

International Relations Activity & Convention Report
2025 USAAS Convention
Omaha, Nebraska
Submitted by International Relations Committee Chair Betty Hazle
September 4, 2025

Below is a recap of the IR activities since the 2024 convention.

I. 2025 Club Option Program

Club options were awarded to the following clubs:

- **Seattle Cascades Synchrono**: 2025 BC Provincial Qualifier, held in Richmond, British Columbia, CAN, April 11-13, 2025. Approved 1 Masters Solo, and 2 Masters Duets (Tech/Free). (no judge required)
- **Swimkins Synchrono**: Canadian Artistic Swimming Championships, held in Markham, Ontario, CAN, May 6-10, 2025. Approved 1 Junior Solo. (no judge required)
- **DC Synchronomasters**: Canadian Masters National Championships, held in Markham, Ontario, CAN, May 9-11, 2025. Approved 2 Masters Duets (Tech), 3 Masters Duets (Free), 1 Masters Trio (Tech), 1 Masters Trio (Free), 1 Masters Team (Tech/Free) and 1 Masters Free Combination. (no judge required)
- **Nevada Desert Mermaids**: Canadian Masters National Championships, held in Markham, Ontario, CAN, May 9-11, 2025. Approved 1 Masters Solo. Declined to attend due to conflict with USAAS regional championship.
- **Redwood Empire**: Canadian Masters National Championships, held in Markham, Ontario, CAN, May 9-11, 2025. Approved 1 Masters Solo (Tech/Free). (no judge required)
- **Seattle Cascades Synchrono**: Canadian Masters National Championships, held in Markham, Ontario, CAN, May 9-11, 2025. Approved 1 Masters Solo, 2 Masters Duets (Tech/Free), and 1 Masters Team (Tech/Free). (no judge required)
- **Team Florida**: Canadian Masters National Championships, held in Markham, Ontario, CAN, May 9-11, 2025. Approved 1 Masters Duet (Free). (no judge required)
- **Boston Synchrono**: PanAm Aquatic Championships, held in Medellin, COL, May 17-20, 2025. Approved 1 12&U Female Solo. (Christine McMaster-Shah & Teagan Betancourt attended as the USAAS funded judge and technical controller.)
- **Pacific Waves Synchrono**: PanAm Aquatic Championships, held in Medellin, COL, May 17-20, 2025. Approved 1 Junior Solo (Tech/Free), 2 Senior Solos (Tech), 1 Senior Solo (Free), and 1 Senior Duet Tech. (Christine McMaster-Shah & Teagan Betancourt attended as the USAAS funded judge and technical controller.)
- **San Francisco Merionettes**: PanAm Aquatic Championships, held in Medellin, COL, May 17-20, 2025. Approved 1 Junior Solo (Tech/Free) and 1 Junior Duet (Tech/Free). (Christine McMaster-Shah & Teagan Betancourt attended as the USAAS funded judge and technical controller.)
- **Santa Clara Artistic Swimming**: PanAm Aquatic Championships, held in Medellin, COL, May 17-20, 2025. Approved 3 Female Solos, 1 Male Solo, 3 Female Duets, 1 Mixed Duet, 1 Team, and 1 Free Combination in the Youth category. (Christine McMaster-Shah & Teagan Betancourt attended as the USAAS funded judge and technical controller.)
- **Scottsdale Synchrono**: PanAm Aquatic Championships, held in Medellin, COL, May 17-20, 2025. Approved 1 Senior Solo (Tech/Free). (Christine McMaster-Shah & Teagan Betancourt attended as the USAAS funded judge and technical controller.)
- **Seattle Synchrono**: PanAm Aquatic Championships, held in Medellin, COL, May 17-20, 2025. Approved 1 12&U Male Solo, 1 Junior Solo (Tech/Free), 1 Junior Duet (Tech/Free), 1 Junior Team (Tech/Free), and 1 Acrobatic Routine. (Christine McMaster-Shah & Teagan Betancourt attended as the USAAS funded judge and technical controller.)

