Minutes
Board of Directors
Wednesday, May 27, 2026

Board Members in Attendance: Kimberly Kohut, Heidi Lurenz (non-voting; Secretary), Jacklyn Luu (Team USA AC alternate), Anna Montgomery, Natalia Vega (AEC President), Kerhyl Gantt, Rebecca Phillips, Joanne Pasternack, Becky Jasontek Tomsic (Athlete at Large),	
Staff Members in Attendance: Adam Andrasko, Lara Teixeira	
Others:	
Excused: Monica Velaquez-Stiak, Andrea Nott Miles (General Athlete Representative), Cheryl Russell, Jaime Czarkowski (General Athlete Representative), Stacey Chapman, Amy Oliver, Mariya Koroleva (Team USA AC Athlete Representative), Jennell Lynch	
Called to Order At: 8:04 PM EDT	BY: Kimberly Kohut. A quorum was declared once all members attending had arrived.

Topic	Declaration of Conflicts of Interest	**Presented by**	Kimberly Kohut
Discussion	Kimberly Kohut called for any additional conflicts of interest to be declared. No new conflicts of interest were declared. No new agenda items were brought forth.		

Topic	Approval of Minutes of March 18, 2026 BOD meeting	**Presented by**	Kimberly Kohut
Discussion	**Motion:** Anna Montgomery motioned to approve minutes from the March 18, 2026 BOD meeting. **Seconded by:** Joanne Pasternack **Motion approved.** **Vote: Yes- 8 No- 0, Abstain- 0**		

Topic	Athlete Report	**Presented by**	Jacklyn Luu

Discussion	Jacklyn will be attending the Athlete Forum in Atlanta next week and will have a report for the next board meeting.

Topic	Treasurer's Report	**Presented by**	Anna Montgomery, Adam Andrasko
Discussion	See report Adam provided a financial update by walking through the dashboard found in the meeting folder. Report reflects YTD through quarter 1. It does not include grants, so it is tight, but is in the positive. JO registration will close soon, and a significant influx is expected. Adam also provided the USOPC Benefits Statement. See folder		

Topic	VP Olympic International	**Presented by**	Cheryl Russell not present
Discussion	See report attached. Kim shared that Jaime did mention that trials this year was one of the best held and there was very positive feedback from everyone including those not selected. All athletes appreciated that they were able to have instant feedback and that they had so much fun.		

Topic	Action Item 21.01.D Athlete Affiliation Clarification needed.	**Presented by**	Kim Kohut
Discussion	See attached revised Item 21.01.D It was determined that Item 21.01D belonged in Governance and was addressed by the governance committee. The Committee reviewed and discussed the item. They have recommended the approval of the item found in attachments. Motion to accept the item was made by Anna Montgomery and seconded by Natalia. Discussion: • If a club does not support an athlete participating in trials what recourse does the athlete have? • A club is technically not allowed to do that due to the Ted Steven's Act. • Should this be addressed in 2 separate rules?		

	• The timing of trials is an issue because it could limit an athlete for the rest of the competitive season. • If an athlete is restricted, is the USA potentially missing out on an athlete who should be competing for the National team? • This should be discussed in a larger forum. • Is the 120 day restriction still a valid restriction? **Vote: Yes- 3 No- 2, Abstain- 3** **Motion Failed:** Item sent back to Governance to be brought to convention for a more robust discussion in a larger forum.

Topic	VP DEI	**Presented by**	Monica Velaquez-Stiak not present
Discussion	See report attached. • There is a thought that a change the name of the VP DEI position may be prudent. • There is a misconception that the work by this committee has stopped. This is not true and the committee continues to work hard as they have in the past. • A new name may open the candidate pool. • This suggestion and proposed names will be sent to the DEI committee so a proposal can be submitted to the board in July.		

Topic	President's/CEO Report	**Presented by**	Kim Kohut/Adam Andrasko
Discussion	AQUA has a new conflict of interest policy and it limits that ability of officials who hold National Board of Director positions. Because of this, Bill has decided to resign from the USAAS BOD, to begin his required 12 month waiting period. Cheryl plans to continue as she is nearing the end of her eligibility. Kim also plans to continue and will hope to attend competitions that the USA does not participate in. This will enable her to retain her rating level. Adam confirms that the organization needs to support people who are officials who are willing to serve on the board. There is also the issue of the new gold, silver, bronze system so it is important that officials attend international competition regularly. However, we still need officials events our athletes are entered in. This is a complex problem and will be looked at carefully now that we know what is allowable for officials. There can be ways USAAS can support officials if the organization is smart about it.		

