

## USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

January 18, 2024 / Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Nicolas Fink, Melanie Margalis Fink, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Matthew Rigsbee, Ashley Twichell Wall, and Andrew Wilson

**Absent:** Julissa Arzave, Anthony Ervin, Natalie Hinds, Lilly King, Jack Nowacek, and Amanda Weir

**Guests:** Matt Barbini, Bruce Gemmell, Stacy Michael-Miller, Lindsay Mintenko, Ellery Parrish, and Michelle Steinfeld

**Call to Order:** Caitlin called the January 18, 2024 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council to order at 10:02AM MST.

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** none

### Agenda:

- Updates on working groups – National Team gifts, roles & responsibilities, pen Water
  - Coach selection process (Andrew/ Lindsay)
- Team USA Athletes' Commission ("TUAC") Elections & Board of Directors Elections (Michelle, Anthony)
- Olympic team plans (Lindsay)
- Board Nominating Committee proposed changes (Michelle)
- 2025 Nationals

### Discussion: Working Group Updates

- National Team Gifts/Welcome to National Team: Stacy will meet with Lilly and Natalie.
- Open Water: Ashley on working group trying to bring Ppen Water to the NCAA. First meeting was held yesterday.
- Roles and Responsibilities: No update at this time.
- Coach Selection process: Productive discussion between Mel, Andrew, Bruce, and Lindsay. Ways to improve but want to increase coach buy-in. Possible application at beginning of year. This was discussed at a National Team Steering Committee meeting. Discussion regarding what needs to be formalized. Carol Capitani offered to work with this group. Some feeling that some of this existed on paper previously – staff will research past iterations of this. Need for transparency with how coaches are selected for trips. May want to bring a junior coach on a trip so they can get more experience and exposure to National Team culture. Future discussions regarding Head Coaches who don't have athletes on the team, finding coaches earlier, paying coaches, creating interview process instead of paper application. Bruce's points of contact for this are Andrew, Mel, and Caitlin.

### Discussion: TUAC Elections & Board of Directors Elections

- 15 seats on Board. Five are 10-Year Athletes. Three are at-large 10-Year Athletes. Go through interviews. Elected by House of Delegates..
- Two of those are currently held by Ashley and Tony – TUAC. That election process is dictated by the USOPC.
- Two TUAC seats are elected in November.

- Share any specific criteria as to what experience athlete Board members should have. Please share with Michelle before February 7 Board Meeting.
- At-large seat: Applications out in April. Due May 15. Interviews June – July (will work around U.S. Olympic Team Trials and Olympic Games). No campaigning allowed. September virtual election, announced at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates.
- TUAC: applications due September, election in November (voted on by all USOPC 10-Year Athletes). No interviews required.

**Discussion:** Olympic team plans

- Document summarizing what was discussed previously.
- Lindsay asked that all review again to make sure it makes sense.
- There will be a discussion at Impact Coaches Meeting in San Antonio in April.
- Should be made clear what departure plan from village is for all three options.
- Discussion regarding best time to distribute information.

**Discussion:** Board Nominating Committee proposed changes

- Will propose tabling any changes to after the Olympic Games.

**Discussion:** 2025 Nationals

- Discussion about having this Nationals (in early June) be a trials meet for World Championships.
- This would make eight years in a row with a trials meet if there is one in 2026 and 2027.
- Is this in the best interest of the athletes?
- Proposal is paper selection from 2024 performances.
- Discussed pros and cons.
- Bruce will take this back to the National Team Steering Committee and Matt will share data with them.
- Want to be sure we are doing what is best for 2028 Olympic Team.
- Coaches should encourage athletes to share their opinions with the AAC members.

**Next Meeting:** February 15, 2024

**Adjournment:** Caitlin adjourned the January 18 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council at 10:52am MST.