Greetings I hope this finds you all well. This newsletter is the first of what I hope to be a more regular communication between the Athletes Executive Committee (AEC) and the Athlete Volunteers of USA Swimming.

Since we last saw each other at convention, the AEC has been working hard on a multitude of issues. We have been putting together a slightly different schedule for September’s convention, so that more athletes can attend committee meetings and workshops. We have also been putting together more formal guidelines for the supervision of minors at committee meetings and convention. Finally, we worked with the National Team Division to revise the Athlete Partnership Agreement so that the qualifying criteria more objective and fair to all National Team athletes on the Athlete Partnership Agreement. I will provide additional details regarding these issues throughout this newsletter and in future communications.

You, as Athlete Representatives play an important part in the functions of the best amateur sports governing body in the USA. The AEC is your leadership in this endeavour, and your voice at the Board of Directors. Even though we are all together only once a year at Convention, the work of our sport is always ongoing. Whether you serve on a committee or not, you are always helping us make the sport better for every athlete. Every conversation you have with your friends, teammates, or [competitors about how or why a rule exists, or how a competition could be better helps all the athletes of USA Swimming.

My two biggest goals as the Athlete Executive Chair are to: (1) improve communication amongst Athlete Reps (both to and from the AEC), and (2) foster the next generation of leadership within the sport. That being said, it is very important that if you have any questions, or would like to consult on any issue coming up before your committee, please communicate it with me (chair.aec@gmail.com) or the AEC as a whole (aec2012-2014@googlegroups.com)

Cheers,
Tim Liebhold
Athlete’s Vice President, USA Swimming
The AEC modified the convention schedule to allow for more athlete meetings and to reduce the amount of conflicts with other committee meetings so that athletes will have more opportunities to attend other committee meetings during convention.

Two of the AEC’s main goals during convention are to: (1) allow athletes to gain a stronger sense of the USA Swimming governance structure by attending various committee meetings, and (2) educate athletes and allow time for open floor discussion with fellow athletes the during athlete committee meetings.

In July 2013, all athlete representatives attending convention will receive a copy of “A Survival Guide for the New USA Swimming Athlete Delegate”. This guide will include everything you need to know for the 2013 Convention and will include the new athlete schedule.

Additionally, it will include new forms required for athletes under 18 years old. At-large and National Team athletes will receive this guide, via email, from Cathy Durance, Membership Services Coordinator at USA Swimming. LSC athletes will receive this guide from their General Chair.

We look forward to seeing you in Anaheim!

Trivia - Acronyms

LSC - Local Swimming Committee  
AEC - Athletes Executive Committee  
BOD - Board of Directors  
OIOC - Olympic International Operations Committee  
IRC - International Relations Committee  
USOC - United States Olympic Committee  
USSIC - United States Sports Insurance Company  
USADA - United States Anti-Doping Agency  
WADA - World Anti-Doping Agency  
FINA - Federation Internationale de Natation (International Swimming Federation)  
USAS - United States Aquatics Sports

Newsletter Distribution List

The AEC has compiled a list of emails from prior conventions and committee attendance. Please email USASwimmingAECNewsletter@gmail.com to be added or removed from the list. If you are an LSC representative – please email your name, email, LSC, and term length to the above email to be added to the newly created database of LSC athletes.

Keys to Great Athlete Participation

1. Remember that USA Swimming is an athlete focused organization
   USA Swimming committees are geared towards the question, “What is best for the athlete?” Remember your opinion is most important.

2. Solicit Direct Athlete Input
   While every effort is made to place athletes on committees where they feel comfortable it is sometimes intimidating for them to do so in groups of adults. LSC and many younger At-Large Athletes have valuable input to give, even if it seems miniscule.

3. Respect Opinions
   All committee members are on equal footing (except perhaps the chair on administrative matters), and should be treated as such. It is appropriate to foster discussion but avoid imposing wills upon the athletes. What an adult may see as teaching, the athlete may see as being forced into an opinion.

4. Be Patient, but Persistent
   Athlete reps have a lot going on in their lives with school and training. Though they may take more prompting than other committee members, that doesn’t mean they don’t have valuable input.

5. Be Sensitive to the Athlete’s Time
   As mentioned above, give reasonable amounts of time to receive responses, but don’t be afraid to prompt again. Also, when considering conference calls and in-person meetings be sensitive to school, training and competitions.