

USA Swimming Athletes' Advisory Council Minutes

February 25, 2026 / Virtual Meeting

Present: Phoebe Bacon, Topher Bishop, Gunnar Bentz, Nic Fink, Lilly King, Caitlin Leverenz Smith, Katie Meili Playko, Josie Uerling, Alex Walsh, Allison Schmitt

Absent: Carson Foster

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

Call to Order: Lilly King called the February 25, 2026, meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) to order at 11:03am MST

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: none

Agenda:

- - Fill open seat on Senior Development committee– *Lilly King*
 - Athlete moved to Nominating Committee
 - Members encouraged to share if they think of anyone else interested
- - Approval of Minutes – *Lilly King*
 - Lilly King motion to approve minutes from December and January meetings
 - Nic second
 - 7-0
- - Selection Procedures – *Greg Meehan*
 - Various selection procedures in process
 - Mel Zajac competition – early June – 18 athletes
 - Must be on National Junior Team
 - Adding a competition in London – end of May - 18 athletes
 - 18–22-year-olds not on Pan Pacs Team
 - Can be on National Team twice but not eligible if three years or more
 - Open Water Pan Pacific Championships
 - Athlete Performance Funding
 - Received feedback regarding more international experience for younger athletes
 - Discussion regarding mentorship - opportunities to learn from more experienced athletes and see them as people they can learn from rather than from a place of intimidation of that athlete's success
 - Good opportunity for National Team athlete representative

- Examined relevance of World Aquatics A Cut as it applies to various procedures
 - Corey Manley has been hired as National Team Performance Scientist
 - Corey has evaluated a performance bronze medal time
 - Includes several meets, so it is not solely based on one.
 - Discussion regarding why bronze medal was used and does a slower event impact calculation
 - Best representation of what an elite performance is

- 2027 World Championships Camp Update – *Kim Williams*
 - Greg and Kim went to Hungary last week
 - Steering suggested prioritizing training camp in country
 - Worlds will not be in Duna Arena, it will be in a temporary pool in a different arena closer to 2017 World Championships hotel

Next Meeting: March 2026

Adjournment: Lilly King adjourned the February 25, 2026 meeting of the Athletes' Advisory Council at 11:44 AM MST