

USA Swimming Senior Development Committee Minutes

February 18, 2026. Virtual Meeting. 10AM MT.

Present: Todd Capen (Chair), Brendan Hansen (Staff Lead), Kristin Alfano (Staff Liaison), Peter Verhoef, Kevin Zacher, Paul Donovan, Paul Silver, Keiran Smith

Absent: Eloise Gerlach, Mike Parrato, Evan Steffy, Rachel Stratton-Mills, Brooke Forde, Dave Berkoff, John Bruenning (ex-officio)

Guests: Macie McNichols, Dan Jimar, Beth Winkowski, Shawn Smith, Billy Doughty, Jamie Cahn, Trey Freeman, Terry Jones, Joel Shinofield, Jake Grosser

Call to Order: Todd called the February meeting of the Senior Development Committee to order at 10:04am MT.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: n/a

Agenda:

Discussion:

Meet Operations-

MM asks for an email vote on **2026 Winter Juniors** locations in the very near future, needing to finalize a few contract items. RFP for **2027 Futures** have been sent out. On track to approve on new SDC timeline. 2026 Futures meet info should be sent over next week with 2026 Summer Juniors following closely after.

TC reminds the committee of the ideal timeline for meet announcements- site selection approved 14-16 months in advance, published on website 12 months out, qual times 10 months in advance, and meet info 6 months in advance for a consistent timeline.

Futures entry process and clarification- The discussion began with a question from PV, regarding Greensboro hitting capacity in May last year- Do we have the best process to ensure teams closest to Futures sites can enter without concern of the meet hitting its capacity? Discussion continued with the idea of adding possible deadlines for sharing scratches. The technical events team shares this is difficult to implement as a rule when refunds are not offered. This can be looked at as a site-by-site basis, but the technical events team would not suggest making a blanket statement regarding scratches and athlete replacements if the cap is hit. The technical events team and SDC agree the locations for 2026 and cap limits of 700 will allow for more equal competition across the 5 sites, not foreseeing a major national interest or disinterest in one location over the others. The committee agrees mid-April is a good time to open entries (tentative- April 14, 2026). Discussion on providing direct communication to clubs / in the Coaches Connection email to share the date and time the meet entries open.

LC Meet Proposal-

PD shares a proposal to **increase LC racing opportunities** for senior-level athletes to support their progression to Olympic Trials. The proposal suggests 2 phases. Phase I: each Zone hosts one additional LC meet in late winter or spring between March 2027 and March 2028. Phase II: Each Zone hosts a last-chance meet the weekend before Memorial Day 2028 for OT qualification.

PS suggests connecting the Zones with the LSC's for support of the event. The discussion continued with questions regarding financial support, age limitations, and overlap of other annual LC meets already in place.

Committee members will connect with LSC's about this opportunity. Suggestion to also speak with Zone Directors.

Adjournment: Todd adjourned the February meeting of the Senior Development Committee at 10:56AM MT.