

## USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

December 19, 2025 / Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Gunnar Bentz, Nic Fink, Lilly King, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Olivia Tighe, Josie Uerling, Alex Walsh

**Absent:** Phoebe Bacon, Topher Bishop, Carson Foster, Katie Meili Playko, Allison Schmitt

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

**Call to Order:** Lilly King called the December 19, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) to order at 10:02am MST

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** none

### Agenda:

- Final Athlete Committee Nominations (see attachment) – *Lilly King*
  - Motion to approve nominations as written: Lilly King, Nic Fink, second
  - Approved: 5
  - Opposed: 0
- Collegiate Landscape update - *Bryan Alphin USOPC- Government Relations*
  - Explained current proposals in Congress and Senate
  - Activity on legislation in 2025 – SCORE ACT
  - Next steps:
    - Provided update on the dialogue that has taken place
    - Bryan will contact USA Swimming when it is most impactful time to engage athletes – anticipates providing an update in January.
    - Inquiry regarding local opportunities that the athletes could support – current focus is at Federal level
- Holly Shick from USOPC Anti-Doping Update
  - Provided update on USOPC Anti-Doping efforts.
- 10 year + athletes Board of Directors seats – *Caitlin Leverenz Smith*
  - Caitlin provided an update on the suggestion to make some Board positions 10 year + athletes
  - 10 year + athletes will continue to be elected by the House – very successful involvement
  - Purpose of 10-year athletes is to provide insight into current athlete perspective
  - Move forward with ending this discussion
- Open Water Committee: *Yuri Suguiyama*
  - Potential need for new athlete representatives
  - Lilly to follow up with athletes to confirm involvement
- Meeting Minutes: *Stacy Michael-Miller*
  - Approve meeting minutes via email

- Government relations update – *Michelle Steinfeld*
  - A lot of work taking place now on the hill to protect Olympic sports (Bill moving out of House to go to Senate)
  - May ask for athletes to speak about this to their representatives in January
    - Michelle will be sending document to this group to get ideas
    - We will work to connect people to this opportunity
  - Caitlin and Katie to provide USOPC AAC update at next meeting
- National Team Update – *Greg Meehan*
  - New funding criteria
    - Communication comes out after US Open
    - Goes into effect January 1, 2026
  - World Aquatics Call
    - Discussed qualifying criteria for new events (50s of stroke)
    - National Team working on Selection Criteria
      - Will circle back with this group
  - Steering Committee update

**Next Meeting:** December 2025

**Adjournment:** Lilly King adjourned the November 21, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council at 9:38AM MST