



Open Water Committee

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 11th
10:00am, 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: The Open Water Committee shall assist USA Swimming in developing and promoting successful Open Water Swimming programs at all levels of competition.

Responsibilities:

1. Recommendations to USA Swimming for development and review of programs and policies regarding the safety of athletes, officials, and spectators involved in open water swimming.
2. Advising USA Swimming on development programs to recruit, train, and educate open water coaches, officials, and volunteers.
3. Advising USA Swimming on the development of Open Water Swimming programs designed for success in international competition.
4. Endorsing selection procedures for athletes, coaches, and staff members of all Open Water National Team and National Junior Teams

Roll call

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

Staff: Bryce Elser (Lead), Karin Olmsted

Not Present: Erica Sullivan, Ron Aitken,

I. Race Funding Program and Criteria review with the committee

Bryce Presented material and criteria – but also allows some athlete customization
Discussion on the committee – if athlete doesn't go to WC, they waive the funding.
USAS to plan on bigger budget for in 2026 –steps in and builds out through the quad.

II. NT Selection

Worlds team named to NT first, then go back and pick up other athletes – picking from the 10k first. Benefits include support that is provided for national team. Monthly stipend is depending on World Championship Team for 2025. Altitude training camps are truly beneficial – discussion on what those camps could be and who attends.

III. 2025 World Championships Camp- Update

Bryce and Committee discussed the WC camp prior to the race in Singapore, allowing for acclimation into Singapore, keeping the team together and less taxing on the athletes.

IV. Wetsuits

2028 Olympic Games could be wetsuit race, depending on how do we mitigate and what can we do to help our athletes? The committee discussed hosting a wet suit camp, as well as how to get athletes into a wetsuit more often and of their choice. As per WA, Triathlon wetsuits will be allowed. Bryce will have wetsuits to try on at Nationals this spring for those who qualify for WC. Bryce to talk to partnerships about getting outfitted now that the WA rules changed to used tri wetsuits in 2025 – maybe TYR?

V. 2026-2028 Open Water National Brainstorm

Fall OW champs ? Discussion – April and Fall Meets

Are there other possible venues? Committee to think about formatting – relay, knockout, for call in next two weeks.