

## USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

July 6, 2023 / Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Nicolas Fink, Melanie Margalis, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Ashley Twichell Wall, Amanda Weir, Andrew Wilson, Julissa Arzave, Matthew Rigsbee, Natalie Coughlin Hall and Maya Dirado

**Absent:** Michael Klueh, Anthony Ervin, Jack Nowacek, Tom Shields,

**Guests:** Michelle Steinfeld, Lindsay Mintenko, Stacy Michael-Miller

**Call to Order:** Caitlin Leverenz Smith called the July 6 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council to order at 1:03pm MST.

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** none

### Agenda:

- World Champ Selection (*Caitlin, Lindsay*)
- AAC role in coach selections (*Caitlin, Lindsay*)
- Continue conversation around NIL (*Michelle, Maya, Tony*)
- Pro Swim Series funding (*Nic*)

**Discussion:** Lindsay Mintenko spoke about World Champ Selection. Suggestions made to evaluate selections for 50 of stroke every year. Rarely take someone to swim just 50s of stroke. Lindsay has statistics to show this. Lindsay also spoke about how many times the selection procedures were sent out, along with a webinar. In addition, when athletes decline to race an event what happens and what is the intention around adding the 7<sup>th</sup> place person to the team.

Discussion about the role of the AAC in coach selections. AAC members are not familiar with all coaching pool candidates. Should they craft a role of someone who liaisons and helps with this? Thought was to take on a role with Operation Gold and USOPC delegation teams only. coaches are named on site and it's a very in the moment discussion. This role would need to be familiar with potential candidates and prior evaluations before the meet begins. Caitlin will draft information to put in the manual to memorialize it and ensure it is part of the process for an athlete to have a say in Head Coach position.

Discussion regarding NIL: Senate Education Committee in California slowed CA bill down – it will come up next year. A win for Olympic movement, but not a final win. Hopeful that there will be an audit done over the next year to determine where the funding is coming from. After Paris that may carry more weight because people don't understand how the Olympic movement is funded. A bill may come that regulates NIL across the states and institutions federally. Also discussion regarding mandating details of contract must be shared in the interest of fair market value. Very concerned that athletes are being taken advantage of, but athletes don't think disclosing details of contract is answer as pro athletes do not have to do this. Will athletes be able utilize that transparency to continue to earn more. Is this considered salary or endorsement? Salary is transparent endorsements aren't. Michelle will review bill and send a summary. Where do we go from here? We will need to re-group to determine how we want to proceed in the next year. We met with California and Washington DC offices. USA Swimming continues to research options if a bill of this nature passes.

Discussion regarding prize money to top 6 rather than top 3. Keeping it at top 3 is an incentive. Nic will discuss with people at worlds.

**Adjournment:** Caitlin Leverenz Smith adjourned the July 6 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council at 2:00pm MST.