



2026 National Team Program Report

Madison, WI

August 05, 2026

The year 2026 was an amazing period of growth for our national team program. Our teams faced hurdles, changes, and great wins while reaching key goals. We owe our success to the hard work of our athletes, coaches, staff, officials, and families. Your strong support drives our progress. We feel very proud of our program.

Senior National Team (SNT):

Under the guidance of the new coaching staff, Megan Abarca, Paula Klamburg and Marivi Escalona, the SNT made appearances at three World Cups and the Super Final, delivering strong results. This achievement has firmly established us on the global leaderboard, and this legacy continues to cement itself.

At the Medellin World Cup, the team earned gold in Team Acrobatics and silver in the brand-new technical team routine. The second World Cup took place in France, where the team achieved top 5 in Team Acrobatic and duet technical receiving glowing feedback for its innovative choreography and earning the best score on the artistic impression category. Another highlight of that event was Anita Alvarez swimming the technical solo routine demonstrating her growing strength and Team USA leadership.

The senior program had representatives at the Pontevedra World Cup, entering the duet event with Anita Alvarez and Jaime Czarkowski, as well as the junior pair Kanako Field and AnaMaria Camero. David Llorente and Yilian Wang represented the mixed duet, making their world stage debut. In the solo events, Anita Alvarez swam both the free and technical routines, while Kanako Field swam the technical solo to gain experience ahead of Junior Worlds. David Llorente also entered the solo events for the same reason. The results speak volumes, showing we are on the right track as Anita Alvarez and Jaime Czarkowski earned silver at the Pontevedra World Cup in May 2026—the USA's first World Cup duet podium in seven years.

The season culminated at the Super Final, the team's most important and competitive event of the year. The SNT competed in all events of the competition, showing the strength of the program. The technical duet delivered a bronze medal and placed 6th in the duet free, while consistently earning the one of the highest artistic impression marks across events. For the team events, the results were silver in team technical and bronze in team free (prepared in less than two months due to Olympic squad trials). These achievements show that our leadership is working and position USAAS firmly among the world's best. The technical duet's bronze medal indicates a huge opportunity: having a lower declared difficulty compared with the rest of the field highlights a clear, addressable gap. By increasing declared difficulty and maintaining consistency in performances, our program can convert this potential into additional medals at LA28.



The senior national team program successfully completed Phase 8 of the selection procedures in May 2026. It kept an athlete-first philosophy to choose the best athletes and give them great experience. This phase reduced the training squad from 30 to 13 full-time athletes who can compete for LA28 roster spots. Selecting a team of this size more than two years ahead of the Olympic Games is a strategic initiative that will allow us to maximize team unity, choreography, and talent as we prepare for LA28. The names of the Olympic training squad athletes are:

Anita Alvarez, Ana Maria Camero, Anna Daniella Ramirez, David Llorente, Emileen Moore, Elle Santana, Ghizal Akbar, Jaime Czarkowski, Jaclyn Zhuge, Kanako Field, Natalia Vega, Nicole Dzurko and Ruby Remati.

Junior National Team (JNT):

The Junior National Team embarked on its 2026 journey by carefully selecting fourteen of the best junior athletes to represent the U.S. at the Junior World Championships in Budapest, Hungary. With just six weeks of preparation under the expert guidance of coaches Ludivine Stsepaniuk, Ou Liu, and Marivi Escalona, the team trained intensively in three team events—tech, free, and acrobatics—as well as technical and free duets, technical and free mixed duets, and technical female and male solos. By the time this report was finalized, they were in the final week of their training camp in Las Vegas. The staff was further enhanced by Bill May serving as a mixed duet consultant.

Five members of the Junior National Team are also Senior National Team members. The experience they will gain through training and world-level competition will help them secure valuable repetitions in an elite environment, better preparing them for their future with the Senior National Team. We are confident that this talented squad will return home with medals.

The 2026 junior national team: Anamaria Camero, Kanako Field, Jaclyn Zhuge, Ghizal Akbar, Isabella Bae, David Llorente, Mona Schwickert, Hevin Park, Chloe Fu, Yilian Yuan, Nira Shakeri, Jamie Starck, Marlo Goldhoff, Kaylee Wang

Youth National Team (YNT):

The Youth National Team has embarked on a two-week training camp in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Sixteen athletes aged 13–15 were selected to be part of this Olympic Development camp. The goal of the camp is to develop, strengthen team culture and prepare the athletes for the 2027 Youth World Championships.

The camp exceeded expectations, and the athletes were able to experience high-level training at an Olympic facility (the Rio 2016 Olympic pool), working on technical skills and routines that will be showcased at the next Youth World Championships. Not only did they gain technical knowledge, but they also developed culturally and socially by training alongside the Brazilian Youth National Team.

Looking Forward to Tomorrow

We feel great pride in every athlete, coach, and leader in our national team for 2026. Their hard work keeps our goal alive. We help athletes grow both in and out of the water and push them to reach their



highest goals. This year was a key step in our growth. It sets the stage for even bigger wins in 2028 and the years to come.

Special Thanks

I extend our deepest gratitude to our CEO, Adam Andrasko, and the National Office staff, Kennedy Shriver, and Baylee Robson for their tireless work behind the scenes. Their unwavering commitment ensures the success of the national team program as we build a program capable of podium contention in 2028 and beyond.

As a unified organization, we look forward to the future with pride in our achievements and optimism for what's to come. Together, we are building an enduring legacy, inspiring the next generation of athletes and ensuring artistic swimming continues to thrive on the world stage.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lara Teixeira".

Lara Teixeira,

Chief of Sport and Chair of the USAAS National Team Program Committee.