

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.