



**Athletes' Executive Committee
January 20th, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Ellery Parish (Chair), Annie Norris (Program and Events Chair), Jake Simmons (Vice Chair), Joel Shinofield (Staff), Robert Mitchell, Marco Greico, Zach Toothman, Matthew Rigsbee, Josie Uerling, Megan Braman, Ryan Gibbons, Gavin Formon, Annie Kramer, Juli Arzave, Joan Choi, Davis Shelton, Jackson Fouras

Not Present: Aaron Zhu, Lauren Hurt, Jack Swanson (Leadership Chair), Maya DiRado

I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 8:33pm ET by Ellery Parish (Chair) and Agenda (Attachment A) was approved as submitted.

II. Approval of Minutes

Matthew Rigsbee moved and Jake Simmons seconded to approve the minutes from the November 4th, 2021 Business Meeting (Attachment B). **MOTION PASSES**

III. Chair Update

Ellery provided an update to the committee that she accepted a staff position with USA Swimming. She reflected on her career as an athlete representative and informed the committee that she will always be a resource for all of us. Her resignation from the position of Chair is effective January 21st, 2022.

IV. Vice Chair Update

Jake Simmons provided an update to the committee regarding the AAC. The AAC met in November and will be meeting again next week. At the meeting next week the AAC will be finalizing committee placements for 10 year and 10 year plus athletes. The CAC is now filled. Joel Shinofield and Jake both provided updates with respect to the status of Transgender policies in USA Swimming. Joel provided the committee with the definition of an elite athlete and the policy differences in the categories between an elite athlete and non-elite athlete. Joel said that USA Swimming has been in communication and actively working with FINA as FINA develops a Transgender Athlete Policy. The policy is expected to be released at the beginning of February.

V. Leadership Chair Update

No Update

VI. Programming and Events Chair Update

Annie Norris provided an update on the Programming and Events subcommittee. The main goal of the subcommittee for the next two months is to plan the athlete track for the USA Swimming Workshop. The plan is to hopefully have some ideas by the end of the month. She is actively working with Jane on the athlete track scheduling for the Workshop. She is also working with Topher on athlete awards for the Workshop. Annie also provided an update on some possible activities like Topgolf and a dryland session. A new google drive has been created, a majority of the files from the previous drive have been transferred to the new drive. However, a lot of the google forms were lost in the transition. Zone Athlete Representatives are asked to send their contact lists to Matthew and Annie so that they can work on the centralized database.

VII. USA Swimming Workshop Update

Ryan Gibbons provided an additional update on the USA Swimming Workshop to the committee. He said that anything regarding specific athlete programming will fall under Annie and the Programming and Events subcommittee. There will be an opportunity to discuss legislation at the workshop. This will hopefully serve as a good opportunity for athletes to have a voice and share their opinion on legislation since many do not have a vote at HOD after the restructuring that occurred in the Fall. Ryan stressed the importance of feedback on the Workshop to the ZDC so they can make it better in future years. Forward feedback his way and encourage others to provide it as well. Information regarding registration and logistics for the Workshop for our committee will be provided at a later date.

VIII. Election of Interim Athletes' Executive Committee Chair

Ellery appointed Ryan Gibbons to execute the election protocol for the Election of Interim AEC Chair. The election occurred under the provisions of section B of the AEC Policies within USA Swimming's Operating Policy Manual, section titled "Vacancies." By filling the resignation of the current Chair, the elected Chair will begin their term on January 21, 2022, and will serve through the end of the current Chair's term in September of 2022 excluding circumstances as outlined in the Policy Manual. Per USA Swimming Operating Policies, the members eligible to vote in this election include the eleven At-Large members of the Athletes' Executive Committee, the USA Swimming Representative to the USOPC Athletes' Advisory Council, and an Athlete member of the Board of Directors chosen by those Athletes serving on the Board. As non-voting members, Zone Athlete Directors are not eligible to vote in this election.