	The Operational plan (see folder) has been updated as requested at the last BOD meeting with more defined goals and analytics tied to it. Adam gave a brief overview of the updates. The plan will be updated for every board meeting so it can be reviewed prior to the meeting. A comprehensive review will be completed at year end. Adam presented the Artistic Swimming House. Tickets will be available soon and emails will go out.

Topic	Announcements	**Presented by**	Adam Andrasko/ Kim Kohut
Discussion	The hotel link for convention will be open next week. Convention is Sept 3-6, 2026. Board members should arrive by the afternoon/evening of Friday Sept 4. The foundation reception will be Friday evening. Please schedule departure after 1 PM Sunday Sept 6. Please complete the Board Span survey if you have not already done so. The National team is competing in Spain this coming weekend. The task force for Adam's contract mid-year review will meet in about 1 week. Kim will be judging in Thailand on July 22 when the next BOD meeting is scheduled. It was agreed to move the meeting up 1 week to July 15, 2026.		
Topic	Closed session including Adam	**Presented by**	Kimberly Kohut
Discussion	**Motion:** to move to a closed session including Adam and Lara was made by Rebecca Phillips **Seconded by:** Natalia Vega **Motion approved.** Moved into closed session at 9:41 EDT **Vote: Yes 7, No- 0, Abstain- 0** Adam reported there are no SafeSport updates and the results of the audit will be received July 4th, **Motion:** Made to move out of closed session made by Anna Montgomery **Seconded by:** Rebecca Phillips **Motion approved.** Moved out of closed session at 9:44 EDT		

	Vote: Yes- 7, No- 0, Abstain- 0

Adjournment at 9:45 PM EDT		
Moved to adjourn by: Natalia Vega	**Seconded by:** Rebecca Phillips	**Motion Approved unanimously**

Respectfully Submitted,

Heidi Lurenz
Secretary

Attachments:
VPOI report
Admin Rule Change Proposal for Governance Committee
VP DEI proposal

VP Olympic International Report, May 2026

National Teams:

Our Senior National Team competed in Paris at World Cup #2. Technical Soloist Anita Alvarez placed 5th, and she was 3rd in Artistic Impression. She joined Jaime Czarkowski in Tech Duet, placing 4th. They had the top Artistic Impression score! Ghizal Akbar and Kanako Field placed 16th in the same event, receiving a base mark. Our Tech Team placed 7th, with two base marks and the 2nd highest Artistic Impression score. They were the only team to receive 10s on their Acro. In Acro Team, they placed 7th with two base marks. They had the highest Artistic Impression score and received a total of five 10s, Notably, one of the 10s was in the Performance category. Senior National Team members will travel to Spain at the end of May (World Cup) and Canada in June (Super Final). Officials for Spain: Cheryl Russell (Judge) and Anna Yesipova (Controller). Officials for Canada: Debbie Latchford (Judge), Krista Karwosky (Practice Judge), and Victoria Anderson (Controller).

Senior, Junior, Youth and 12 & U trials were held in Buffalo in April. Six Seniors advanced to Phase 8, held in Los Angeles, where 13 athletes were named to our Olympic training squad: Anita Alvarez, Jaime Czarkowski, Ruby Remati, Natalia Vega, Daniella Ramirez, Nicole Dzurko, Kanako Field, Ghizal Akbar, Elle Santana, Emileen Moore, AnaMaria Camero, Jaclyn Zhuge, and David Llorente.

The Junior National Team was selected, and they will represent the US in the Jr. World Championships this summer. Five Senior National Team athletes who are age-eligible have accepted positions on the 2026 Junior National Team. Only fourteen athletes may be selected to attend the World Championship. At this time, nine athletes have been named to the Junior Team from trials event. The final two selections are provisional and will remain unofficial until the petition trials conclude. Eight Junior Trials participants were selected to the 2026 All-Star Camp.

Sixteen Youths were selected to the Youth National team and will participate in the Olympic Development Camp, and 4 Youth Athletes were selected for the 2026 All-Star Camp.

International Competitions:

Jr./Sr. US Nationals, Buffalo, NY; April

Adam reached out to Angela Dubuis, from AQUA, to see if this competition would be recognized by World Aquatics. Receiving the go-ahead, Adam arranged for Miwako Homma (JPN) to be the Evaluator. This gave our AQUA judges another competition to be evaluated. In the future, we hope to have an Evaluator for our Controllers, as well.

Pan Am Championships (Santiago, Chile; April)

Members from Walnut Creek and Blue Legend had a very successful competition, with many medalists (Teagan Betancourt attended as Controller):

12U:

Female Figures- 1st and 3rd	Female Duet-1st
Male Figures-1st	Mixed Duet-1st
Female Solo-1st and 3rd	Free Team-1st
Male Solo-1st	Combo-2nd

Upcoming/Completed International competitions with US Club Options include:

Mable Moran Championship (Vancouver, BC; April)-Seattle Cascades participated.
102nd Japan Swimming Championships (Tokyo, Japan; May-San Francisco Marionettes will attend).

