

USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

October 31, 2025 / Virtual Meeting

Present: Phoebe Bacon, Gunnar Bentz, Topher Bishop, Nic Fink, Lilly King, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Katie Meili Playko, Allison Schmitt, Olivia Tighe

Absent: Carson Foster, Josie Uerling, Alex Walsh

Guests: Greg Meehan, Stacy Michael-Miller, Ellery Parish, Michelle Steinfeld, Yuri Suguiyama and Kim Williams

Call to Order: Caitlin Leverenz Smith called the October 31, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) to order at 10:04AM MST

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: none

Agenda:

- **Chair and Vice Chair Elections - Caitlin**
 - Caitlin asked for interest in running for Chair
 - Candidates: Lilly King
 - Unanimous vote 6-0
 - Caitlin asked for interest in running for Vice-Chair
 - Candidates: Nic Fink
 - Unanimous vote 6-0
- **Athlete Performance Funding Update - Greg**
 - Greg shared proposed new model
 - Calling it Athlete Performance Funding rather than Direct Athlete Support
 - We can shift in September if this is not the right fit
 - New model is ranking event first rather than % of A time standard
 - Professional athletes:
 - Move to \$3750 a month
 - USA Swimming supplementing a portion of increase
 - NCAA eligible athletes
 - Scholarships/NIL/Training tables provide greater opportunities for NCAA athletes
 - Keep amount at \$1750 per month
- **Individual Performance Plans - Greg**
 - To be used for 2025 expenses
 - Pros will receive \$2200 in early November
 - NCAA eligible require Compliance/High School Association approval before payment
 - Will change amount and structure in 2026. Discussion regarding travel assistance based on cost of living.

- **Committees - Ellery**

- Ellery explained different types of committees and 10-Year or 10-Year+ Athlete requirements and shared athletes who plan to return to committee roles and slots that are vacant.
- Discussing posting in National Team WhatsApp group to inquire about interest and explain each committee role.
- Athletes should send an email to Lilly or Nic to express their interest in a committee.
- Maya Dirado stepping in as Athlete Representative on the Board of Directors.
- New National Team Steering Committee Chair, Billy Doughty, connected with Caitlin and will be connected with Lilly to ensure the two committees can work together well going forward.

Next Meeting: November 2025

Adjournment: Caitlin adjourned the October 31, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council at 10:34AM MST