



Voting Members

- Mark Weber**
Athletes' Vice-Chair
- Van Donkersgoed**
Athletes' Deputy
Vice-Chair
- Nick Smagula**
Vice Chair –
Recruitment &
Leadership
- Janelle Nguyen**
Vice Chair –
Convention
- Garrett Weber-Gale**
Vice-Chair –
National Team
- Jack Swanson**
Central Zone
Representative
- Ty Seymour**
Eastern Zone
Representative
- Seth Maslowski**
Southern Zone
Representative
- Grant Sugaski**
Western Zone
Representative
- Ceallach Gibbons**
At-Large
Representative
- Russell Payne**
At-Large
Representative
- Natalie Hall**
USOC AAC
Representative

Non-Voting Members

- Kelley Otto**
Immediate Past Chair
- Chip Peterson**
Board Athlete
- Derek Paul**
Board Athlete
- Davis Tarwater**
Board Athlete
- Aaron Peirsol**
FINA Athletes'
Commission
- Anthony Ervin**
USOC AAC Alternate
Representative

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:12 AM EDT on Sunday, May 20, 2018 at the Courtyard by Marriott Fort Lauderdale Beach in Fort Lauderdale, Florida by USA Swimming Athletes' Vice-Chair and Chairman of the Athletes' Committee Mr. Mark Weber. The Chair appointed Joe Gazzarato to serve as secretary for the meeting.

Roll Call

Committee member attendance was accomplished by call of the roll. Members present were required to answer in the affirmative. A non-response was considered an absence and was recorded as such. Attendance is indicated by an "X" in the box immediately to the left of the member's name in the adjacent column.

The following distinguished guests attended the meeting: Mr. Leonardo Gomes de Deus of CONSANAT, Mr. Dale Neuburger of the FINA Bureau and the USA Swimming Board of Directors, Mrs. Nadine Day of United States Aquatic Sports, Ms. Megan Hansley of USA Synchro, and Ms. Brenda Villa of USA Water Polo.

The following non-committee members attended the meeting: Joe Gazzarato of the Athletes' Executive Committee Restructuring Task Force and Bradley Jacobs of the Athletes' Executive Committee Restructuring Task Force.

Introduction of Guests

Chairman Weber introduced the distinguished guests present: Mr. Leonardo Gones de Deus, Mr. Dale Neuburger, Mrs. Nadine Day, Ms. Megan Hansley, and Ms. Brenda Villa.

Committee members took turns introducing themselves and explaining their function within the Athletes' Executive Committee and USA Swimming as a whole for the benefit of the guests in attendance.

Ms. Hansley and Ms. Villa discussed their roles within their respective National Governing Bodies for the benefit of the Athletes' Executive Committee. Ms. Villa provided some insight into the structure of USA Water Polo's Board of Directors with respect to fundraising and independent directors.

Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Chairman Weber read the following statement: *"Is any member aware of any conflict of interest (that is, of a personal interest or direct or indirect pecuniary interest) in any matter being considered by this meeting which should now be reported or disclosed or addressed under the USA Swimming Conflict of Interest Policy?"*

No committee members had a declaration of conflict of interest to make. Chairman Weber advised the committee that they must make such a declaration at any point where the need to do so may arise throughout the meeting.



Remarks by the UANA President/FINA Vice-President, Mr. Dale Neuburger

Mr. Neuburger explained the relationship between USOC NGBs and United States Aquatic Sports. Beyond the United States, Mr. Neuburger discussed the structure of Union Americana de Natacion (UANA) and FINA to help the committee better understand the international structure for aquatic sports. Mr. Neuburger emphasized the importance of building relationships with both domestic and international counterparts as well as sharing knowledge and experience across national federations.

Remarks by the United States Aquatic Sports Athlete Mentor, Mrs. Nadine Day

Mrs. Day discussed the importance of the athlete voice at the United States Aquatic Sports (USAS) level and unification between NGB athlete efforts. Further, Ms. Day offered insight into how athletes can become more involved with USAS, including potential legislation to come forth in September 2018 that would mandate an athlete member on the USAS Board.

Motion: Jack Swanson and Ty Seymour will serve as the USA Swimming AEC-designated Athlete Representatives to the USAS working group on the athlete involvement legislation. **Motioned and seconded. Passes unanimously.**

Chairman's Report

Chairman Weber included his report in the Board of Directors report.

