

USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

November 15, 2024 / Virtual Meeting

Present: Carson Foster, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Katie Meili, Allison Schmitt, Josie Uerling, and Amanda Weir

Absent: Topher Bishop, Anthony Ervin, Nic Fink, Natalie Hinds, Olivia Tighe, Ashley Twichell Wall, and Andrew Wilson

Guests: Matt Barbini, Carli Brashier, Stacy Michael-Miller, Ellery Parish, and Michelle Steinfeld

Call to Order: Caitlin Leverenz Smith called the November 15, 2024 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) to order at 10:04AM MST

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: none

Agenda:

- Committee Placements - *Caitlin/Ellery*
 - Caitlin explained the AAC's role in appointing athletes to committees
 - 10-Year Athlete placements based on applications and interest
 - Current placements were shared with group - everyone who applied was placed except one due to committee needs
 - Current needs:
 - 1 NBOR
 - 2 CAC placements
 - 4 Rules and Regulations
 - Caitlin provided explanations on what each of the three committees does so AAC members could think of ideas for potential candidates
 - Will vote via email to approve placements and then keep searching for others
- LA28 planning - SCAL camp options - *Carli/Caitlin*
 - If we are moving in the direction of a camp in SCAL we need to discuss pool space
 - Carli provided insight into previous thought on staying out of the city that is hosting the Games, as well as the needs with athletes interested in attending opening ceremonies
 - Discussion of potential pool space:
 - People get very frustrated by sitting in traffic (avoid that if possible)
 - Opening Ceremonies can bring excitement to the team
 - There are strong feelings about Opening Ceremonies on both sides
 - Performance impact
 - Olympic experience importance
 - Now everyone has the opportunity to attend Closing Ceremonies instead since we compete the last week this time.
 - Question from Carli:
 - What are your priorities in this camp?
 - Indoor water?
 - Outside of LA?
 - The further away we are, the longer time to make this decision
 - Timing of being in competition pool?
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- Carli will pull together options on a map with pros/cons and share with group
 - AAC can meet and see what recommendation they want to put forth as a committee with a strong rationale behind it
 - A point was raised that we are now competing second week and athletes will be finished competing before we start, so they may be loud in the Village. Staff will try to get ahead of this to prevent noise impact
- Pro Swim Series - clusters/ timing/etc. - *Caitlin/Andrew/Matt*
 - 2025 is locked in
 - Forward looking conversation thing needs to happen by end of this month
- CEO & NTD task force updates - *Caitlin/Katie*
 - CEO
 - Finalizing job description today
 - Search agency has gathered feedback from a large number of constituents
 - Interviewing candidates starting soon
 - Goal is early 2025
 - National Team Managing Director
 - Finalizing job description today
 - Job description will be posted
 - Targeted town halls to gather feedback on ideal candidate criteria
 - Potential for person to come on staff in late Spring – fluid timeline

Next Meeting: TBD in December 2024

Adjournment: Caitlin adjourned the November 15 meeting of the AAC at 10:45AM MST.