



**Athletes' Executive Committee
February 3rd, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Present: Juli Arzave (Chair), Annie Norris (Program and Events Chair), Jack Swanson (Leadership Chair), Joel Shinofield (Staff), Ellery Parish (Staff), Robert Mitchell, Marco Greico, Aaron Zhu, Matthew Rigsbee, Josie Uerling, Ryan Gibbons, Gavin Formon, Joan Choi

Not Present: Jake Simmons (Vice Chair) Lauren Hurt, Davis Shelton, Jackson Fouras, Zach Toothman, Megan Braman, Annie Kramer,

I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

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

II. Approval of Minutes

Matthew Rigsbee moved and Jack Swanson seconded to approve the minutes from the January 20th, 2022 Business Meeting (Attachment B). **MOTION PASSES**

III. Chair Update

Juli provided an update that she had a debrief with Ellery over the weekend and is working on transfer of information for the transition.

IV. Vice Chair Update

No Report

V. Leadership Chair Update

Jack provided an update to the committee that the national committee appointments with the AAC have been finalized and completed. There was a significant decrease in engaged athlete applications to national committees this year. He plans to put together a working group in the near future to look at this drop in applications and how we can boost interest.

VI. Programming and Events Chair Update

Annie provided an update on the programming for the USA Swimming Workshop. Collaboration will be the main focal point of the athlete track. Annie currently has a slight draft of the programming put together and hopes to have a meeting in the short term with the P&E subcommittee to be able to finalize it and distribute. She spoke about the mini banquet that will occur at it which will highlight athlete rep excellence. Information about award(s) will go out soon.

VII. LSC Athlete Rep Survey

Marco provided an update on the LSC Athlete Rep survey. A pdf of the comprehensive survey feedback was distributed to the whole committee for review prior to the next meeting. The survey had full participation from the Eastern Zone. Nearly full completion from the Central and Southern Zones. The LSC's who did not respond in those two zones we did not have contact information for. There was a large gap in responses from the Western Zone. Joan and Jackson will follow up with their athletes in their next zone meeting. Joel provided some feedback about the survey, he thought it was a good opportunity to empower athlete reps. Some of the information obtained from the survey will be used to help with program planning for the Athlete Program at the USA Swimming Workshop.

VIII. Athlete Inclusion, Competitive Equity, and Eligibility Policy

Juli provided an update on the Athlete Inclusion, Competitive Equity, and Eligibility policy. The committee then went into a question and answer session with Joel regarding the policy.

IX. Appointment of AEC Member

Juli informed the committee that we are searching for an Athlete Representative to fill the vacant seat on the AEC.

X. Review of AEC Election Procedures

Juli and Ellery provided an update that the committee needs to revisit the AEC election procedure in the near future. More specifically, who is eligible to vote in the AEC election due to the changes in the composition of the HOD. A subcommittee/working group will be put together to tackle this issue and bring a proposal back to the full committee. The working group will include AEC members, a few national committee athletes, and a few LSC athlete reps.

XI. New Business

No New Business

XII. Adjournment

Jack Swanson moved and Matthew Rigsbee seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 ET

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 3rd.

Respectfully submitted,

Marco Greico

Meeting Secretary

Attachment A-Meeting Agenda



Athletes' Executive Committee Meeting
February 3, 2022
5:30pm PST

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 January 20th minutes
- 3.) Chair Updates
 - a. Chair – Juli
 - b. Vice Chair – Jake
 - c. Leadership Chair - Jack
 - d. Programming and Events Chair – Annie
- 5.) LSC Athlete Rep Survey – Marco
- 6.) Athlete Inclusion, Competitive Equity and Eligibility Policy
- 7.) Appointment of new AEC Member- Juli
- 8.) Reviewing current Grassroot Athlete Rep structure - Juli
- 9.) New Business
- 10.) Adjournment

Attachment B-Draft Meeting Minutes from January 20th, 2022



Athletes' Executive Committee Monthly Business Meeting 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