Board of Directors Report

The Athlete Leadership Task Force, in conjunction with the Board Athlete Representatives, provided a report to the USA Swimming Board of Directors regarding the inaugural USA Swimming Leadership Summit. The report can be viewed [here](#).

The Board of Directors received numerous reports and updates at its May 12, 2018 meeting. Highlights from that meeting are listed below. The Board Packet is available [here](#).

The Board of Directors was provided with an extensive report from the Transgender Task Force. The report focused on minor, amateur transgender athletes. The International Olympic Committee (IOC) already has policies and procedures in place for professional athletes. More information will be forthcoming on this topic in the next few months.

The topic of tech suits in age group competition was a recent topic of an article in the New York Times. The Age Group Development Committee was responsible for putting forth a formal recommendation on continued use in age group competition. The Age Group Development Committee recommended that tech suits be banned for 12 & Under competition across the United States. There would be a ceiling of competitions to which this ban would apply (sectionals and above are not included). The Board of Directors took no action; the matter was referred to the USA Swimming House of Delegates with no recommendation from the Board of Directors.

The LSC Model Bylaws Task Force presented the Board of Directors with their new version of the LSC Required Bylaws template. The new template was characterized as being simple and flexible, allowing LSCs to craft their bylaws to meet a variety of unique needs while still maintaining a standard across the United States. The Board of Directors took no action; the matter was referred to the USA Swimming House of Delegates.

Safe Sport was addressed at the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors in early April 2018, including an extensive litigation update and intensive look at the Safe Sport program. President Hinchey will testify before the US House of Representatives on May 23, 2018 with regards to Safe Sport. President Hinchey remains committed to drawing a line under the past and moving forward.



Recruitment and Leadership Report

Nick Smagula was not present to provide a report in-person. Mr. Smagula submitted a written report in his absence, which can be viewed [here](#). No additional highlights were provided. No questions were asked by the committee.

Convention Report

The Athletes' Executive Committee's Convention Task Force (Janelle Nguyen, Van Donkersgoed, Joe Gazzarato, Ceallach Gibbons, Brad Jacobs, Madison Lash) met in Denver, Colorado in mid-May 2018 to begin planning for the 2018 United States Aquatic Sports Convention in Jacksonville, Florida.

The Task Force's goal was to look at how we can create a cohesive experience for the participants and ultimately get them to understand why their vote at House of Delegates is important on Saturday. The Task Force wants to make sure there is still flexibility for experienced athletes to attend workshops and events that are interesting while still providing the comfort for new athletes to feel welcome to walk into new experiences.

The proposed new format and schedule can be viewed [here](#).

USOC Athletes Advisory Council Report

Mr. Ervin submitted a written report in advance for the information of the committee. The report can be viewed [here](#). Mr. Ervin addressed the committee in-person and answered questions. Key highlights included how well USA Swimming does things particularly with respect to athlete involvement. Mr. Ervin requested that USA Swimming put forth an athlete nominee/volunteer to be part of preliminary conversations to reform the Sports Act in the coming years.

National Team Report

Mr. Weber-Gale was not present to provide an in-person report and no report was submitted in advance for the information of the committee.

Mrs. Hall led a Safe Sport Conference Call, attended by three other individuals, since the committee's last meeting.

Zone Representative Reports

Central: Mr. Swanson provided a report on his activities and the Central Zone. Mr. Swanson attended the inaugural USA Swimming Leadership Summit in Houston, TX. Athletes came away with an understanding of how they could be leaders in their clubs, LSCs, and at the National level. Further, Mr. Swanson has been working with the LSC Model Bylaws Task Force. The Task Force has centered around making the bylaws simple and flexible, removing contradictory and archaic language. Finally, Mr. Swanson attended the Central/Western Zone Workshop in Denver, CO. LSCs expressed interest in getting their LSCs involved in the initiatives run by the AEC.

Eastern: Mr. Seymour reported on the Eastern Zone Meeting in Fort Meyers, Florida. Mr. Seymour reported that there was an expressed desire for LSC Athlete Representatives to do more inter-LSC service-oriented activities.

Western: Mr. Sugaski reported that it is challenging to keep athletes in the Western Zone connected since it is spread out over such a large geographic area. Mr. Sugaski also noted that the Western Zone has a strong diversity & inclusion focus, particularly with sending members to a diversity swim meet in Washington, D.C.

Southern: Mr. Maslowski was not present to provide an in-person report and no report was submitted in advance for the information of the committee.



