



Age Group Development Committee Minutes
Date: Monday, September 21st
Time: 10a Mountain

Juan Caraveo called the meeting to Order at: 10:02 MT

Juan welcomed the AG Development Committee & Staff: Kevin Milak [Chair], John Nelson, Tristan Formon, Dana Skelton, Tom Himes, Shawn Smith, Tammy Hopkins, Swanson Caleb, Konnar Klinksiek, Beth Winkowski, John Leonard, Juan Caraveo [Staff Leader], Jaime Lewis [Staff] to the Zoom Meeting.

Kevin Milak outlined the plan for the meeting, introduced the committee. He outlined what the AGD Committee's goals and mission as well as the plan for the fall and beyond.

Juan Caraveo welcomed USA Swimming Staff and all guests. He reviewed ZOOM protocols for the business meeting and encouraged guests to share comments in the chat but remain muted.

Kevin Milak – Moving forward the goal will be to have committee members rotate the responsibility of taking minutes. Once new committee members have been added, the schedule of meetings will be established.

Review of Previous Projects: Kevin

ADM - Kevin thanked Jaime Lewis for all of her efforts in collating comments, feedback from the committee over the years.

Suit Ban - The Tech Suit restriction for 12&Us has now been implemented.

Review of AGDC Mission and Responsibilities: Juan

Juan reviewed our "NORTH STAR" – the AGD Committee Mission: *To plan for the needs of the Age Group level of our sport. To generate, evaluate, and communicate ideas, which will assist USA Swimming in planning and developing quality age group swimming programs.* Juan then directed attendees to review:

Responsibilities

1. *To conduct an ongoing evaluation of the local and national age group programs.*
2. *To develop and submit proposals to provide for the long-range planning of age group swimming.*
3. *To encourage the development of programs that promote participation.*
4. *To oversee recognition for age group swimmers.*
5. *To communicate with and provide education and direction for the age group chairs in each LSC.*
6. *To develop programs to assist athletes in transitioning from Age Group to Senior.*
7. *To advise and consult with the Sport Development Division regarding camps, including open water.*
8. *To promote inclusion of open water at all levels including LSC competitions, LSC Championships, and Zone meet*

Juan outlined the need for **EVALUATION**. As a committee we will develop and implement plans but then we must EVALUATE to determine whether the plan is working and whether a joint effort between different USA Swimming Committees is assisting AGD with its Mission.

Considerations for Age Group Development Through and Post Covid-19: Kevin

Identify the impact of Covid-19 to age group development currently and in the future
What have we learned over the last 7 months? What is working, what is not?
How do we take what we have learned and apply it towards solutions for the future?

Kevin Milak – provided generalized demographics of the committee stating that AGD has representation from across the nation, Zones, larger and smaller clubs etc.

Kevin asked the questions:

What are we doing with AG athletes? What do we as coaches wish we knew when we entered COVID?

What can we take forward out of the ongoing impacts of the pandemic? What other outside the box options are out there?

Tristan Formon – are fortunate to have access to water. 1st Challenge was regaining ACCESS TO WATER. 2nd Challenge was figuring out how to EFFECTIVELY ENGAGE with athletes in this new normal. 3rd Challenge is how to CREAT COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITIES. While creating and maintaining a safe environment, then infuse energy and excitement onto the pool deck, music etc. between heats. Will be having their first meet this coming weekend. Taking small steps and learning day by day. 1-day meet, 8 sessions, 2 events per athlete, 75 minute sessions, 40 athletes at a time.

Sean Smith – suggestions for meets: Do clusters of events then take a break. Block events so there are more “natural breaks”. Music has a huge impact of the energy levels on deck. The athletes are all in, thankful to be able compete. June 17th back in the water to train – then several practices meets without officials – then the first real meet in mid-august. Preplanning considerations: set up appropriate levels of competition as best you can.

Kevin Milak – take whatever your numbers for workout and start there. Take ever session, meet as a learning curve. These initial meets / sessions will provide unique intrinsic feedback. Start small and build. One-way traffic on deck, every aspect of the meet will be different than before.

Dana Skelton – in the planning stages of meets. Dual Meets (Kevin) need to outline and plan to correct sized sessions. Working closely in a collaborative manner with visiting teams.

Sean Smith – narrow your focus and select events to swim.

Juan Caraveo – silver lining of Covid is a differing environment being presented to us all. This is an opportunity to take a step back and look at the sport and how we can more effectively engage our members.

Kevin Milak – Swim Meets cannot continue to be a fundraiser. How can teams restructure the pool deck to ease the process of running meets? Teams should consider running an increased number of smaller sessions to achieve as specific goal.

Juan Caraveo – vision for the committee: think about the athlete experience for the AG level. How can we now engage the parents successfully within the sport?

Dana Skelton – new process, having the parents understand the importance of DL. Parents are more appreciative.

Tristan Formon – increased engagement through Zoom. Parents have become indirectly more appreciate of engagement.

Kevin Milak – because all operating under a new environment with access to facilities. Parents are now becoming much more fully invested in assisting and being dynamic in their efforts to assist teams running meets.

Juan Caraveo – another educational opportunity revolving around the suit restriction, specifically which suits are permissible for which aged athletes.

Tom Himes – parent engagement is somewhat challenging from a traditional sense given parents are not presently permitted onto the deck area. There has been increased communication, remaining transparent

throughout the process. Proactive communication is key to parent engagement. NBAC are preparing to swim outdoors for the entire winter. Installing heaters in outdoor pools.

Establish next steps

Juan requested that members coming off the committee assist with onboarding new members. What can the AGD Committee do for new members to enhance their experience?

Kevin spoke to how other committee's have some specific goals for their respective committees. What is the AGD Committees next project after the Tech Suit Restrictions / ADM? How can we better engage with our parents? How can we become more transparent? Having a mentor to walk the walk with on a daily basis is critical.

Juan wrapped up the meeting by thanking the outgoing committee members for their service once again: **Tom Himes, John Leonard, Shawn Smith, Beth Winkowski, Konnar Klinksiek, Caleb Swanson.**

National Committee Application open until Oct. 4th

<https://fs22.formsite.com/usaswimming/form3/index.html> 8) End of Meeting