the sport. It humbled me to do a sport that I never did before. The never ending learning and science behind boxing is what intrigued me the most about the sport. I am an athlete that loves discipline and work ethic. I love that this sport signifies "what you put in, is what you get out of it." Boxing is not a sport, it is a whole lifestyle and your whole

## **WOLF cont...**

lifestyle must coincide with being a champion.

**Greatest asset in the ring:** My greatest assets in the ring are my power, explosiveness, stamina, and will to win.

**What would you be doing if you weren't boxing?** If I wasn't boxing I would get my Master's Degree as a Physical Therapist and open my own practice.

**Biggest inspiration:** God has been my biggest inspiration. He has blessed me on my journey with boxing and I give it all to Him.

**What is your favorite thing about boxing?** Earning the WIN and having my arm raised at the end of the fight motivates me to stay focused, to stay disciplined, and to train harder than my opponents.

**Did you know?** I was featured in the 2014 ESPN the Magazine Body Issue. I've rode motorcycles since I was 5 years old, and I rescued a 15-year-old Chihuahua from the SPCA.

**2015 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION (at 152 lbs)**

**2014 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION (at 152 lbs)**

**2014 CONTINENTAL CHAMPION (at 152 lbs)**

**2013 USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION (at 152 lbs)**

**2013 CONTINENTAL CHAMPION (at 152 lbs)**

## **NAOMI GRAHAM**

**Weight class:** Middleweight/165 lbs

**Birthdate:** May 15, 1989

**Hometown:** Fayetteville, N.C.

**Resides in:** Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Height:** 5-9

**Club:** Army World Class Athlete Program

**Military information:** Joined Army in February 2013 - MOS - 89B, Ammunition Specialist

**OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIER BRONZE MEDALIST**

## **FRANCHON CREWS**

**Weight class:** Middleweight/165 lbs

**Hometown:** Baltimore, Md.

**Birthdate:** June 13, 1987

**Height:** 5-7

**Began Boxing:** 2003

**Biggest Influence:** My Mother, because the first day of the national championships-that's when my Mom came out of the hospital after 3 months. So she fights to live and I fight to win.

**Draw to boxing:** I started boxing to lose weight for singing.

**Greatest strength in the ring:** Heart, will, and power

**Other sports:** Basketball, track, softball

**Loves most about boxing:** The contact and the reward, the preparation for and anticipation of the fight

**Goals in and out of the ring:** To be the best I can be and help others out

**CREWS cont...**

**Did you know:** I used to be 205 lbs and tried out for American Idol

**EIGHT-TIME USA BOXING NATIONAL CHAMPION**  
**2012 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SILVER MEDALIST**  
**2012 OLYMPIC TRIALS PARTICIPANT**

**IESHA KENNEY**

**Weight class:** Middleweight/165 lbs

**Birthdate:** November 28, 1997

**Hometown:** Alexandria, Va.

**Height:** 5-9

**Coach:** Kay Koroma

**Club:** Alexandria Boxing Club

**Occupation:** Honor student

**Greatest asset in the ring:** My jab

**Biggest inspiration:** My coach, Kay Koroma, because he always believes in me.

**TWO-TIME YOUTH NATIONAL CHAMPION**  
**2015 YOUTH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BRONZE MEDALIST**  
**2013 JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPION**  
**2013 JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS BRONZE MEDALIST**

**CIERRA TAYLOR**

**Weight class:** Middleweight/165 lbs

**Hometown:** Rochester, N.Y.

**Birthdate:** August 20, 1986

**Height:** 5-9

**Coach:** Ralph Fratto

**Club:** Fight Factory

**Began boxing:** At 12, it was a method that kept me off the streets

**Occupation:** Personal training

**Children:** Three boys

**Greatest asset in the ring:** My jab and defense

**Biggest inspiration:** My mom because she has fought physically to take care of five kids alone

**Biggest motivation:** My children

**OLYMPIC TRIALS QUALIFIER II BRONZE MEDALIST**