

USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

August 15, 2025 / Virtual Meeting

Present: Gunnar Bentz, Topher Bishop, Nic Fink, Carson Foster, Lilly King, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Katie Meili Playko, Allison Schmitt, Josie Uerling, Amanda Weir, and Andrew Wilson

Absent: Olivia Tighe

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

Call to Order: Caitlin Leverenz Smith called the August 15, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) to order at 10:02AM MST

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: none

Agenda:

- **CEO Search Update -Caitlin**
 - Door always open for questions on process – reach out to Natalie, Caitlin, Nic, and Maya
 - Continue to encourage athletes at all levels to get involved in the governance of our sport to understand how things work
 - Continue to focus on the future
- **World Champ review - discuss process to collect and share athlete feedback, including AAC led and staff led - Caitlin/Nic/Greg**
 - Greg provided a report on World Championships
 - Discussion regarding the Coach Selection process and structure with one Head Coach
 - Greg and Kim were leads at Worlds and Yuri was lead at World University Games
 - Greg felt that this was a very positive experience and went well
 - Percentage of athletes who made it to finals was lower due to illness
 - Those who could get to finals performed really well
 - Taking out everyone getting sick it was a solid, well-run trip and team culture was improved and positive feedback was provided on staff
 - Athletes felt that things were handled very well and we were on track to swim very well
 - Nic is speaking to athletes to get their feedback directly and will share with AAC when those conversations are complete.
- **AAC Chair roles & responsibilities - Caitlin**
 - Caitlin is not running for Chair again but will remain on AAC for next three years
 - She shared a document with these responsibilities for AAC review
- **AAC elections upcoming – Caitlin**
 - Really need to look for current or recently retired National Team Members
 - Personal outreach is always helpful to encourage athletes to apply
 - Always important to have various perspectives and views
 - 4 terms up for re-election – all athletes eligible for re-election and can self-nominate
- **Sept meeting in Denver - Caitlin/all**
 - Annual Summit: September 25-27
 - Steering committee 9/26
 - National Team Onboarding 9/25-9/26 – travel to Denver 9/27
 - Board of Directors/Committee meetings

- In person AAC meeting – Saturday morning 9/27
- HOD meeting – Saturday afternoon 9/27
- Golden Goggles – Saturday evening 9/27
- **Sept AAC meeting - Caitlin**
 - Governance intro to National Team on Fri – Stacy to coordinate with Caitlin
 - HoD – all athletes need to register
- **Closed session – Michelle**
 - AAC went into closed session for policy discussion.
- **10yr+ athletes - Caitlin/all**
 - Further discussion at next meeting

Next Meeting: September 2025

Adjournment: Caitlin adjourned the August 15, 2025 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council at 11:06AM MST.