



AGE GROUP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FINAL MINUTES

Date: February 11, 2025

Respectfully Submitted by Mikaela Bagley

CALL TO ORDER 12:01 pm EST (Quorum)

NOVEMBER MINUTES MSA (Dana, Kevin)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tristan Formon Committee Chair
Mikaela Bagley Coach
Rhi Jeffrey Coach
Kevin Milak Coach
Alexis Mendenhall Coach
Ian Murray Coach
Amy Parrato Coach
Michael Hamann Coach
Jake Mitchell Athlete

Jane Hanson Athlete **(Absent)**
Ally Dheeradha Athlete **(Absent)**
Aubrey Nelson Athlete **(Absent)**
Paul Donovan- SRDC Rep
Michael Lawerance - CAC Rep **(Absent)**
Dana Skelton Staff
Mariah Carnahan Staff

Guests: Hilary Perez, Mitch Gold, Tim Husson,
Kim McKay, Beth Winkowski

MISSION STATEMENT

To plan for the needs of the Age Group level of our sport. To generate, evaluate, and communicate ideas, which will assist USA Swimming in planning and developing quality age group swimming programs

RESPONSIBILITIES

To conduct an ongoing evaluation of the local and national age-group programs.
To develop and submit proposals to provide for the long-range planning of age-group swimming.
To encourage the development of programs that promote participation.
To oversee recognition for age group swimmers.
To communicate with and provide education and direction for the age group chairs in each LSC.
To develop programs to assist athletes in transitioning from Age Group to Senior.
To advise and consult with the Sports Development Division regarding camps, including open water.
To promote the inclusion of open water at all levels, including LSC competitions, LSC Championships, and Zone meets.

MITCH GOLD

- Mitch Gold working on product which maps stakeholders and aew system being implemented to track bugs, flaws, and opportunities
- General concept includes customized app for different user groups:
 - Coaches
 - Parents
 - Athletes
 - Officials
- Authentication system is implemented

- Currently in early life planning stages
- Will be following up with committee chairs to engage going forward
- New system being implemented to track bugs, flaws, and opportunities

UPDATE FROM DEI, CAC AND SRDC

- SRDC is working through meet items, and looking at the recent quad plan and any plans for 18U to get there.
- DEI looking to continue to build partnerships

SUCCESSION PLANNING UPDATE

- Participant 1 sent committee members key takeaways email approximately **10 days** ago. Shoot feedback back as soon as possible.
- Survey currently with Dana, slightly behind proposed timeline.
- Amy reported positive feedback from outgoing Minnesota AHRIP chair
- Timeline targets:
 - Survey distribution planned for week of **February 11th, 2025**
 - **10-14 day** response window for age group chairs
 - Data analysis with USA Swimming staff through **March 2025**
 - LSC leadership meetings planned for **April-May 2025**
- Program may expand to other LSC leadership roles pending successful pilot with age group chairs.
- Amy shared that she showed it with the outgoing age group chair from MNSI, and he liked it.

AGE GROUP DEEP DIVE UPDATE

- Dana completed **4** breakout calls between **November 2024** and **January 2025**
- Meetings included:
 - Age group chairs from each zone
 - Coach representatives
 - Focus on USA Swimming documents about meets and retention
- Next steps:
 - Dana scheduling follow-up with four zone age group chairs
 - Championship meets identified as likely next discussion topic
 - Seeking additional committee member volunteers to support future calls

BLOCK PARTY PILOT MEANING

- Pilot meeting held on **February 10th, 2025**
- Joel Schenefeld led meeting with diverse USA Swimming stakeholders:

- Board of Directors
- AEC Athlete Patriot Development
- Registration and membership
- Club development
- National officials
- LSC Development
- Program goals:
 - Create simple one-day swim meet format
 - Increase competition opportunities
 - Develop club tool for growth and retention
- Next meeting to review pilot data from **Q4 2024** and **Q1 2025**

NEW PROJECT IDEAS

Club ledge access and 12U turn rules

- Tristan had heard from Marci Callan who raised concern about unequal club access to ledgers affecting competitive fairness
- Committee considered potential exemption from non-continuous turn rule for 12U events

Parent education resource availability

- Amy significant reduction in parent education resources on USA Swimming website
- Previous resources included interviews with Olympians' parents and support guidelines for sport parents
- Content was reorganized under "parent engagement" instead of "parent education"
- Amy and Beth committed to investigate location of archived materials
- Kevin highlighted historical resources dating back to in non-digital format

Age group pathway to national competition

- Need for clear development pathway from ages 11-17 to national level
- Focus requested on specific programming and educational opportunities for age group development
- Committee identified need for improved communication to coaches and LSC leaders about development pathway
- Discussion centered on preparing athletes for **June** trials, representing **75%** of quad timeline

OPEN FLOOR

No items were discussed beyond the new project ideas.

PLANNED MEETING SCHEDULE

- March 11 @ 8:00 pm EST

- April 8 @ 12:00 pm EST
- May 13- Confirm time with athlete (are they out of school)

ADJOURNMENT 12:39pm MSA (Kevin, Mikaela)