FINA Report

A written report was not submitted in advance for the information of the committee. Mr. Peirsol addressed the committee in-person providing a general overview of FINA activities and his perception of the positive things that the AEC is doing for the members in USA Swimming. A big focus for FINA is representation and organization for the current term (began last year). The FINA Athletes' Commission is no longer "just a body to appease the athletes". The IOC is putting some pressure down from the top to get athletes involved in a meaningful manner. FINA has athletes on the technical committees, but it needs to have an athlete on the Bureau and is requesting for representation in the various congresses.

USA Swimming Staff Report

Mrs. Cathy Durance, staff liaison to the Athletes' Executive Committee, was not present to provide a report.

Task Force Reports

The Athlete Leadership Task Force provided the committee with the 2018 Leadership Summit debrief packet (linked above) provided to the USA Swimming Board of Directors. The Task Force also showed the committee a selection of prepared videos, which can be viewed [here](#).

Athletes' Executive Committee Restructuring Proposal

Mr. Swanson provided the committee with the proposed changes to the structure of the USA Swimming Athletes' Executive Committee, which have been endorsed by the Athletes' Executive Committee Restructuring Task Force. The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

Further, the committee agreed that expectations, both professional and personal, will be important to convey to any party interested in running for a seat on the restructured committee. Everyone needs to understand that the intent is to elevate the status of the committee, so everyone needs to understand what they are signing up for.

Motion: To approve the bylaws upon the condition that the Athletes' Executive Committee Restructuring Task Force does not substantively change the document's contents in the final revision process. **Motioned and seconded. Passes unanimously.**

Motion: To amend the proposal such that initial committee member terms are staggered 2- and 3-year terms. **Motioned and seconded. Withdrawn without objection. No action taken.**

2019 Budgeting Process

The committee is responsible for providing USA Swimming Staff with a list and description of anticipated programs for the next year so that budgets can be created and proposed to the USA Swimming Board of Directors. Unless otherwise stated, programs remain the same as listed in 2018.

AEC: Include funds to make sure that the next set of AEC leaders get to be put in the right places at the right times – trips, workshops, etc.

AEC Strategic Planning: Include funds for a retreat (timing to be considered; nominees need to be informed of dates before nominations are due so they understand travel may be required).

Leadership Summit: Include funds for one National Summit and two Coastal Summits.

Motion: To send the above projects, along with additional descriptions, to USA Swimming Staff for budgeting purposes. **Motioned and seconded. Passes unanimously.**



Convention At-Large Athlete Appointments

The Athletes' Vice-Chair of USA Swimming, Mr. Mark Weber, is required to make national and at-large athlete appointments to the USA Swimming House of Delegates such that at least 20% of the voting membership is comprised of athlete members.

Chairman Weber submitted the following proposed appointments to the committee for consideration.

National Athlete Representatives:

1 Year: Margaret Hoelzer, Tom Luchsinger

2 Years: Andrew Gemmell, Reece Whitley, Haley Bernanbaum, Alia Atkinson, Tharon Drake

At-Large Athlete Representatives:

Bergen Davis, Annie Norris, Ellery Parish, CJ Fiala, Patrick Heffernan, Brandon Shi, Jake Simmons, Walker Parra, Charolette Harris, Patrick Hunter, Kelley Otto, Emma Schaez

Motion: To add Anthony Ervin, Aaron Peirsol, and Courtney Payne (Otto) to the list of At-Large Representatives. **Motioned and seconded. Passes.**

Motion: To approve the list of national and at-large athlete representatives as amended. **Motioned and seconded. Passes unanimously.**

UANA Athletes' Commission Appointments

Motion: To submit Anthony Ervin as the USA Swimming Athletes' Executive Committee's nominee for the Swimming discipline on the UANA Athletes' Commission. **Motioned and seconded. Passes unanimously.**

Adjournment

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made 12:08 PM EDT. **Motioned and seconded. Passes unanimously. The committee stands adjourned.**

The next meeting of the Athletes' Executive Committee will be held in mid-June via teleconference to discuss the convention proposal in further detail. There will be a meeting of the Athletes' Executive Committee at the 2018 United States Aquatic Sports Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Additional information for both meetings will be disseminated to committee members as soon as it is available.

Most Respectfully Submitted,

Joe Gazzarato

Meeting Secretary – May 20, 2018

USA Swimming Athletes' Executive Committee