

USA Swimming Coach Advisory Council (CAC) Committee Minutes

January 14, 2026 / Virtual meeting

Present: Jamie Bloom, Alexis Keto, Jeremy Linn, Abi Liu, Terry Stoddard, Scott Goldblatt, Kristine Quance Julian, Michael Lawrence, Pete Raykovich, Breeja Larson, Shawn Smith, Jennifer Gibson, Greg Troy, Allison Pick, Chrissy Gentry, Tim Bauer (arrived late)

Absent: Andrew Gemmell

Guests: Joel Shinofield (USA Swimming Staff), Kim Williams (USA Swimming Staff), Mark Hesse (USA Swimming Staff), Greg Meehan (USA Swimming Staff), Yuri Suguiyama (USA Swimming Staff), Beth Winkowski (USA Swimming Staff), Tristan Formon (Zone Directors Council)

Call to Order

Jamie Bloom called the January 14, 2026 meeting of the Coach Advisory Council (CAC) to order at **10:00 a.m. Mountain Time**, acting in the absence of the Chair at the start of the meeting.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

No new conflicts of interest were disclosed. Members were reminded of their obligation to maintain and update conflict-of-interest disclosures as required.

Approval of Agenda

- Introduction of Guests
- Approve the Minutes from 10/8
- Approve the Appointment of Coaches to USA Swimming Committees
- Approve the Minutes from 11/5 (attached)

Reviewing The CAC Pillars (attached). Where we are and where do we want to go.

- **CAC Pillar Committee members:**
 - **Pathway to Coaching:** Marci Callan, Tim Bauer
 - **Pathway to Communication:** Terry Stoddard
 - **Pathway to Fast Swimming:** Shawn Smith, Jeremy Linn, Alexis Keto

- **Pathway to Starting a Club:** Jamie Bloom, Pete Rykovich, Chrissy Gentry
 - Question: Do we want to add a Pilar called **LA 2028**?!: Breeja Larson & Shawn Smith
 - Revisit and update the Purpose, Objectives & Outcomes for the original CAC pillars and develop a POA (Plan Of Action).
 - Assign all CAC members to each pillar for the next meeting. Have a meeting or at least a Google Doc.
 - The CAC should help swimming develop a clear and transparent bid process for all events.
 - Suggestion is to include membership options in the Getting a Club Started discussion.
- **Succession Planning**
 - Discussion on succession planning within the CAC, given several long-term members are nearing their term limits.
 - CAC Members whose term ends December 2025:
 - Marci Callen (2nd Term); Jennifer Gibson (1st Term); Scott Goldblatt (Athlete – 1st Term); Kristine Julian (Athlete –2nd Term); Breeja Larson (Athlete – 1st Term); Michael Lawrence (1st Term); Jeremy Linn (Athlete – 2nd Term); Pete Raykovich (1st Term).
- Backstroke wedges for Age Group Swimmers in Colorado
- **Old Business:**
 - LA 2028
 - Update regarding CAC 2025-2026 Election Process and Timeline
 - Participation Results of Overall Coaches Participation During Voting at the 2025 House of Delegates.
 - Roster of Registered Coach Representatives to the 2025 USA Swimming Annual Summit

Any Future Agenda Items?

2025 Meeting Dates & Time -

- Second Wednesday of each month
- 10:00 A.M. Mountain Time
 - December 10, 2025
 - ***January 14, 2026***

2026 Suggested Meeting Dates & Time – This would be up to the CAC Membership at their January 14, 2026 meeting.

- Second Wednesday of each month

- 10:00 A.M. Mountain Time
 - January 14
 - February 11
 - March 11
 - April 8
 - May 13
 - June 3
 - **July 8 - Does this interfere with meets?**
 - August 12
 - September 9
 - Annual Summit, Friday, September 25
 - October 14
 - October 28: ***Special Single Item Agenda Meeting*** for Coaches Appointments to USA Swimming Committees
 - November 11th is Veteran's Day - Do we want to change this meeting to November 18th?
 - December 9 - Do we want to end in November because of meets in December?

Adjourn

The committee approved the agenda as presented, with the adjustment that **committee elections would be moved to the end of the meeting**, to occur **following the National Team Director (NTD) report**.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The **November and December 2025 CAC meeting minutes** were reviewed.