The following election rules were voted on:

(1) Each member is responsible for his or her connection to the meeting; no action shall be invalidated on the grounds that the loss of, or poor quality of, a member's individual connection prevented participation in the meeting. (2) A quorum shall be a majority of the number of voting members present at the beginning of the election. Only those present at the beginning of the election shall be entitled to vote. (3) Candidates for the position of Chair will be allotted one minute to speak prior to balloting. (4) If no candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be on the second ballot. Any of these rules can be suspended for a particular specified purpose by a majority vote. Any of these rules can be rescinded or amended by a two-thirds vote.

Josie Uerling moved and Marco Greico seconded to adopt the rules for this election. **MOTION PASSES**

Juli Arzave was introduced as the candidate for Interim Athletes' Executive Committee Chair

Matthew Rigsbee moved and Marco Greico seconded to suspend the speaking time limit.
MOTION PASSES

Juli provided a statement to the committee which included her background and visions for the committee.

Jake Simmons moved and Davis Shelton seconded to elect by acclamation **Juli Arzave** as Chair of the Athletes' Executive Committee for the term beginning on January 21, 2022 and ending with the election of a new chair in September of 2022. **MOTION PASSES**

Having received a majority of the present quorum, **Juli Arzave** has been confirmed as Chair-elect of the Athletes' Executive Committee by acclamation.

IX. New Business

No New Business

X. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:58pm ET.

Next Meeting TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Marco Greico

Meeting Secretary

Attachment A-AGENDA



Athletes' Executive Committee Meeting
January 20, 2022
8:30 pm ET/5:30 pm PT

USA Swimming Mission: USA Swimming is the National Governing Body for the sport of swimming. We administer competitive swimming in accordance with the Olympic & Amateur Sports Act. We provide programs and services for our members, supporters, affiliates and the interested public. We value these members of the swimming community, and the staff and volunteers who serve them. We are committed to excellence and the improvement of our sport. We are committed to providing a safe and positive environment for all members.

Committee Mission: The AEC aims to ensure that all athletes of USA Swimming, are represented and have their voices heard in the USA Swimming governance process. The AEC aims to ensure that the athlete voice is strong on the Board of Directors, on all USA Swimming National Committees, in all Zones, and in all LSCs.

USA Swimming Priority Results:

1. USA Swimmers achieve sustained competitive success at the Olympic Games and other high-level international competitions.
2. Members have and use resources for sustainable success.
3. There is growth in swimming participation and interest.
4. USA Swimming is recognized as the "Best in Class" National Governing Body.

AGENDA

- 1.) Welcome
- 2.) Approval of November 4th minutes
- 3.) Chair Updates
 - a. Chair – *Ellery*
 - b. Vice Chair – *Jake*
 - c. Leadership Chair - *Jack*
 - d. Programming and Events Chair – *Annie*
- 4.) USA Swimming Workshop Updates
- 5.) Election of Interim Chair – *Ryan*
- 6.) New Business
- 7.) Adjournment

Attachment B- MINUTES FROM NOVEMBER 4, 2021



Athletes' Executive Committee Monthly Business Meeting Thursday November 4th, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Present: Ellery Parish (Chair), Jack Swanson (Leadership Chair), Annie Norris (Program and Events Chair), Jake Simmons (Vice Chair), Robert Mitchell, Marco Greico, Zach Toothman, Matthew Rigsbee, Josie Uerling, Megan Braman, Ryan Gibbons, Gavin Formon, Annie Kramer, Jackson Fouras, Juli Arzave

Not Present: Aaron Zhu, Lauren Hurt, Davis Shelton, Joan Choi

I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 8:30pm ET by Ellery Parish (Chair) and Agenda was approved as submitted.

II. Reading of the AEC Mission

Ellery Parish (Chair) read the AEC Mission to the Committee.

