

Vice President Olympic International
2025 Convention
Omaha, Nebraska

National Teams:

This was a rebuilding year for our Senior National Team. More than half of our 2024 Senior Team returned to training in Los Angeles, while the remaining members of the 2024 team began/continued their Collegiate careers. Additional athletes joined the team working with our new coaching staff. Tammy McGregor (Head Coach) and Marivi Escalona (Assistant Coach). Young Shin Woo joined the coaching staff later in the season.

The Senior Team competed in two World Cups (Paris and Markham), and the World Championships in Singapore. In Paris, they earned Bronze in Team Tech and Gold in Acro (Officials were Erin King and Victoria Anderson). In Markham, it was a Bronze in both Team Tech and Free, and 5th in Acro (Officials were Cheryl Russell and Anna Yesipova). In Singapore, the Free Team was fourth, Tech Team earned sixth, and Acro placed ninth. The Duet was 10th in Tech (Bill May was a DTC/STC, and Adam Andrasko was USAAS representative to the World Congress). The US has remained strong on the International level, and the road to LA2028 has begun!

As of the writing of this report, the US Junior National Team has begun their competition in the Junior Pan American Games. We are extremely grateful to the clubs who participated in the PAQ Championship in Columbia in May as a Club Option (Boston Synchro Team, Pacific Waves, Santa Clara Artistic Swimming, San Francisco Merionettes, Scottsdale Synchro, and Seattle Aqua Club). It is only because of their participation that our National Junior Team was qualified to compete! So far, our team has placed third in the Women's Duet (second in Free and third in Tech), and second in the Mixed Team-Technical Competition. Our Officials: Debbie Latchford (judge), Victoria Anderson (DTC/STC), Chris Leahy (PAQ Technical Committee) and Tammy McGregor (PAQ Technical Committee).

As of the writing of this report, our Youth National Team has yet to compete in Athens. They will swim in every event. This competition will be taking place August 26-30. Cheryl Russell will attend as a Judge.

Many thanks to all of our dedicated National Team coaches and personnel. We wish to especially thank Tammy for her leadership during this transitional year, and we wish you the best as you return home.

New AQUA Officials' Pathway:

World Aquatics instituted a new classification system and pathway for International Technical Officials. Currently representing the United States:

Gold Level: Irene Hawes (Evaluator), Erin King (Judge), Kimberly Kohut (Judge), Svetlana Malinovskaya (DTC/STC), and Cheryl Russell (Judge)

Silver Level: Debbie Latchford (Judge), Heidi Lurenz (Judge), and Bill May (DTC/STC).
Bronze Level: Victoria Anderson (DTC/STC), Sheila McNabb (Judge), Ludi Stsepaniuk (DTC/STC), and Anna Yesipova (DTC/STC).

Heidi will be retiring from International Judging at the end of this year, due to the age limit. We would like to thank her for her service to AQUA and for representing the United States so well on the world stage.

PAQ nominates Technical Controllers:

PanAm Aquatics confirmed the 2025 appointments of the following individuals as Technical Controllers: Teagan Betancourt, Chris Leahy, and Heather Tiernan. They join Tammy McGregor, who is also a PAQ TC.

Other notable events:

In November, USAAS hosted an Artistic Swimming Duet and Mixed Duet Camp in North Carolina. This was a joint venture with PanAm Aquatics, the US Performance Center, and the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee for all interested PAQ coaches and duets.

In June, Irene Hawes was the Evaluator and Kimberly Kohut a neutral judge in the European Aquatics Junior Artistic Swimming Championship held in Athens, Greece.

In March, Becky Meitin represented Ecuador as a Judge in the Cancun Open. Both Becky and Eugenia Gillan have assisted Ecuador in a coaching capacity, as well.

In May, Coral Springs hosted their 2025 Novice, Intermediate, 12-U, Youth Age Group & Athletes with Disabilities Worldwide Invitational. Judges included: Shannon Korpela, Becky Meitin, and Jen Muzyk. 233 athletes and 11 countries registered.

There were multiple club option competitions, beginning in the fall of 2024 and continuing through 2025. Many of the athletes had podium performances! Club options included:

Singapore Open (Meraquas)

46th Southeast Asian Age Group Aquatics Championships (Meraquas)

Jolyn Invitational (Canada; Mad City Aqua Stars)

BC Provincial Qualifier (Canada; Seattle Cascades)

Canadian Nationals (Swimkins Synchro)

Canadian Masters Nationals (DC Synchronmasters, Redwood Empire, Seattle Cascades, Team Florida)

PAQ Championship (Columbia; Boston Synchro Team, Pacific Waves, Santa Clara Artistic Swimming, San Francisco Merionettes, Scottsdale Synchro, and Seattle Aqua Club. Judge-Christine McMaster-Shah, Controller-Teagan Betancourt, Athlete Rep-Bill May, Rep to the Congress-Adam Andrasko)

Primorje Cup (Croatia; Swimkins Synchro, Walnut Creek Aquanuts; Judge-Heidi Lurenz)

Macau Open (Santa Clara Artistic Swimming Club; Judge-Victoria Anderson)

Swedish Open (Westside Aquatics)

1st Open Latvian AS Championships (Orlando Loreleis)
World Masters Championship (Singapore; LA Sea Stars, MAC Synchro, Nevada Desert
Mermaids, Redwood Empire, Santa Clara Artistic Swimming Club, Judge-Shannon Korpela)

Upcoming:

Irene Hawes was selected as Evaluator for the Oceania Aquatics Artistic Swimming Open Championships and New Zealand National 2025 National Championship. Sheila McNabb will attend as a neutral judge.

I'd like to thank Betty Hazle for all of her assistance this year. Betty is an extremely knowledgeable, dedicated, hard-working IR chair. Her contributions are invaluable, and I couldn't have done this job without her.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Russell