

USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

April 25, 2025 / Virtual Meeting

Present: Gunnar Bentz, Topher Bishop, Nic Fink, Lilly King, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Katie Meili Playko, Olivia Tighe Josie Uerling, and Amanda Weir

Absent: Carson Foster, Allison Schmitt, and Andrew Wilson

Guests: Matt Barbini, Greg Meehan, Stacy Michael-Miller, Ellery Parish, Michelle Steinfeld

Call to Order: Caitlin Leverenz Smith called the April 25, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) to order at 10:05AM MST

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: none

Agenda:

- Approval of minutes
 - Motion to approve January and March
 - Seconded NF
 - No discussion
 - Approved 8-0
- Staff Updates – *Greg, Stacy & Michelle*
 - Greg officially starts on Monday (April 28)
 - Yuri starts on April 28 as well
 - One more person coming in a month (molded Junior Team logistics into this role)
 - Both roles creating job descriptions that provided flexibility
 - Will review Division structure for re-organization at end of summer
 - Coach in all three titles to give coach voices in National Team Division
- Pan Pac Selection Criteria - *Matt Barbini and Michelle Steinfeld*
 - *Matt provided detail on what he will present at National Team Coaches Meeting*
 - *Pan Pacs is largely the same.*
 - *Doing this a year early which prompted a few changes*
 - *Meets considered: nationals (A only), Worlds, World Juniors, WUGS, TYR Summer Meet (A only).*
 - *No relay lead offs, swim offs, etc. considered*
 - *Rankings will be based off of times*
 - *50s in all of these events*
 - *Discussion regarding prioritize 5th and 6th in different ways*
 - *Will post immediately after Ft. Lauderdale*
- NCAA landscape updates - *Michelle*
 - Developed plan to lobby for Swimming in the US
 - Meet with ADs
 - On the Hill
 - Starting to plan visits to ADs
 - Will need your help finding alumni to attend those visits and explain experience
 - Can do zoom calls in interim
 - USA Swimming preps athletes and pays to get you out there
- Funding - *Stacy*

- Update on September funding. Will meet with Greg and ensure he has what we had planned to do, discuss 50s and treating them like other events, and any other changes then return to this group.
- Thank you for input on open water. Not moving forward with stipend in both disciplines (pool and open water) – Qualification funds in both (approved by USOPC).
- APA: tightening parameters, clear expectations on training/competing requirements for non-APA, and clarification on wording of Direct Athlete Support tiers.
- Board election - *Caitlin/ Nic*
 - House of Delegates electing three new non-athlete Board members.
 - This group will all be voting in that.
 - One 10-Year Athlete seat open on the Board.
 - Deadline is May 15 –
 - 2 rounds of interviews via zoom
 - Election in September
 - 3 AAC seats in fall
 - Amanda's position
 - Andrew's position
 - Gunnar's position

Next Meeting: May 2025

Adjournment: Caitlin adjourned the April 25, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council at 11:00AM MST.