Motion: Approve the November and December minutes as written

Moved by: Terry Stoddard

Seconded by: Abi Liu

Vote: Approved unanimously

Reports

Orientation and Governance Overview

Presenter: Joel Shinofield

- Reviewed committee participation requirements and membership in good standing
- Reinforced conflict-of-interest disclosure requirements

- Clarified that CAC purpose language is codified in the USA Swimming rulebook and requires legislative action for changes
- Reviewed leadership roles and election procedures

Pillar Structure Review

Presenter: Jamie Bloom

- The committee revisited all CAC pillars to re-engage members and reestablish focus areas
- Emphasized the need for clearer definitions, priorities, and deliverables for each pillar
- Confirmed that athlete branding and marketing discussions would remain within the **Fast Swimming** pillar rather than forming a new pillar
- Agreed that all pillars should meet independently and return with defined objectives and proposed action items

Fast Swimming Pillar Update

Presenters: Alexis Keto, Jeremy Linn

- Focus areas included:
 - Athlete development pathways and progression clarity
 - Improved connection between camps and national programming
 - NIL education for athletes and coaches
 - Support for National Team and National Junior Team leadership
- Discussed education initiatives, NCAA and high school NIL implications, and national branding
- Identified the next step of coordinating a meeting with National Team leadership

Pillar Assignments and Next Steps

Discussion: Members confirmed or received pillar assignments and reaffirmed the importance of maintaining a coach-centered mission while avoiding scope drift.

Current Pillar Assignments and Focus Areas:

Fast Swimming

- **Focus:** Athlete development pathways, education (including NIL), and strengthened coordination between clubs, camps, and USA Swimming's National and National Junior Team leadership to support long-term elite performance.
- **Members:** Alexis Keto, Jeremy Linn, Shawn Smith, Allison Pick, Abi Liu, Breeja Larson, Gregg Troy (as advisor)

Clubs

- **Focus:** Supporting coaches and organizations in starting, operating, and sustaining swim clubs by identifying challenges, developing practical resources, and improving access to clear guidance and information.
- **Members:** Jamie Bloom, Chrissy Gentry, Pete Raykovich, Jennifer Gibson

Coaches

- **Focus:** Advancing coach-centered initiatives, professional pathways, and governance matters that directly impact coaches, including membership structures, education, and representation within USA Swimming.
- **Members:** Tim Bauer, Michael Lawrence, Gregg Troy

Communications

- **Focus:** Improving how information, resources, and initiatives are communicated to coaches by coordinating with USA Swimming staff and existing platforms to ensure timely, clear, and effective outreach.
- **Members:** Terry Stoddard, Kristine Quance Julian, Scott Goldblatt

Action Items:

- Each pillar will meet independently and prepare a defined scope, priorities, and proposed action items for presentation at the next CAC meeting.

Governance Priorities

Discussion:

- Governance was identified as a primary area of CAC impact
- Discussed the proposal to add a fifth coach seat to the USA Swimming Board of Directors
- Discussed concerns regarding the national competition calendar (Sectionals, Futures, Juniors) and conflicts with academic calendars

Action Items:

- Pete Raykovich will lead a governance review focused on the national competition calendar and coach input
- CAC will coordinate with the Senior Development Committee and USA Swimming staff to gather stakeholder feedback

Unattached Athlete and Coach Issues

Discussion:

- Discussed the growth of groups operating as de facto teams while registered as unattached
- Identified challenges related to meet operations, supervision, liability, and fee enforcement
- Staff clarified athlete access requirements under the Amateur Sports Act while acknowledging operational loopholes

Action Items:

- CAC will consider a governance review of rulebook language related to unattached athletes and coaches
- Members are encouraged to share examples with USA Swimming LSC and Team Services staff

National Team Director Update

Presenter: Greg Meehan

- Reviewed the new Pro Swim Series format, including semifinals implementation
- Provided updates on:
 - Athlete funding increases
 - Short Course World Championships selection procedures
 - Upcoming athlete and coach webinars
- Shared progress on National Team athlete site visits and emphasized feedback-driven evaluation

Committee Officer Elections

Committee officer elections were conducted in accordance with USA Swimming governance requirements.

The following officers were elected to serve the Coach Advisory Council:

- Chair: Jamie Bloom
- Vice Chair: Michael Lawrence
- Secretary: Scott Goldblatt

The newly elected officers assumed their respective roles following the conclusion of the election process.

Other Business

No additional business was raised.

Announcements

- National Team athlete and coach webinars were announced
- Members were reminded to meet within pillars prior to the next CAC meeting

Adjournment

Jamie Bloom adjourned the January 14, 2026 meeting of the Coach Advisory Council at **11:15 a.m. Mountain Time**.

Next Meeting

Date: February 11, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time

Format: Virtual

These minutes were prepared in accordance with USA Swimming committee governance guidelines.