



**Athletes' Executive Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 23rd, 2022**

Present: Juli Arzave (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, Gavin Formon, Jackson Fouras, Aaron Zhu, Lauren Hurt, Davis Shelton, Joan Choi, Caitlin Leverenz-Smith

Staff Present: Joel Shinofeld (Staff Liaison)

I. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda

Meeting was called to order at 1:35 PM MT by Juli Arzave (Chair)

II. AEC Overview and P&E Report

Annie Norris (P&E Chair) provided an update on the AEC's progress and achievements over the past year.

Zone Level- ZARC and AEC collaboration, building of the working relationship.

National Level- Workshop series, increased virtual engagement, and LSC Leadership Summit curriculum.

Refocusing after Restructuring- AAC and AEC Collaboration, Content Organization, and improved communication structure.

Review of USA Swimming Structure- Restructuring of House of Delegates, 10 year Athletes, etc.

III. Chair Update

Juli Arzave provided the chair update. Discussed communication structure- AEC and AAC a collaborative relationship. AEC and ZARC relationship.

-Transferring of responsibilities, transition from Ellery to Juli.

-Continuing to connect with LSC Athlete Representatives.

-Review goals we set during the 2021 Annual Business Meeting.

IV. LSC Athlete Rep Awards

Topher Bishop provided an update on the LSC Athlete Rep Award ceremony that occurred Thursday of the USA Swimming Workshop. 29 out of 59 LSC's participated in the awards selection. Working on ideas for future expansion.

V. Leadership Chair Report

Jack Swanson provided the Leadership Chair Report. Went through the national committee overview and application process.

- Applications due in October 2022, committee terms are two years for athletes, must be willing to commit to being an active member for this term. There will be a committee fair via zoom in August or September for more information.

VI. At Large Report

Josie Uerling provided an overview of the AEC election process after recent changes to the HOD composition. The goal is to maintain LSC Athlete Rep involvement. Possibility of shifting the AEC election cycle after the completion of the next election in September at the ABM.

VII. AAC Report

Caitlin Leverenz-Smith provided the AAC Chair update. She provided an overview of the AAC and its accomplishments from this year.

- Ensured compliance with Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act and USOPC Bylaws by representing all athletes. 10 year Athletes, 10 Year Plus Athletes, Actively Engaged Athletes.

- Priorities for 2022 and Beyond- Collaboration with AEC to better represent all athletes.

- Continue to build connections between AEC and AAC leadership. Ensure balance of 10 year and non 10 year athletes on committees.

- Continuing to ensure athlete voice is heard- with 33% athlete voice on all committees, working groups, etc.

- Effectively bringing the athlete's voice to the board of directors and staff.

VIII. Vice Chair Report

Jake Simmons provided the Vice Chair Report. He provided an overview of the future plans of the AEC.

- AAC Collaboration, LSC Athlete Rep Education, Mentorship, Submitting the 120 Day Rule Amendment, and Succession Planning.

- Open Meetings, Quarterly Meeting planned for all athlete representatives. January, April, Summer, and September.

- Athlete Rep Survival Guide, Mentorship.

IX. 120 Day Rule Change Update

Topher Bishop provided an update on the 120 Day Rule Change.

- Great feedback from the google form.

- Working with the registration committee and registration chairs.

- Task force will work to finish the proposal by May 15th.

- Matthew Rigsbee provided an update from the meeting with the registration chairs. Strike the 120 day rule and suggest 20 or 30 days in place of it, with an effective date of September 1 or immediately.

X. Update on AEC Openings and Timeline

Eligibility is 18 years old and 1 year on a national committee.

- Summer: Revamp mentorship program, update survival guide, compile our content

- ABM: Virtual engagement, boost national committee recognition, on board new members
- Post ABM: Maintain a strong group of AEC members.

XI. Town Hall Portion

Q: How to make athlete committee's more effective and do work?

-Monthly meetings to establish short term and long term goals. Planning an in-person Leadership Summit. Looking at other LSC's but it is not a one size fit all model. Finding what is best for your LSC. Have patience and build it step by step. Learn how to delegate and work as a team.

Q: How do you maintain retention on Athlete Committees?

-Making Leadership Summit an annual event. Finding things that you athletes are passionate about. Try to get them to take initiative on a project they are interested in. Those are the types of things that will keep the athletes engaged and wanting to come back.

Q: How do you get a mentor and how does the program work? Would AEC be open to drop in office hours?

-Zones are a great place of contact to learn of your role at the LSC level and for LSC questions. To apply for a mentor there is a spot on the AEC Website.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM MT.

Respectfully submitted,

Marco Greico

Meeting Secretary