

**USA Swimming Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
July 11, 2022 / Virtual Zoom Call**

CALL TO ORDER

USA Swimming Steering Committee staff liaison, Lindsay Mintenko, called the July 11, 2022 Steering Committee meeting to order at 6:00 pm Mountain Time with the following members in attendance:

PRESENT

Committee Members: Gunnar Bentz, Carol Capitani, Bruce Gemmell (Chair), Connor Jaeger, Catherine Kase, Jamie Lewis, Teri McKeever, Greg Meehan, Katie Meili, Lindsay Mintenko, Ginny Nussbaum, Davis Tarwater

USA Swimming Staff: Matt Barbini, Carli Brashier, Tim Hinchey, Stacy Michael-Miller, Erik Posegay, Keenan Robinson, Joel Shinofield, MJ Truex

2022 DUEL IN THE POOL UPDATE

Lindsay Mintenko provided updates on the composition of the 2022 Duel in the Pool Team. Dave Salo was named as the head coach. The team is comprised of 12 men and 11 women. Para athletes and staff will also be joining the team in Sydney.

2022 SHORT COURSE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS UPDATE

Ms. Mintenko discussed that selection procedures would be similar to past selections for SC Worlds, using LCM times. Without reliable FINA world rankings, FINA A time standards from 2022 LC World Championships in Budapest will be used. The selection procedures will be reviewed with the Athletes' Advisory Council (AAC) for their support.

DIRECT ATHLETE SUPPORT (DAS) UPDATE

Ms. Mintenko spoke on behalf of Stacy Michael-Miller providing updates on DAS. Working with the AAC, DAS was updated to accommodate the lack of reliable world rankings this year. Funding will be provided to the top National Team athlete in each event, with the top four in the 100 and 200 freestyle also receiving funding. From there, athletes will be added up to 28 athletes in each gender based on the fastest percentage of the FINA A time standard. Every athlete receives the same amount based on their status as a pro, in high school, or in college.

NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM (NJT) UPDATE

2022-2023 NJT

Erik Posegay, Program Director, NJT, spoke on the NJT selection procedures for the 2022-2023 NJT. Again, with no world rankings selection procedures had to be altered. He looked back to 1994 to see how the NJT was selected, noting changing age caps and the progression to the use of 18 years old for both men and women. In his research, he noted the high correlation of athletes 4th or higher in events on past NJTs having further National Team success (making a National Team or Olympic Team). Looking at four percent off the average winning medal times from the 2016 and 2020 Olympics and 2019 and 2022 World Championships to use as time standards, these held up to past NJT world ranking times.

For the 2022-2023 NJT selection, priority 1 athletes will be the top two individuals in each Olympic event. Priority 2 athletes are the third and fourth fastest times in the 100 and 200 freestyle. The team maximum team size will be 40 men and 40 women.

Junior Pan Pacific Championships

Mr. Posegay provided a brief update on the Junior Pan Pacific Championships team.

World Cups Team

Mr. Posegay mentioned they are looking to send a small team of six men and six women to the Indianapolis World Cup this fall.

OPEN WATER (OW) UPDATE

Ms. Mintenko spoke on behalf of Bryce Elser, updating the Committee the OW team at the Paris World Series was sent home due to COVID-19. Another competition, likely the World Series in October in Puerto Rico will now be used for DAS selection.

FINA WORLD CUPS FALL 2022

Ms. Mintenko informed the Committee, that after the NT is named in September, a survey will be sent out to the athletes about attendance for the Berlin and Toronto World Cup stops. The Indy stop will be treated like a Pro Swim Series. Australia is planning to send a group to Indy. The World Cups will be SCM.

2023 CALENDAR

Ms. Mintenko updated the Committee that we were waiting to hear from FINA regarding Trials dates for 2023. Approval for the Pro Swim Series and Trials dates for 2023 will be done via email. An alternative option for the World University Games in 2023 is being explored. An Olympic and Paralympic Training Center (OPTC) camp will be offered in March of 2023, dates March 5-26.

2024 PRO SWIM SERIES (PSS) DATES

Background

Matt Barbini, Director Performance, explained how the 2024 PSS were selected working back from the 2024 Olympic Trials dates (June 15-23, 2024).

January 10-13 (MLK weekend)

March 6-9

April 10-13

May 15-18

There will be a 2024 OPTC camp offered in March of 2024, March 10-April 10 (after March PSS and before April PSS).

Vote

Ms. Mintenko asked for approval of the proposed 2024 PSS dates. The 10 voting members of the Committee on the meeting all approved the proposed 2024 PSS dates.

2024 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Background

Ms. Mintenko updated the Committee that the dates will be in late January or early February. Selection for the 2024 World Championships will be a paper selection. There will be no training camp, but the Team will arrive in country 5-6 days before competition. Hearing that for relays for the Olympics, only medalists at the 2023 World Championships will automatically qualify for the Olympics; the remaining 13 places will be determined at the 2024 World Championships. Selection will not be able to be fully determined until it is determined which relays qualify for the Olympics at 2023 World Championships.

Discussion

A coach highlighted it was very likely that 1-2 of the USA relays would not qualify for the Olympics at the 2023 World Championships based on historical relay performances at Worlds. An athlete suggested finding a way to incentivize attendance at the 2024 World Championships for those relays given the challenging timing of the event. Mr. Barbini stressed this challenge would likely impact the order we select athletes to the team. Another coach emphasized the need to discuss the importance of relays to the 2023 World Championships Team.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS – 120 DAY RULE

Background

Ms. Mintenko explained the Athlete's Executive Committee (AEC) has asked the Steering Committee to co-sponsor legislation on the 120-day rule for athletes. The AEC is looking to change the rule from 120 days to 30 days to be unattached at a competitive event after a swimmer switches clubs.

Discussion

Ms. Mintenko opened the floor for discussion:

- Background on AEC, adjusted the rule in consultation with the Registration Committee. Would not accept individual circumstances, so went with simplest solution, 30 days.
- Different ways to view the impact of this rule based on different perspectives: club to college, college to post grad, club to club
- Certain circumstances make sense for the shorter period:
 - Move to another state
 - Military transfers
 - Club shuts down
- Concerns:
 - How the shorter period will impact recruiting amongst club teams that are geographically close
 - No protection for clubs financially
 - Time frame of transfer and impact on championship season
 - More club hopping
 - Use of bullying as a reason for club transfer
- Questions:
 - Ability to adjust the number of days, for example 60 days versus 30 days?
 - Proposal had to be submitted tonight (July 11, 2022) so too late to propose different language to AEC.
 - Can bring up at the House of Delegates

Vote

Ms. Mintenko asked Committee members to submit a private vote in the chat to Carli Brashier. The Committee voted against co-sponsoring the proposal by the AEC as written.

Mr. Shinofield agreed to take the results to the AEC as staff liaison and determine if next steps were necessary for the Steering Committee.

NEXT MEETING

Ms. Mintenko followed up on her previous correspondence that the next Steering meeting would be an in-person meeting in Denver, Colorado September 14-15, 2022. Zoom capabilities will be set up for those that cannot attend in person. More details would be forthcoming.

ADJOURN

Ms. Mintenko thanked everyone for their input and time and adjourned the meeting.

ATTACHEMENTS

Attachment 1- 120 Day Rule Proposal from the AEC