



***Open Water Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2025 – 10:00 AM MT (Virtual)***

**Committee Mission:** The Open Water Committee shall assist USA Swimming in developing and promoting successful Open Water swimming programs at all levels of competition.

**Responsibilities:**

1. Recommending development and review of programs and policies regarding the safety of athletes, officials, and spectators involved in Open Water swimming.
2. Advising USA Swimming on development programs to recruit, train, and educate open water coaches, officials, and volunteers.
3. Advising USA Swimming on the development of Open Water programs designed for success in international competition.
4. Reviewing selection procedures for the Open Water National and National Junior Teams.

**Present (Virtual):** Catherine Kase (Chair) Ron Aitken, Sid Cassidy, Brennan Gravley, Mohammad Khadembashi, John Payne

**Staff:** Yuri Suguiyama (Lead), Adriana Quirke (Liaison), Bruce Gemmell, Marissa DelGado

**Not Present:** Brendan Casey, Cory Chitwood, Erica Sullivan

**Call to Order:** Open Water Committee meeting was called to order December 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM Mountain Time.

**Approval of 11.18.25 Minutes:** Approved via e-mail

**Introduction:** Ms. Quirke (AQ) introduced herself as the Operations Manager for the National Team and the new Staff Liaison for the OW Committee. AQ will be responsible for scheduling meetings, preparing agendas, and recording minutes. She will send out 2026 Conflict of Interest Form to all OW Committee members, with a submission deadline of December 22, 2025.

**Open Water Committee Chair:** Catherine Kase's term as Chair is concluding. Individuals interested in assuming the Chairperson role were encouraged to email Mr. Suguiyama or Mr. Gemmell. The goal is to have a new Chairperson appointed by the end of the year.

**March Performance Training Camp:** March 15–28 at USOPTC — designed for post-graduate and younger athletes, as it coincides with the Men’s and Women’s NCAA Championships. Additional details will be shared after the holidays.

**Pre-Nationals OW Camp in Sarasota:** Mr. Suguiyama proposed hosting a 3–4 day camp prior to OW Nationals.

**OW Nationals and Jr. Nationals:** Mr. Gemmell presented the finalized event order, with Masters events taking place in the evening. Time standards will be finalized and shared in January 2026.

**Pan Pacific Championships Qualifying:** Mr. Gemmell outlined the three qualifying competitions for the Pan Pacific Championships: U.S. Nationals, Ibiza World Cup, and Golfo Aranci World Cup.

**Junior World Championships Qualifying:** Mr. Gemmell presented the event lineup for each age group, noting that pool qualifying standards will be shared later.

**Pan Pacific Championships & Olympic Event Details:** Pan Pacific Championships will not be held on the Olympic course.

**Next Meeting:** Email communication January 2026 with next Virtual Meeting to be held in February.

**Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 11:14 AM Mountain Time.