

USA Swimming Club Development Committee Minutes

March 30, 2026, Virtual Meeting

Agenda:

Club Development Committee exists to *support the growth and success of USA Swimming clubs by promoting resources, programs and educational opportunities that foster sustainable organizational development to positively impact the athlete experience.*

- Call to Order
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes
- Old Business
- New Business
 - a. Review of Renata Pellino-Porter's Competitive Landscape and Club Recognition Framework
 - b. Athlete Committee Request – are there items from the Club Recognition Framework we would like the Athlete Summit to address
- Next Meeting
 - a. Monday, April 27, 2026, Noon Eastern
- Adjournment

Present: Jamie Platt (chair), Mike Switalski, Travis Sandifer, Renata Pellino-Porter, Paul Coleman, Zach Nerwinski, Sara Kearns, Olivia Tighe, Kathryn Tarpley, Collin Magnus, Mark Hesse (staff liaison)

Absent: Emily Melina, Shelly Rawding (all excused)

Guests: Beth Winkowski (staff), Alexis Keto (CAC)

Call to Order: Chairman Jamie Platt called the March 30 meeting of the Club Development Committee to order at 8:03pm eastern

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: N/A

Minutes:

- **Approval of Agenda** M/S/P
- **Approval of Previous Minutes**
 - March 2, 2026 M/S/P
- **New Business**
 - Discussion of the Competitive Landscape & Framework Analysis and the Club Recognition Program Redesign Framework documents created by Renata Pellino-Porter (with assist from Claude AI) and edited by Jamie Platt and Mark Hesse
 - Overall appreciation by the committee for the work Renata has put in to streamline our discussion. Consensus that the Framework design is a template we can move forward with. Key highlights

- “Excellence is not a checklist; it is a system”
- 3 types of USA-S clubs:
 - Board-Run (1,317, ~47.3%),
 - Owner/Operator (coach or other individual) (600, ~21.5%),
 - Institution-owned (756, 27.1%)
- 4 distinct club sizes (TBD if 4 is enough of a breakdown)
 - 1-70 – median club size is 66, ~50% of teams, ~16% of total USA-S membership
 - 71-130 – average club size (mean) is 120, ~25% of teams, ~21% of total USA-S membership
 - 131-300 – 20% of teams, ~38% of total USA-S membership
 - 300+ - (5% of teams), ~25% of total USA-S membership
- 5 Potential Recognition Levels
 - Foundational
 - Stability
 - Growth
 - Excellence
 - Model
- Discussion around the importance of Learn to Swim (L-T-S) programming/connection as a vital area to promote. Concerns of different club sizes and types being able or willing to run their own L-T-S program. Question on where in the 5 levels L-T-S should begin.
- Mark & Beth both expressed the need to include some athlete development/performance metrics in the system i.e. YOY athlete improvement, VCC (benchmarked by club size and focused on improvement YOY)
- Questions about where data/information will be stored and who is responsible for vetting applications – important issues but premature at this point
- Debate about the degree of difficulty for teams to apply. Jamie stated “at some point we need to raise the level of expectations for our teams if we are going to provide them with resources. Consensus as to the need to balance the program’s requirements with its perceived value.
- **NEXT STEPS** – Committee agreed to the process of weekly review of the proposed CRP Framework with comments and suggestions to be completed through SharePoint. Week 1 assignment is pages 1-5 up through Level 1 of the document. Due Date: Friday April 3 EOB
- **Athlete Committee Request for ‘project’ for this summer’s Athlete Summit**
 - The committee decided we were not at the point where we have a meaningful assignment for those athletes to tackle.
- **Adjournment:** Jamie Platt adjourned the March 30, 2026 meeting of the Club Development Committee at 8:55pm eastern.