

USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

March 28, 2025 / Virtual

Present: Nic Fink, Caitlin Leverenz Smith (Chair), Lilly King, Allison Schmitt, Josie Uerling, Andrew Wilson

Absent: Topher Bishop, Katie Meili, Olivia Tighe, Amanda Weir

Guests: Carli Brashier, Bryce Elser, Melanie Margalis Fink, Ellery Parish, Michelle Steinfeld

Call to Order: Caitlin Leverenz Smith called the March 28, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) to order at 10:04 am MT.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: none

Agenda:

- Committee Placements – *Caitlin/Ellery*
 - Natalie Hinds will be stepping down from the AAC. Despite there only being 6 months left in her term, we will conduct an election to identify an engaged athlete member.
 - Ellery let the group know that an athlete on the Safe Sport Committee has stepped down, so the AAC will need to appoint a new athlete representative. Marco Greico, the Leadership Chair for the Athletes' Executive Committee, recommended Claire Kemmere, an athlete representative from Ohio.
 - *Motion: to approve Claire Kemmere to fulfill the remainder of an unfinished athlete term on the Safe Sport Committee, concluding December 31, 2026.*
 - Second. Motion passed unanimously.*
- Personnel Changes – *Caitlin/Michelle*
 - Caitlin and Michelle reiterated the announcement that Shana Ferguson will be leaving USA Swimming and Bob Vincent will be stepping into the Interim CEO role.
 - Michelle noted that the National Team Managing Director search is still ongoing and that USA Swimming plans to hire soon despite the CEO situation. Melanie added that interviews had been completed, and the Task Force was deliberating on a final hire, but there had been a pause due to candidate participation in the NCAA Championships.
 - The AAC members discussed Carli Brashier's departure and expressed their gratitude for her efforts.
 - Bryce discussed the reorganization happening within the National Team due to Carli's departure, as well as which USA Swimming staff members plan to attend the various international meets this summer.
- Mobile App – *Caitlin*
 - Caitlin described the USA Swimming Mobile App project and Lilly King volunteered to serve as one of the AAC's representatives. Caitlin will connect with other committee members to find the second AAC representative.

- Coach Advisory Council (CAC) Legislation - *Caitlin*
 - Caitlin described discussions with members of the CAC regarding a proposal to allow 2-Year athletes to serve as athlete representatives on the CAC, as it is not a Designated Committee.
- Plans for Worlds/WUGs – *Carli/Bryce*
 - Carli and Bryce discussed the details of the site for training camp in Thailand ahead of the 2025 World Championships, including location, amenities, training opportunities, and transportation.
 - Carli and Bryce also discussed the logistics and transportation for the World University Games, led primarily by BTI Events.
 - Additionally, Caitlin discussed that USA Swimming will need to establish a committee to review and name coaches to the staff for the international events. The AAC discussed the requirement to appoint retired athletes to serve on this committee to avoid conflicts of interest.
- LA 2028 – *Carli*
 - Carli reassured the Committee that despite her departure, plans for LA 2028 have largely already been set in motion and in some cases, even secured.
- **Next Meeting:** April 2025
- **Adjournment:** Caitlin adjourned the March 28, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council at 11:10AM MST.