

**USA Swimming Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
October 30, 2024 / Virtual Meeting**

Present Virtual: Natalie Coughlin Hall, Todd DeSorbo, Bruce Gemmell (Chair), Lilly King, Matt Kredich, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Jaime Lewis, Melanie Margalis-Fink, Greg Meehan, Anthony Nesty, Ginny Nussbaum, Chris Plumb, Kieran Smith, Andrew Wilson

Absent: Ron Aitken, Bob Bowman, Carli Brashier (staff liaison), Carol Capitani, Tad Kremen

Guests: Matt Barbini, Shana Ferguson, Stacy Michael-Miller, Michelle Steinfeld

Call to Order: Committee Chair Mr. Bruce Gemmell called the October 30, 2024 meeting of the National Team Steering Committee to order at 11:00 AM Mountain Time on October 30, 2024.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: Committee members were asked to disclose conflicts of interest by raising their hands if 1) they have an athlete(s) on the National Team or National Junior Team, 2) they are an athlete currently on the National Team, and/or 3) they have a spouse on the National Team.

Pursuant to the direction of the USA Swimming Ethics Committee, the following coaches raised their hands to acknowledge that they coach one or more current National Team athletes: Todd DeSorbo, Matt Kredich, Greg Meehan, Anthony Nesty, and Chris Plumb. The following athletes raised their hand to acknowledge that they are current National Team athletes: Lilly King and Kieran Smith. The following raised their hand that her spouse is a current National Team athlete: Melanie Margalis Fink.

National Team Steering Committee Members: Michelle Steinfeld, Secretary & General Counsel, presented the following motions to the Committee:

Motions: Pending National Team Steering Committee (the "Committee") member removals and appointment by the Interim CEO, motion (1) to elect Frank Busch as Chair of the Committee, for a one-year term, and (2) to confirm Bruce Gemmell and Greg Meehan as ex-officio members of the Committee, with voice no vote.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Paper Selection Discussion: Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Chair of the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC), addressed the conversation held at the AAC meeting on Monday where the athletes unanimously felt that there should be a selection meet every year. Athlete concerns included the following:

- The best team is not selected when we take a team that is selected a year out.
- If an athlete has a bad meet, they are out of the big international competitions for two years.
- Athletes who swim multiple individual events at international competitions and have a full schedule need a year of preparation to plan for that.
- Athletes have already begun thinking about their plans for this quad.
- Olympic Team athletes who took long breaks and are considering forgoing competing in the summer of 2025 would now also have to forgo the summer of 2026.
 - This would have been fine if it was known as the plan ahead of time, but it is now late for that decision.
- These competitions are important for athletes' ability to earn money.

Several Committee members noted the importance of finding time in the Quad for athletes to take a break and the need for a paper selection meet somewhere in the Quad. There was agreement that not every perspective was represented on the AAC. The discussion resulted in the decision to revisit the topic further with Mr. Gemmell, Ms. Leverenz Smith, and Matt Barbini, Director, High Performance.

2026 Pan Pacific Championships Selection Procedure: Mr. Gemmell and Mr. Barbini presented the option of including the 2025 TYR Pro Championships (August 5-8) as part of the 2026 Pan Pacific Championships selection procedures. Meets that would be included in selection include, but may not be limited to:

1. 2025 Nationals/Trials (June 3-7)
2. 2025 World Aquatics Championships (July 27-August 3)
3. 2025 World University Games (July 17-23)
4. 2025 World Aquatics Junior Championships (August 19-24)

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of including the end of the summer 2025 TYR Pro Championships in the selection procedure, including the impact of the NCAA season on June selection meets, that June Trials competitions will be a norm for international competitions, the priority of performing well at Worlds on overall development, the importance of showing up at the Trials meet versus a last-chance meet, the benefit of eight extra weeks of training for those athletes that took a break after the Games or for those younger athletes finishing high school, and the lack of LCM water during the lead up to June meets. Mr. Barbini reminded the Committee of the larger roster at the Pan Pacific Championships. Mr. Gemmell reminded the group they could make a recommendation.

Adjournment: Mr. Gemmell adjourned the meeting of the Steering Committee on October 30, 2024 at 11:35 AM Mountain Time.