III. National Committee Update

Jack Swanson (Leadership Chair) provided an update on the National Committee Selection. The AAC has already gotten started with their appointment process. The AEC will make recommendations to the AAC on committee placements for actively engaged athlete positions on committees. Once the list is finalized for actively engaged athletes, Jack will send the list to the AAC. The AAC will be handling the 10 year athlete selection and appointments. There were around 30 submissions for actively engaged athlete committee placements. Zone Reps in particular and others please send your feedback to Jack in respect to committee placements by Sunday (November 7th).

IV. Zone Workshop Update

Annie Norris (Program and Events Chair) provided an update regarding the Zone Workshop and the athlete track for that event. The P and E subcommittee is working on content for the athlete track at the zone workshop. From the survey that was sent out to LSC athlete rep's, the top response was for the topic of Starting an Idea/Project. For the social event, minigolf won. The Zone Workshop is going to be very similar in structure and feel to convention. Question was asked on who will attend the Workshop. The LSC's can send whomever they choose as well as Select National Committee's Meeting in person at the Workshop (ZDC, Senior Development, Age Group Development, Rules and Regulations, LSC Development, AEC, AAC, and Registration/Membership). The USA Swimming Board will also be present at the workshop.

The programming is pointed at Athletes, Coaches, DEI Chairs, and Registrars. ZARC is going to meet this weekend to strategize how to get as many LSC athlete's there as possible. Annie discussed an idea of providing a virtual option for those who can not attend in person.

V. Database

Annie Norris (Program and Events Chair) provided an update on the database for Athlete Representative Contacts. All of the information will populate in a new database so we have all of the information in one place. The intent will be to have all of the athlete representatives fill this out so we have everyone's information in one place and be able to track the end of terms. Ellery said that she will work with Denise Thomas to get a list of when LSC's have their HOD's so we can be proactive in reaching out to new athlete rep's as soon as they begin their term.

VI. Cancelling Subscriptions

Annie Norris (Program and Events Chair) provided an update on AEC subscriptions. We pay for google drive space and for the URL of the AEC website. There are now cheaper options out there to replace the current subscriptions. Matthew provided clarification on options we have to cut our costs down. Matthew and Annie will move forward in transitioning our subscriptions to the new cost effective options.

VII. Logo Update/Website Update

Annie Norris (Program and Events Chair) provided an update on the AEC logo. She asked the committee to review the presentation in the google drive of logos and submit feedback to her so we can move forward with new AEC logos. The website has not been updated in a while, Annie is going to work on updating the website and getting the Zone and AEC pages in particular updated.

VIII. Athlete Newsletter

Matthew Rigsbee provided an update on the Athlete Newsletter Project. The vision is a monthly newsletter that contains a range of information. Matthew asked the committee to send him a message if they are interested in helping him with this project.

IX. AEC Slack Channel/Communication Updates

Matthew provided an update that the slack channel will be used for strict business communication especially with respect to communications that the Zone Rep's will need to forward to LSC Athlete Rep's. Matthew also provided an update on a communication plan that he is working on and it will contain a comprehensive plan also including a plan for external communications. All external communications will go through Matthew and Ellery, external communications meaning anything on behalf of the AEC/USA Swimming, media communications, etc.

X. LSC Award Working Group

Ellery Parish (Chair) provided an update that the AEC is sponsoring a working group on a LSC Athlete Award which is being led by Topher Bishop. The working group has about 85% of the plan completed. The intent of the award is to highlight LSC Athlete Rep's who are doing outstanding things in their LSC.

XI. ZDC Update/General Updates

Ryan Gibbons provided an update on the ZDC. There will be an application process to determine the 12 votes of actively engaged athletes for HOD. Three athlete rep's from each zone will be selected. The four Zone reps will need to sign off on the 12 athlete reps to ensure fairness. Ryan also provided a logistical update about the Zone Workshop. Ellery also provided a brief update on the CAC.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:23pm ET.

Respectfully submitted,

Marco Greico

Meeting Secretary