

USA Swimming Coach Advisory Council (CAC) Committee Minutes

February 11, 2026 / Virtual meeting

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

Absent: Andrew Gemmell, Kristine Quance Julian

Guests: Joel Shinofield (USA Swimming Staff), Kim Williams (USA Swimming Staff), Mark Hesse (USA Swimming Staff), Greg Meehan (USA Swimming Staff), Beth Winkowski (USA Swimming Staff), Julie Bachman (Reimagine Sports)

Call to Order

Jamie Bloom called the February 11, 2026 meeting of the Coach Advisory Council (CAC) to order at 10:04 a.m. Mountain Time.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

No new conflicts of interest were disclosed. Members were reminded to complete and maintain their required disclosures.

Approval of Agenda

Coach Advisory Council (CAC)
February 11, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. MT

1. Call to order
2. Conflict of Interest disclosure/reminder
3. Approval of agenda
 - February 11, 2026
4. Approval of minutes
 - January 14, 2026
5. Reports
 - USA Swimming Staff Liaison Update
 - National Team / National Junior Team Update (as available)
6. USA Swimming Block Party update
 - Julie Bachman (Reimagine Sports) on behalf of USA Swimming

7. Pillar reports and action plans
 - Clubs – focus, goals, proposed actions
 - Coaches – focus, goals, proposed actions
 - Communications – focus, goals, proposed actions
 - Fast (Elite) Swimming – progress and next steps
8. Governance initiatives
 - Fifth coach seat on Board of Directors
 - National events calendar review (lead: Pete Raykovich)
9. New business
 - Unattached athlete and coach governance considerations
10. Announcements
11. Next meeting confirmation
12. Adjournment

The committee approved the agenda as presented.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The January 14, 2026 CAC meeting minutes were reviewed.

Motion: Approve the January 14, 2026 minutes as amended to include election results

Moved by: Shawn Smith

Seconded by: Scott Goldblatt

Vote: Approved unanimously

Reports

USA Swimming Staff Liaison Update

Presenter: Joel Shinofield

- Reported 2025 fiscal year closed with a small surplus
- Noted 2026 is an investment year in preparation for 2028
- Shared update on expanded club engagement and travel
- Introduced TouchPoints CRM system to track and improve club services

National Team / National Junior Team Update

Presenter: Greg Meehan

- Reported ongoing national team athlete site visits
- Reviewed January Pro Swim Series and semifinal format implementation
- Shared positive athlete feedback on race opportunities
- Provided update on upcoming selection procedures and international development initiatives

USA Swimming Block Party Update

Presenter: Julie Bachman

- Reported approximately 340 participating clubs and 1,500 Block Party meets conducted
- Shared participation data, including significant number of first-time meet athletes
- Noted increasing transition rates from Block Party to LSC-sanctioned meets
- Emphasized program intent as a participation and retention tool for clubs
- Discussed variation in adoption across LSCs and ongoing education efforts

Discussion:

- Members discussed officiating development opportunities connected to Block Party meets
- Concerns were raised regarding LSC governance alignment and communication
- Members acknowledged differing experiences across LSCs
- Emphasis that CAC members should be prepared to speak accurately about the program, provide constructive feedback, and support participation growth objectives when communicating with coaches

Pillar Reports and Action Plans

Clubs

Presenter: Jennifer Gibson

- Reviewed focus areas related to starting and sustaining a club
- Identified overlap with USA Swimming's New Club Success initiative
- Discussed potential development of a coach mentorship framework to support new clubs
- Agreed to further evaluate how CAC can complement existing staff programming

Coaches

Presenter: Tim Bauer

- Continued review of apprentice coach policies
- Discussed potential adjustments to timelines and eligibility considerations
- Agreed to gather additional input before advancing recommendations

Communications

Presenter: Terry Stoddard

- Reviewed current USA Swimming communication efforts
- Discussed how CAC can enhance clarity and reach to coaches

- Agreed to further define specific communication objectives and potential gaps

Fast (Elite) Swimming

Presenter: Alexis Keto

- Discussed development of a national events calendar resource
- Identified need for clearer athlete pathway visibility between Futures, Sectionals, Juniors, and Olympic Trials
- Explored increased access to race analysis and performance feedback for emerging elite athletes
- Agreed to coordinate with senior development leadership on next steps

Governance Initiatives

Fifth Coach Seat on Board of Directors

- Reviewed governance considerations related to adding a fifth coach seat
- Discussed representation balance and process requirements for rulebook changes
- Jamie Bloom and Tim Bauer to continue review and provide recommendations

National Events Calendar Review

- Discussed concerns regarding national meet scheduling and calendar conflicts
- Identified need for greater transparency and long-term visibility for coaches and LSC planning
- Pete Raykovich to develop recommendations and coordinate further review

Pillar Structure and Reporting Process

- Reviewed current pillar structure and overall alignment with CAC priorities
- Emphasized clearer ownership, objectives, and measurable outcomes
- Agreed pillar groups will meet between CAC meetings
- Written reports to be submitted one week prior to each meeting
- Meeting time will focus on discussion and action items

New Business

Unattached Athlete and Coach Governance Considerations

- Discussed operational and supervision concerns related to unattached athletes and coaches
- Identified potential governance gaps regarding liability and meet participation
- Agreed that further rulebook review and staff coordination may be warranted

Announcements

No additional announcements were made

Adjournment

Jamie Bloom adjourned the February 11, 2026 meeting of the Coach Advisory Council (CAC) at 11:21 a.m. Mountain Time.

Next Meeting

Date: March 11, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time

Format: Virtual

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