

USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

February 15, 2023 / Virtual Meeting

Present: Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Nicolas Fink, Michael Klueh, Amanda Weir, Andrew Wilson, Jack Nowacek, Matthew Rigsbee

Absent: Anthony Ervin, Melanie Margalis, Tom Shields, Ashley Twichell

Guests: Lindsay Mintenko, Stacy Michael-Miller, Michelle Steinfeld, Elaine Calip, Tom Luchsinger

Call to Order: Caitlin Leverenz Smith called the February 15 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council to order at 10:04am MST.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

Agenda:

- Committee Education (*Lindsay Mintenko*)
- Relay incentives (*Lindsay Mintenko*)
- HoD working group update (*Amanda Weir/ Michelle Steinfeld*)
- April Workshop (*Michelle Steinfeld*)
- Athlete Contacts to Commission on the State USOPC (*Michelle Steinfeld*)
- Alumni engagement (*Foundation team*)
- Transgender policy update - closed session (*Michelle*)

Discussion:

- Lindsay Mintenko conducted committee education session including AAC responsibilities, individual committee member responsibilities and term limits. Slide deck will be shared with those not in attendance. Will run election of ABM for vacant spots in September and announce at House of Delegates.
- Lindsay Mintenko shared a Relay Incentives Proposal leading into the 2023 World Championships and the 2024 Olympic Games. This has been shared with Board of Directors, Steering Committee and now the AAC. Importance of relay qualification for Olympic Games. Qualification has changed: - Top three at 2023 World Championships (Fukuoka) plus next top 13 times from 2023 and 2024 World Championships (Doha)
- . Goal: have all seven relays qualify in 2023 World Championships.
 - o Proposal 2023:
 - Gold in all seven Olympic relays: Worlds Team splits \$500,000 incentive.
 - Medal in all seven Olympic relays: Worlds Team splits \$150,000 incentive.
 - o Proposal 2024:
 - Gold in all seven Olympic relays: Olympic Team splits \$1 million incentive.
 - Medal in all seven Olympic relays: Olympic Team splits \$250,000 incentive.
 - o Budget discussion regarding where funds are coming from.
 - o Focus on relays in general this year and next (including relay camps)
- Motion to approve Relay Incentive proposal. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously with 5 yes votes, 0 no votes.

- HOD Working Group:
 - o Amanda Weir shared update on HOD working group discussions on composition of HOD.
 - o Michelle Steinfeld explained working group options and group's decision to extend current format for another year. HOD Working Group Chair is going to attend April Workshop and gather data.
 - o Matthew Rigsbee requested feedback from this group and the athletes they work with regarding HOD.
- Michelle explained April Workshop:
 - o April 20-22, 2023 in Denver, Colorado.
 - o AAC is formally invited to attend this as well as the ABM in September.
 - o April 20 Board Meeting and Safe Sport; Programming on Friday; Saturday is Legislative where proposed legislation for HOD is shared.
 - o AAC is welcome to do a presentation at Board Meeting.
- Athlete Contacts to Commission on the State of the USOPC:
 - o Michelle explained the purpose of this, what they are looking at, and that a public hearing will be held in the Fall. Everyone who has the potential to participate has to be notified.
 - o We are hesitant to provide athlete contact information due to confidentiality. We would like to distribute this via the AAC general email and confirm receipt rather than providing individual contact information. AAC supported this approach.
- Next meeting Anthony Ervin will report on having an AAC athlete on National Team Steering.
- USA Swimming Foundation Alumni Engagement:
 - o Elaine Calip and Tom Luchsinger explained the current structure of the Board and Ambassadors, emphasizing the importance of Alumni Engagement. Discussed focus of Foundation (Saving Lives, Building Champions, Impacting Communities).
 - o Important part of our strategy: unique perspective that athletes have to build on the future.
 - o Data: we need contact information that is accurate to share event information for alumni events
 - Where are people located? City and State
- Events: Goal is Alumni engagement, reunions, and celebrations. Not an ask.
 - o Nationals in Indianapolis
 - o Golden Goggles 2023
 - o Olympic Trials 2024 Reunion honoring 2004, 1984, 1964 teams
 - Reunion Activities / Tickets / Hotel Block
 - Over 100 alumni have already registered
 - Encouraging people to purchase now
- We need to make sure our Governance Group (HOD and Committees are receiving this).
- Discussion regarding how AAC can assist and support Alumni Engagement
 - o Fun activities outside of pool setting
 - o Family activities are important (bringing kids)
 - o Happy to gather a list of activities and send out surveys
- Discussion regarding best way to communicate:
 - o LinkedIn page (focused groups too)
 - o Facebook group

- The AAC had an update on the transgender policy in Closed Session.
- Next Meeting March 8

Adjournment: Caitlin Leverenz Smith adjourned the February 15 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council at 11:43am MST.