Club Development Committee Meeting

Virtual Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2026

Present: Jamie Platt (chair), Travis Sandifer, Renata Pellino-Porter, Zach Nerwinski, Olivia Tighe, Shelly Rawding, Paul Coleman, Mark Hesse (staff liaison)
Absent: Mike Switalski, Sara Kearns, Kathryn Tarpley, Collin Magnus, Emily Molina (all excused)
Guests: Beth Winkowski
Call to Order: Chairman Jamie Platt called the August 31, 2026, meeting of the Club Development Committee to order at 12:34pm eastern

Conflict of Interest Disclosure: N/A

Motions & Approvals

- Agenda approved without amendment.
- July 22 and August 10 minutes approved, Shelly Rawding to be added to attendance at August 10 meeting

1. Old Business

A. In-Person Meeting at USA Swimming Summit

- The committee discussed creating a repeatable evaluation tool for USA Swimming club programs, viewed through the committee's mission rather than through any one professional role.
- Proposed criteria included club need and relevance, program value and impact, accessibility and club experience, strategic alignment, reach and utilization, cost effectiveness, user experience, uniqueness, and whether USA Swimming is the appropriate provider.
- A one-to-five rating scale and an overall recommendation were discussed, with possible outcomes including expand, maintain, improve, redesign, consolidate, sunset, or request more information.
- The committee favored beginning with its own assessment, then seeking broader club feedback when results are strongly positive, strongly negative, or reveal gaps in representation or knowledge.
- Members noted the need to include perspectives from clubs of different sizes, resources, and settings and to use LSC club-development contacts where possible.
- USA Swimming staff can provide participation and usage data for programs including Block Party, USA Swimming University, Safe Sport recognition, Club Excellence, and grants.

- The in-person Summit session is expected to focus on refining the tool, assigning responsibilities, and beginning program evaluations. The Friday meeting time is 4:30 p.m.

B. Club Recognition

- Olivia Tighe agreed to serve as the athlete representative on the club-recognition subgroup through the end of 2026, subject to her athlete-status transition.
- Mark Hesse presented a preliminary four-level recognition model designed to automate most scoring. Potential components included Age Group Excellence rankings, Safe Sport recognition, Virtual Club Championships, Club Excellence, and education through USA Swimming University or documented external professional development.
- The proposed fourth level, “preferred clubs,” would be application-based and require additional review.
- The committee emphasized measuring whether clubs proactively address areas of weakness, determining appropriate weighting among components, and considering inclusion and community-engagement measures.
- Members discussed the staffing burden of manual review and the importance of keeping the system substantially automated. The committee will continue to assess whether its role should be design and evaluation rather than ongoing administration.

2. Action Items

Owner	Action	Timing
Mark Hesse	Coordinate with Ty, Safe Sport, Education, and other staff to compile program participation and usage data.	**For Summit preparation**
Mark Hesse	Prepare a cleaner presentation of the proposed club-recognition model and clarify internal shorthand used in the draft.	**Before the subgroup meeting**
Mark Hesse	Bring forward the question of the committee’s appropriate role in club recognition and follow up on inclusion and community-engagement measures.	**For the next discussion**
Committee members	Review the shared evaluation materials and complete pre-work to narrow the framework before Summit.	**For Summit preparation**

3. Next Meeting

Date and time: Friday, September 25, 2026, at 4:30 p.m. Mountain Time at USA Swimming Summit

Purpose: Bring absent members up to speed and prepare the evaluation framework for the in-person Summit session.

Chair: To be designated by Jamie Platt, who expects to be absent because of a board meeting.

6. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried without opposition, and the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:33 p.m.