# ZONE DIRECTORS' COUNCIL

## APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2026 | 7:00 PM Eastern | Virtual (Zoom)

*"Serving as a connecting link in the USA Swimming Community to build awareness and trust through shared communication and education."*

### Attendance

| Zone / Group | Members and guests (absences noted) |
|---|---|
| **Central Zone** | Bob Staab; Hadley Wartner (Athlete); Bridget McGann (Athlete). Absent: Jack Swanson. |
| **Southern Zone** | Tristan Formon (ZDC Chair); Nicole Caruso (Athlete); Louis Roux (Athlete). Absent: Melissa Hellervik-Bing. |
| **Eastern Zone** | Jamie Platt (ZDC Chair); TJ Walsh (Athlete); Harper Freeman (Athlete). Absent: Tom Ugast. |
| **Western Zone** | Sally Taggart; Lara Robertson (Athlete). Absent: Scott Shea; Simran Jayasinghe (Athlete). |
| **Other** | Terry Jones (Staff); Joel Shinofield (Staff); Mark Hesse (Staff); Beth Winkowski (Staff); Patrick Hunter. Absent: Zach Tootham (Ex-Officio); Kathleen Prindle (BOD). |

### Call to Order

Tristan Formon called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

### Council Role

The Council provides advice to inform the Board of Directors of issues and opportunities within the four zones.

### Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes will take place at the next ZDC meeting.

### Age Group Development Committee Presentation

Michael Hamman presented a detailed overview of the new Age Group Club Excellence Program using a PowerPoint presentation.

### Meet the Candidates

Jamie Platt reviewed the questions and process for Meet the Candidates.

### Board of Directors Presentation

Jamie Platt outlined the objective of providing an opportunity for questions and answers, listening to the Board, and determining how the ZDC can support Board efforts and initiatives.

## Athlete Updates

No additional updates were reported. Tristan Formon recognized the athletes' efforts in delivering Athlete Leadership Summits during the summer.

## LSC Task Force Feedback

No further feedback had been received from LSCs. Membership was eager to learn more at the annual Summit.

## Zone Updates

**Central Zone:** Financial reports from Zone Championship meet hosts were being compiled.

**Eastern Zone:** Nothing to report.

**Southern Zone:** A pre-Summit meeting was held the preceding Sunday to allow time for reports and preserve the shortened Summit meeting window for voting and other business. Tristan Formon had begun an in-depth review of Southern Zone meet funding and requested comparable data from the other three zones. The objective was to explore ways to better support championship meet hosts and provide the best possible experience for families, athletes, coaches, and officials. Topics under review included meet fee structures, zone splash fees, and potential increases in zone and USA Swimming funding. Discussion followed.

**Western Zone:** A pre-meeting was held in preparation for the annual Summit. Dates and locations for 2027 were established following an unforeseen scheduling change. Planning was underway for a DEI Camp and upcoming Athlete Leadership engagements.

## Meeting Schedule

Members were asked to complete the scheduling Google Form. The Council considered holding ZDC meetings in odd-numbered months and reserving even-numbered months for respective zone engagement. The final schedule will be established and adjusted to meet the needs of the group.

Scheduling form:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScbnkpBY0XPTUEDitcNTVUov47q84IQ0F_T-K_NX70uAayXJw/viewform?usp=header

## Open Floor

Jack Swanson, Melissa Hellervik-Bing, TJ Walsh, and Simran Jayasinghe were identified as completing their terms. The Council looked forward to welcoming new members.

## Next Meeting

To be determined.

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 PM. Motion, second, and approval recorded in the source draft as "MSA (Bob, Nicole)."

*Respectfully submitted by Tristan Formon and Jamie Platt.*

**Review note:** Prepared from the supplied written draft. The accompanying audio recording has not been independently transcribed or verified; these minutes remain draft pending that review and Council approval.