

## USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

June 27, 2025 / Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Gunnar Bentz, Nic Fink, Lilly King, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Allison Schmitt, Amanda Weir, and Andrew Wilson

**Absent:** Topher Bishop, Carson Foster, Katie Meili Playko, Olivia Tighe, and Josie Uerling

**Guests:** Greg Meehan, Stacy Michael-Miller, Ellery Parish, Michelle Steinfeld, Kim Williams

**Call to Order:** Caitlin Leverenz Smith called the June 27, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) to order at 10:02AM MST

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** none

### Agenda:

- **Approval of minutes**
  - Motion to approve April meeting minutes
  - Seconded LK
  - No discussion
  - Approved 6-0
- **HoD/ Sept Summit prep - Caitlin/ Ellery**
  - Potential in person AAC meeting 9/27 AM
    - September 25-27:
      - National Team Onboarding
      - Board of Directors/Committee meetings
      - Annual Summit
      - HOD meeting
      - Golden Goggles
    - Would like to have an in-person meeting since most people will be there in some capacity already.
      - Steering will be Friday.
      - Would like to have a combo meeting with Steering and AAC late Friday.
      - AAC Saturday.
    - Discussed NT Onboarding structure and focus
      - Please send ideas and feedback to Stacy
      - Opportunity for AAC to get in front of athletes - *lunch with leadership*
    - Discussed opportunity for people to train at OPTC after this event
      - Team building
      - Introduction to training at altitude
      - Good opportunity for athletes
  - Athlete focused Legislation - CAC & 50s of stroke
    - AEC proposing expanding 50s of stroke offering to 15-18
    - CAC proposing incorporating 2 year athletes into this committee
    - Will send out legislative overview – one pager
- **LA 28 calendar - update AAC with Steering conversation - Greg/Caitlin**
  - Olympic Trials June 10-18 – pending approval
  - Both post-Trials plans include significant time at home

- Offer optional altitude training camp for anyone who wants that option
- Option 1 Stay at home and train / Meet in Irvine on July 10
- Option 2 Domestic Camp July 1 / Meet in Irvine July 14
- Drive to LA for those who want to participate in Opening Ceremonies
- Back to Irvine for training
- Competition pool most likely not open until 2-3 days before competition
- Question raised regarding additional resources at home – massage/etc
  - Investigating possibility of set amount of funds for specific items
  - Investigating additional models of support
- Looking at support for those who don't have a team training at that time
- Looking at options for culture building components – will start well before Irvine
- Role of veterans in creating team culture was discussed
- Need intentional planning for team building and fostering a positive experience
- Should there be one day in Indianapolis to train together and meet in person as a group
- **Athlete funding for remainder of 2025 quad - Stacy/Greg**
  - Explained current discussion and proposal for funding criteria.
  - What is goal of funding?
    - Winning medals on international stage
    - Looking at funding top 2 in each event on National Team
    - Should emphasize % of A time standard to meet international standards versus domestic standards
    - Try this for first year of quad and see if approach is impactful
    - Same concern regarding relay qualification this Quad?
      - Previously emphasizing relays (1-4)
    - Start with a wider pool of athletes and narrow down through the Quad
    - Requested feedback from AAC before July 4 holiday

**Next Meeting:** August 2025

**Adjournment:** Caitlin adjourned the June 27, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council at 11:08AM MST.