USA Swimming Coach Advisory Council (CAC)

October 14, 2026 / Virtual meeting

Present: Not recorded

Absent: Not recorded

Guests: Not recorded

Call to Order

Michael Lawrence called the October 14, 2026 meeting of the Coach Advisory Council to order at 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure

No new conflicts of interest were disclosed. Members were reminded to disclose any conflicts arising during the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The circulated agenda is reproduced below.

- Call to Order
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Previous Minutes
    - September minutes
- Misc Updates
    - Meeting with the NOC to review certifications (R9)
    - CAC representative to work group with Marci Callan regarding the backstroke rule change
    - Committee appointments
    - CAC succession policy review and updates
    - Development of a national meet calendar
    - Coaches benefit proposal from Doug Cornish
    - Surcharges at national-level meets (Tim Bauer)

- Reports
    - USA Swimming Staff Liaison Update
    - National Team Director Update
- Old Business
    - Pillar reports and action-plan updates: Clubs, Coaches, Communications, and Fast (Elite) Swimming
- Governance Initiatives
    - LSC Review Task Force update
    - Fifth Coach Seat on the Board of Directors
- New Business
- Announcements
- Adjournment

Tim Bauer moved to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved without objection; no second was recorded.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The September 2026 minutes were reviewed. No corrections or additions were raised.

Motion: Approve the September minutes.

Moved by: Shawn Smith

Seconded by: Not recorded

Vote: Approved without objection

Reports

National Team Director — Greg Meehan

- Olympic Trials standards were scheduled for October 15; updated 2027 Nationals standards were expected within two weeks. Pro Swim Series information was online. Westmont selection-meet entries were due October 20.

Committee Appointments — Michael Lawrence and Jamie Bloom

- Staff review was continuing through October 30, with appointment information expected in early November for CAC consideration.

LSC Review Task Force — Michael Lawrence

- The task force was reconvening, with a meeting scheduled for October 15.

Sport Development Staffing — Beth Winkowski

- Functions had interim reporting arrangements while the managing director position was vacant. Team Services advisor-transition communications were complete; future staffing decisions were unconfirmed.

Discussion

R9 Certification Review (Michael Lawrence)

- Discussion around review and possible modification of R9 certification.
- Members were asked to send suggestions to Michael or Jamie Bloom for discussion with the National Officials Committee.

Coach Benefits Proposal (Michael Lawrence)

- Further discussion around coach benefits and professionalization.
- A written, actionable proposal was requested from Doug Cornish for advance review before bringing to the CAC.

National Meet Host Surcharges (Tim Bauer)

- Significant hospitality costs associated with hosting Futures and was seeking clarification from staff on the host's share of existing surcharges.
- Plan to develop a proposal with Senior Development for increased support to host clubs.

CAC Succession Policy (Michael Lawrence)

- Members discussed difficulties applying the existing policy when the Chair position or another CAC seat becomes vacant.
- Policies will be reviewed.

Committee Appointments

- The committee-appointment review was expected to continue through October 30, with information anticipated in early November. The CAC expected to consider appointments at its November meeting.

Backstroke Rule Work Group

- Chrissy Gentry would assume the CAC liaison role with the Age Group Development Committee. Jennifer Gibson volunteered to represent the CAC on the backstroke-rule work group, with Chrissy also participating through her liaison role.
- Members emphasized the need to assess broader coach opinion before determining CAC support. USA Swimming will refer the question to Communications about a poll through Coaches Connect.
- Coordination with Age Group Development was suggested to ensure useful feedback was collected.

National Meet Calendar and Competition Pathways

- Members discussed improving access to information about regional and national competition opportunities, particularly long-course preliminaries-and-finals meets below the existing national-calendar level.
- Suggestions included searchable meet listings, tagging meets during sanctioning, separate calendar tiers, and regional racing opportunities. Members also discussed balancing travel, training, and exposure to different levels of competition.

- The discussion was referred to the Fast (Elite) Swimming pillar for further work and a possible November agenda item. The Road to Indy series as an existing expansion of long-course racing opportunities were highlighted.

Sport Development Staff Structure (Beth Winkowski)

- Sport Development functions were reporting to other leaders on an interim basis while the managing director position was vacant. Team Services advisor realignment communications had been completed. Future staffing decisions were not confirmed.

Action Items

- CAC members will send R9 certification suggestions to Michael Lawrence or Jamie Bloom; Michael will continue seeking a discussion with Trish Martin.
- Michael Lawrence will seek a written, actionable coach-benefits proposal from Doug Cornish before bringing it to the CAC.
- Tim Bauer will continue discussions with staff and Senior Development regarding host surcharges and develop a proposal for CAC consideration.
- Michael Lawrence, Shawn Smith, and Scott Goldblatt will review CAC succession and vacancy procedures.
- Jamie Bloom will coordinate committee-appointment information with staff for anticipated consideration at the November meeting.
- Jennifer Gibson will represent the CAC on the backstroke-rule work group; Chrissy Gentry will participate through her Age Group Development liaison role.
- Beth Winkowski will ask Communications about a Coaches Connect poll to assess coach views on the backstroke-rule proposal.
- The Fast (Elite) Swimming pillar, including Shawn Smith and Alexis Keto, will revisit the meet-calendar project's scope and possible staff coordination for a potential November update.
- Michael Lawrence will reconvene the LSC Review Task Force and provide a further update when available.

Other Business

No additional business was raised. The fifth coach seat on the Board of Directors remained deferred.

Announcements

Members were reminded of the upcoming Westmont selection meet and the anticipated November committee-appointment discussion.

Adjournment

Michael Lawrence adjourned the October 14, 2026 meeting of the Coach Advisory Council at approximately 11:02 a.m. Mountain Time, without objection. Shawn Smith seconded the motion to adjourn; the mover was not identified in the transcript.

Next Meeting

Date: November 11, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time

Format: Virtual

These minutes were prepared in accordance with USA Swimming committee governance guidelines.