



## Open Water Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025- 10:00 MST

**USA Swimming Mission:** USA Swimming is the National Governing Body for the sport of swimming. We administer competitive swimming in accordance with the Olympic & Amateur Sports Act. We provide programs and services for our members, supporters, affiliates, and the interested public. We value these members of the swimming community, and the staff and volunteers who serve them. We are committed to excellence and the improvement of our sport. We are committed to providing a safe and positive environment for all members.

**Committee Mission:** Assists USA Swimming in developing and promoting the success of Open Water Swimming programs at all levels of competition

### USA Swimming Priority Results:

1. USA Swimmers achieve sustained competitive success at the Olympic Games and other high-level international competitions.
2. Members have and use resources for sustainable success.
3. There is growth in swimming participation and interest.
4. USA Swimming is recognized as the “Best in Class” National Governing Body.

Meeting: **Selection Criteria for Worlds Discussion**

### Roll Call:

Present: Catherine Case (Chair), John Payne, Sid Cassidy, Cory Chitwood, Mohammed Khadembashi, Brendan Casey

Staff: Bryce Elser (Lead), Karin Olmsted

Not Present: Erica Sullivan, Ron Aitken, Brennan Gravley

- I. Approve Minutes – will do via email since we don’t have erica on call.
- II. OW Worlds Selection
  - Discussion of a third option of selection and feedback on roster sizes. Important to open up opportunities earlier in the quad to help athletes grow and see what they are capable of.
  - Committee in agreement on 2025 World Athlete Criteria Selection and Process discussed and agreed upon. Bryce will type up and make an official announcement. Announcement of official OW team for 2025 worlds will be selected after OW Nationals in April, with any other athletes notified by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025
  - 2025 National Team Qualification will be selected from world championship team.
- III. Race Funding Program –
  - Reviewed schedule that Bryce Sent, Committee discussed maximizing the budget.
  - Bryce will write and amend for group to review at next meeting
- IV. Junior Team Competition
  - Committee discussed the cost – maybe go to Europe vs Australia
  - Discussion of helping juniors get race experience in world cups
  - Bryce will look into budget stipend for junior athletes to go to world cups
- V. Next Call – Mid Feb + March 4<sup>th</sup> at 10 MST
  - Break from April to September
  - Sarasota or Olympic Venue in 2028 for 2026
  - Discussion for Fall OW Nats
  - Grass roots Development and Domestic Initiatives