

Vice President of Member Development

2025 Report USA Artistic Swimming

2025 Season

This season marked considerable efforts, and teamwork as our sport has continued to evolve. All committees under the umbrella of Member Development did a wonderful job keeping engaged in hot topics like coach and member education, coach certifications, and member recognition. As rules in our sport continue to change with this year as no exception, I am grateful to each one of the committee leaders and members who work to put our members first.

Membership Committee & Appendix C Proposal

With the help of the national office and full support of the Membership Committee we recommend proposed changes to Membership and Sanction fees for approval by the USAAS Board of Directors. With operating and pool costs rising substantially over the past few years, we have proposed changes in fees (see below) to ensure we continue producing high quality local and national events. There will also be small adjustments to transaction fees as we move to Sports80, our new portal replacing Sports Engine. Both the VP of Member Development and the Membership Committee will continue to have a considered approach any time we propose increases to membership and event costs to ensure they are commensurate with quality of membership. The breakdown of fees is as follows:

2026 Membership Fee Proposal:

\$6.00 increase to all memberships – (current membership fees)

2026 National Championship Event Fees:

Athlete Entry - \$50.00 (\$40.00 in 2025)

Event Entry - \$35.00 (\$30.00 in 2025)

2026 Event Sanction Fee Proposal:

National Qualifying Event - \$150.00 (\$110.00 in 2025)

Local Event: \$35.00 (\$25.00 in 2025)

*A reminder that club fees changed in 2024 and therefore will **not** be subject to change this year. Additionally, per rule changes passed in 2022, the National office will continue to set fees for National Championship events, which the membership committee will continue to review and submit for approval by the Board of Directors.

Collegiate and Masters Committees

Thank you to both these groups for patience and strong communication while rules continue to change and be implemented at both Masters and Collegiate levels. We had various Masters athletes from MAC Synchro, Redwood Empire, Santa Clara Aquamaids, Southern Nevada Desert Mermaids, and Los Angeles Sea Stars representing at World Aquatics Masters Championships in Singapore this year. This committee also spearheaded a newsletter to help keep Masters Athletes included and updated on Masters news. This year Collegiate National Championships were held in Ypsilanti, Michigan with Stanford University taking home the High Point Award. A special welcome to

new athletes in collegiate programs this year, some of whom are Olympians. Another special thank you to all outgoing seniors who've dedicated their college careers to the pursuit of excellence in their sport.

Awards

Awards committee met on August 24th to review and select award recipients for this year's national awards. I want to thank members who took time to submit nominees. It is crucial we recognize our members and celebrate contributions, successes and achievements. Upon my own recommendation, the committee will propose changes to Appendix R to adjust awards, so they provide additional clarity for each category to make voting easier, and ensure we give recognition where it is due and, in many cases, long overdue.

Coach Education Board

I want to say thank you to Camille Albrecht for stepping up and taking over as committee chair as our former chair stepped down early. Your enthusiasm for keeping coaches educated and informed is such an asset to this committee. There are many topics for this group to cover over the course of the next year, and this group will do its best to ensure coaches understand and learn of new rule changes in an effective manner.

Closing Remarks

Lastly, thank you to my committee chairs Nancy Weiman, Camille Albrecht, Lacey Ethier, Eugenia Gillan and Monica Velasquez-Stiak, you are all an invaluable resource to me and your constituencies, and I cannot thank each of you enough for ensuring your committee's respond, stay engaged and informed. Thank you to the Rules and Governance committee for providing me with guidance while I worked on draft proposals this year.

I would also be remiss if I did not thank the members of USA Artistic Swimming. I feel deeply honored that I was able to serve 4 years as your Vice President of Membership Development and you had the confidence in me to serve in that capacity. It truly is a pleasure to learn and interact with every one of you, and I will remain fair, dedicated and unbiased in the service of USAAS members now and in any future role. Thank you.