

**GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**  
**USSS Convention 2024 – Tempe, AZ**  
**Updated September 5, 2024**

**Item 1: Revise International Relations Committee Members**  
**IR Committee and Governance Committee Recommend Approval**

**5.10 Olympic International Committees: (New composition to be implemented in 2024 at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors)**

**A. International Relations Committee:**

1. The International Relations Committee shall:
  - a. Select officials and other representatives who are not members of the National Team or its support staff, to attend international competitions, congresses and seminars, whether or not the Corporation sends a delegation representing the United States;
  - b. Establish selection criteria and succession plans, and make recommendations to the Board of Directors for personnel for international positions, including but not limited to: the AQUA Bureau, AQUA ASC, PAQ Executive, PAQ ASC and any other international positions in other international organizations, as appropriate;
  - c. Recommend to the Board of Directors, international competitions to be conducted in the United States;
  - d. Initiate and accept invitations to/from foreign countries or organizations to send teams or individuals, except for National Team members, to participate in exhibitions or competitions in the United States or abroad. The High Performance Director, with notification to the Vice President Olympic International and the International Relations Committee Chair, will be responsible for accepting invitations on behalf of National Team Members;
  - e. Approve club options, special events, private invitations and protocol for international delegations;
  - f. Develop, recommend and implement other international exchange opportunities and the funding for such opportunities, in collaboration with the National Office staff.
2. The composition of the International Relations Committee shall include:
  - a. The Chair, appointed by the Vice President Olympic International, who has national team experience, international judging experience or other related international artistic swimming experience;
  - b. The Immediate Past Vice President Olympic International;
  - c. U.S. representatives to the AQUA and PAQ ASCs;
  - d. Three (3) At-Large members elected by the Board of Governors at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in the year of the Summer Olympic Games;
  - e. That number of Athlete Representatives necessary to assure that at least thirty-three and three tenths percent (33.3%) of the International Relations Committee are athletes. The Corporation's representative to the Team USA-AC and Team USA-AC Alternate shall be two (2) of these athletes. The remaining members of the International Relations Committee who are Athlete Representatives shall be appointed by the AEC, meet the requirements of Section 7.06 A of the USAAS Code, and shall be retired from competition; and
  - f. The High Performance Director, a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee member and any USA Artistic Swimming member who serves, **or has previously served within the past five (5) years,** on any other AQUA or PAQ committees or commissions shall serve as advisors without a vote.

Rest remains the same.

**Item 2: Revise National Team Program Committee Members  
IR Committee and Governance Committee Recommend Approval**

**B. National Team Program Committee:**

1. The High Performance Director is empowered with all decision-making authority necessary for the formulation, development and implementation of a National Team program. The High Performance Director will work in a collaborative manner with the Vice President Olympic International, the International Relations Committee Chair and the National Team Program Committee in exercising this authority.
2. The National Team Program Committee shall:
  - a. Provide input to the High Performance Director regarding, and endorse:
    - (1) Selection procedures for athlete members for all National Teams;
    - (2) Selection procedures for staff members for the Pan American and Olympic Games Teams; and
    - (3) The USA Artistic Swimming National Team Quad Plan, developmental programs and training camps.
  - b. Assist in the implementation of the USA Artistic Swimming National Team Quad Plan, developmental programs and training camps.
  - c. Help develop a plan to identify and train artistic swimmers as potential National Team members.
  - d. Collaborate with the Coaches' Education Committee to enhance the coaches' education program.
  - e. Foster communication with the Officials' Committee to ensure cohesive programs.
3. The composition of the National Team Program Committee shall include:
  - a. The High Performance Director, as Chair;
  - b. The Immediate Past Vice President Olympic International;
  - c. The Senior National Team Head Coach;
  - d. Two (2) National Team Coaches, selected by the High Performance Director, following the Annual Meeting of the Corporation in the year of the Summer Olympic Games, from the pool of National Team Coaches, shall serve a four (4) year term;
  - e. Three (3) At-Large members, who are not members of the pool of National Team Coaches, shall be elected by the Board of Governors at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in the year of the Summer Olympic Games to serve a four (4) year term;
  - f. That number of Athlete Representatives necessary to assure that at least thirty-three and three tenths percent (33.3%) of the National Team Program Committee are athletes. The Corporation's representative to the Team USA-AC and Team USA-AC Alternate shall be two (2) of these athletes. The remaining members of the National Team Program Committee who are Athlete Representatives shall be appointed by the AEC, meet the requirements of Section 7.06 A of the USAAS Code, and shall be retired from competition; and
  - g. ~~The Corporation's representatives to the AQUA and PAQ TASCs or any other AQUA or PAQ committees or commissions while representing USA Artistic Swimming, and a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee member shall serve as advisors without a vote.~~ **A Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee member and any USA Artistic Swimming member who serves, or has previously served within the past five (5) years, on any other AQUA or PAQ committees or commissions shall serve as advisors without a vote.**

Rest remains the same.

*Rationale: With the recent committee restructuring, it's important to preserve the knowledge and experience of former AQUA and PAQ representatives, and to allow these former members a voice on these committees, without a vote.*

**Item 3: Revise Athletes Executive Council Representatives to Board of Directors  
AEC Committee and Governance Committee Recommend Approval**

**ARTICLE 3, BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**3.02.E.**

6. Any member who serves as an athlete representative to of the Team USA AC Leadership Group, ~~if a previous member of the USAAS AEC,~~ AQUA, PAQ, IOC, or WADA committees, as a nonvoting members.

**Item 4: Revise Athletes Executive Council Members  
AEC Committee and Governance Committee Recommend Approval**

**ARTICLE 7, Athlete Representation**

**7.02 AEC:** The AEC shall have the authority to act for the Athletes Committee between meetings and shall appoint Athlete Representatives to the Standing Committees listed in Section 5.01 of the USAAS Code (with priority consideration given to the Athlete Representatives currently serving on the Athletes Committee). Each AEC member is an ex-officio member of all Standing Committees within their area of responsibility and shall communicate athlete opinion and advice to each committee. The AEC shall be composed of the following:

- Six (6) AEC Officers (See Section 7.02 F.1-6 below);
- Team USA AC Representative;
- Team USA AC Alternate Representative;
- Athlete At-Large Representative;
- General Board of Directors Athlete Representatives;
- AEC Collegiate Representative (See Section 5.09 D.2.d of the USAAS Code);
- AEC Masters Representative (See Section 5.09 E.2.c of the USAAS Code);
- Any member of the AEC who is elected to of the Team USA AC Leadership Group;
- Any member who serves as an athlete representative to an AQUA, PAQ, IOC, or WADA committee;  
and
- The AEC Immediate Past President shall be a nonvoting member of the AEC.

*Rationale: The AEC wishes to remove the limitation that a member of the Team USA AC Leadership Group must have been a previous member of the USAAS AEC, and to include those athlete representatives who serve on international committees. The intention is to ensure that athlete representatives serving in important international roles are able to effectively and regularly provide their insight to and gain feedback from both the USAAS Board of Directors and the USAAS AEC.*