Canadian Masters Championship (Toronto, June-DC Synchromasters, Indy Synchro Masters, Sea Stars Chicago, and Seattle Cascades will attend)

XV Hungarian Open, Budapest, (Hungary; July-Santa Clara Artistic Swimming will attend)

European Masters Championships (Bratislava, Slovakia; August-MAC Synchro will attend).

Cancun Open (Mexico; June-Santa Clara Artistic Swimming will attend).

10TH Pan Am Aquatics Masters Championships (Buenos Aires, Arg.; October-Raleigh Rhythm Rays, Santa Clara Artistic Swimming, Unsyncables of La Mirada and Nevada Desert Mermaids will compete).

Worldwide Artistic Swimming Invitational 2026

Countries participating: Cayman Islands, Ecuador, France/Guadalupe, Jamaica, Panama, and USA (Texas, Fl, California, Washington, Colorado, Mass.)

Also, Ashley Johnson was asked to host the CARIFTA competition. It is scheduled for March 25-28, 2027, in Coral Springs.

International Athletes

Eugenia Gillan worked with Ecuador, remotely.

International Officials

Irene Hawes was selected to be the Evaluator of Judges in the 2026 European Youth Artistic Swimming Championship & Comen Cup, in Luxembourg City, Luxembourg, from June 4-7, 2026.

Kim Kohut received an invitation to be a neutral judge at the Asian Age Group Championships in Thailand this summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Russell

Admin Rule Change Proposal for Governance Committee
May 2026

Item 1: Revise Admin Rule 21.01 D, Affiliation and Transfers:

For an athlete to represent an artistic swimming club, the club must be a member of the Corporation. Refer to USAAS Code, Article 1, Section 1.02 A.

A. An athlete may represent any club that is a member of the Corporation, without regard to residency.
B. An athlete may compete in the Championships of only one (1) LASC, Region, and Zone each year.
C. An athlete representing one (1) club may also represent a junior or senior high school, a college, or a university.
D. To transfer representation from a club to another or from unaffiliated status to club representation, an athlete must have served one hundred and twenty (120) consecutive days without having represented any club in competition **and/or Trials. Refer to National Team, Olympic Development Program and All-Star Camp Selection Procedures (Appendix E).** The athlete must complete and submit to the National Office a fee and transfer form indicating the date of last competition **and/or Trials** in an affiliated status. This rule shall not apply to athletes who transfer from a junior/senior high school, college or university program to a club program after their respective seasons are completed. Refer to USAAS Athlete Recruitment/Undue Influence & Transfer Policy (Appendix J). **For waivers of this rule, refer to USAAS Administrative Rules, Article 22, Section 22.01.**

*Rationale: to clarify that an athlete who wishes to transfer to another club must wait 120 days without representing any club in competition **and/or Trials**. There was some confusion at a competition earlier this year, and this was discussed at length with both Lara, our Chief of Sport, and Kim before putting forth this proposal.*

Item 1, Passed in Committee, Recommended for Approval/Rejection by the Board of Directors

Hi board members! I apologize I can't be on tonight's call and I hope you're doing well. There has been some discussion about the change of the DEI position name. I want to make it clear that there is still plenty of work being done with our athletes with disabilities and opportunities for outreach and "try artistic swim" options with our local clubs. While we have navigated the space of transgender and gender identity guidelines under our current administration, there is still growth happening within our sport.

The discussion being had is to rename the position with suggestions of the following:
Title Ideas:
Vice President of Athlete Pathways & Inclusion (Favorite)
Vice President of Inclusive Growth & Development
Vice President of Inclusive Athlete Programs
Vice President of Athlete Access & Opportunity
Vice President of Athlete Pathways
Title Role:
The VP serves as the lead advocate and strategic coordinator for programs that support accessible, inclusive, and lifelong participation in artistic swimming. This position oversees initiatives related to Masters athletes, collegiate artistic swimming, diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), and adaptive/AWD participation, while working to strengthen athlete engagement and opportunities across all stages of the sport.

I am not sure the change is exactly necessary, as the work we do remains the same to create an environment of opportunity for all people. I believe where a change could be necessary is if someone else were to have this position that would need an adaptation for their career. However I do feel that under this administration, the focus has been pulled away from DEI, and there is less attention on the wording of titles and work done in the inclusion space in organizations.

I am comfortable with what the board believes is the right decision and pathway for us, but am just adding my thoughts! Please let me know if anyone would like to discuss anything further!