

## **USA Swimming Senior Development Committee Minutes**

**January 28, 2026. Virtual Meeting. 10AM MT.**

**Present:** Todd Capen (Chair), David Berkoff, John Bruenning (ex-officio), Eloise Gerlach, Peter Verhoef, Rachel Stratton-Mills, Paul Donovan, Mike Parrato, Kieran Smith, Brooke Forde, Kevin Zacher, Evan Steffy, Brendan Hansen (Staff Lead), Kristin Alfano (Staff Liaison)

**Absent:** Paul Silver

**Guests:** Beth Winkowski, Yuri Suguiyama, Jamie Cahn, Terry Jones, Thomas Baumann, Jake Grosser, Kim Williams, Lucas Corroto Ferreira, Macie McNichols, Kathleen Scandary, Ty Gibbs, Jaime Lewis, Shawn Smith, Daniel Jimar, Billy Doughty, Patrick Murphy, Joel Shinofield.

**Call to Order:** Todd called the January meeting of the Senior Development Committee to order at 10am MT.

**Conflict of Interest Disclosure:** n/a

### **Agenda:**

**Approve minutes:** Accept minutes as presented. Motion (KZ) Second (RSM). Discussion- ES noted the clarification needed for 50's via email. Approved. Approved.

### **Discussion:**

The meeting started with introductions of all committee members, welcoming new committee members Eloise Gerlach, Peter Verhoef, and David Berkoff.

Paul Donovan shared a big-picture plan and responsibilities of the SDC to keep the committee's directives in line and support the sport of swimming in the US. The 3 areas the SDC will continue to look focus on are (1) Meet Operations of Futures, Summer Juniors, US Open, and Winter Juniors Championships, (2) Domestic Long Course Racing Opportunities, and (3) Communication with SDC's partners and stakeholders.

**US Open-** The committee recommends that the 2026 qualifying times mirror 2025 cuts. Motion to approve standards. Discussion- PV, thoughts on a bonus 2-swims for 18 & unders vs. a bonus cut for this meet to align with National / Selection meets. SS- Could increase the number of swimmers because they can swim additional events, but not enough to significantly impact the meet. Recommends this change should be implemented only for 2026, as 2027 will attract a larger crowd seeking Trials cuts. MM shares this change falls more in line with Greg and the purview of the National Team. BH requests a proposal to share with Greg to support and provide approval. KSmith notes there will be about 40 less NT athletes due to World SC Championships at the same time.

*Motion- No change to the 2026 US Open time standards, mirroring the 2025 time standards.-* **M/S/A**

**Winter Juniors-** The committee recommends the 2026 Winter Junior time standards mimic the 2025 time standards and bonus cuts. PM mentions cuts will likely increase in 2027/2028. *Motion- no change to the 2026 Winter Junior time standards, mirroring the 2025 time standards and bonus cuts.-* **M/S/A**

**Site Selection-** MM shares the college coaches are comfortable with the US Open and Winter Juniors West returning to Austin in 2026. Indy is also eager to again host Winter Juniors East. Vote will be proposed during next meeting.

**Winter Meets Event Order-** No discussion. *Motion- No change to the event order for either the 2026 US Open and Winter Junior Championships.* **M/S/A.**

**Summer Meet event orders-** No discussion. *Motion- No change to the event order for either the 2026 Summer Junior National or Futures Championships.* **M/S/A.**

**Timeline for meets-** The committee discussed their ideal timeline to approve summer and winter championship meet locations and dates. The goal is to internally finalize the locations for the summer 2027 events in April 2026, and the 2027 winter meets by Summit (September) 2026. Technical Events team is comfortable with that internal timeline. MM working on a running RFP list to document and contact those facilities that can host National level meets. Asks the committee to vote on Futures 2027 dates.

**Futures and Summer Juniors Calendar-** TC presented a Futures and Summer Juniors calendar through 2032. Futures would always fall during the week of the last Thursday in July. Summer Juniors would always fall during the week of the first Thursday of August. Light discussion follows 2028 dates and domestic meets overlapping with the Olympic Games.

*Motion- Approve the 2027 Futures Championships to be held July 28-31, and 2027 Summer Juniors to be held August 2-6.* **M/S/A**

*Motion- to follow the proposed planning calendar of Futures falling over the last Thursday in July, and Summer Juniors falling on the first Thursday of August model unless items (ex. 28 Games) come up.*

**M/S/A**

**Domestic Long Course Racing Opportunities-** PD introduces this topic in preparation for our next meeting. 3 Pro swims in 2027 and 2028. Greater question- is this serving senior-level athletes? US Open 2026 is the first opportunity to qualify for Trials.

SDC Communication-

MM to post event orders for 2026 summer meets, and dates & event orders for winter meets to event website.

Next meeting- February 18 at 10AM MT.

**Adjournment:** Todd adjourned the January meeting of the Senior Development Committee at 11:05am MT.