- **Westside Artistic Swimming:** 2025 Swedish Open Championships, Gothenburg, Sweden, May 31-June 1, 2025. Approved 1 Senior solo. (no judge required)
- **Santa Clara Artistic Swimming:** Summer Olomouc Cup, Olomouc, Czech Republic, June 6-7, 2025. Approved 1 Junior Duet & Team. Declined the approval to attend a different event.
- **Swimkins Synchrono:** 24th Primorje Synchrono Cup, Rijeka, Croatia, June 19-22, 2025. Approved 1 Junior Solo (Tech/Free) to attend with WCA. (Heidi Lurenz approved to attend)
- **Walnut Creek Aquanauts:** 24th Primorje Synchrono Cup, Rijeka, Croatia, June 19-22, 2025. Approved 1 Youth Solo, 2 Youth Duets, 1 Youth Team, 1 Free Combination, 1 Junior Solo, 1 Junior Duet, 1 Junior Team & 1 Acrobatic Routine. (Heidi Lurenz approved to attend)
- **Santa Clara Artistic Swimming:** 2025 MGM Artistic Swimming Elite Extravaganza & Macao Open Competition, Macau, China, June 20-22, 2025. Approved 1 Junior Solo Tech, 2 Junior Solo Free, 2 Junior Duet Tech, 1 Junior Duet Free, 1 Junior Team (Tech/Free), 1 Acrobatic Routine, 1 Senior Solo Tech, 2 Senior Solo Free, 1 Senior Duet Tech, 1 Youth Male Solo. (Victoria Anderson approved to attend as a judge).
- **Orlando Loreleis Artistic Swimming:** 1st Open Latvian Artistic Swimming Championship, Riga, Latvia, June 29, 2025. Approved 1 12&U Solo, 2 Beginner Solos. (no judge required)
- **Imagine Synchrono:** World Aquatics Masters Championships, held in Singapore, July 30-Aug 3, 2025. Approved 1 Masters Solo. Unable to attend due to extenuating circumstances. IR Review Subcommittee approved waiver of Appendix F procedures.
- **LA Sea Stars/Unsyncables of La Mirada combined:** World Aquatics Masters Championships, held in Singapore, July 30-Aug 3, 2025. Approved 5 Masters Solos (Free), 3 Masters Solos (Tech), 4 Masters Duets (Free), 2 Masters Duets (Tech), 1 Masters Team (Tech/Free) and 1 Masters Free Combination. (Shannon Korpela was selected by World Aquatics to attend).
- **MAC Synchrono:** World Aquatics Masters Championships, held in Singapore, July 30-Aug 3, 2025. Approved 2 Masters Solos (Tech/Free) and 1 Masters Duet (Tech/Free). (Shannon Korpela was selected by World Aquatics to attend).
- **Nevada Desert Mermaids:** World Aquatics Masters Championships, held in Singapore, July 30-Aug 3, 2025. Approved 1 Masters Solo (Tech/Free). (Shannon Korpela was selected by World Aquatics to attend).
- **Redwood Empire:** World Aquatics Masters Championships, held in Singapore, July 30-Aug 3, 2025. Approved 5 Masters Solos (Tech/Free), 2 Masters Duets (Tech/Free) and 1 Masters Team (Tech/Free). (Shannon Korpela was selected by World Aquatics to attend).
- **Santa Clara Artistic Swimming:** World Aquatics Masters Championships, held in Singapore, July 30-Aug 3, 2025. Approved 1 Masters Female Solo (Tech/Free), 1 Masters Male Solo (Tech/Free), 1 Masters Duet (Tech/Free) and 1 Masters Mixed Duet (Tech/Free). (Shannon Korpela was selected by World Aquatics to attend).

II. 2025 Private Invitations for Clubs to Attend Competitions – a total of 2 were approved. One of the 2 later declined to attend due to cost and other factors.

- **Rocky Mountain Splash:** Jolyn Invitational, Markham, Ontario, Canada, April 3-6, 2025. Approved Junior and Senior Technical routines. Declined to attend due to cost.
- **Mad City Aqua Stars:** Jolyn Invitational, Markham, Ontario, Canada, April 3-6, 2025. Approved 2 Solos, 1-2 Duets, 2 Free Combinations & 1 Acrobatic Routine. (no judge required)

III. International Judge & Technical Controller Exposure

Since the 2024 convention, I am happy to report that almost all of the 13 current and former AQUA/PAQ judges and 9 AQUA/PAQ technical controllers have attended at least one international competition. In addition, former AQUA judges have been active as evaluators, judges, volunteers as well as served in other key roles. This was only possible due to the support of the USOPC, USAAS, our National Teams, our Club Option Teams and personal resources. The following current and former AQUA/PAQ individuals were selected/ approved to attend international competitions in 2025.

Judge/Evaluator:

- **Victoria Anderson** – Macao Open Championships
- **Irene Hawes** – European Junior Championships (GRE) Evaluator; Oceanic Championships (NZL) Evaluator
- **Betty Hazle** – AQUA World Championships (SGP) AQUA TASC member
- **Krista Karowsky** – no judge activity
- **Erin King** – AQUA World Cup # 1 (FRA)
- **Kimberly Kohut** – European Junior Championships (GRE)
- **Shannon Korpela** – AQUA World Masters Championships (SGP)
- **Debbie Latchford** – PAQ Junior PanAm Games (PAR)
- **Heidi Lurenz** – 24th Primorje Synchro Cup (CRO)
- **Svetlana Malinovskaya** – no judge activity
- **Christine McMaster-Shah** – PAQ Championships (COL)
- **Sheila McNabb** – Oceania Open Artistic Swimming Championships (NZL)
- **Cheryl Russell** – AQUA World Cup # 3 (CAN); AQUA Youth World Championships (GRE)

Technical Controller:

- **Victoria Anderson** – AQUA World Cup # 1 (FRA); PAQ Junior PanAm Games (PAR)
- **Teagan Betancourt** – PAQ Championships (COL)
- **Chris Leahy** – no TC activity
- **Svetlana Malinovskaya** – AQUA Youth World Championships (GRE)
- **Bill May** – AQUA World Championships (SGP)
- **Tammy McGregor** – no TC activity
- **Ludi Stsepaniuk** – no TC activity
- **Heather Tiernan** – no TC activity
- **Anna Yesipova** – AQUA World Cup # 3 (CAN)

Evaluations are slowly being sent to our judges due to short staffing in the AQUA office. It was announced that the plan moving forward is to eventually include the evaluations in the GMS.

In addition, 3 of our USA judges volunteered to attend the Worldwide Invitational held in Florida in May. **Shannon Korpela**, **Becky Meitin** and **Jen Muzyk** joined Ashley Johnson and others in Florida.

IV. 2025 International Assignments – selected by AQUA / PanAm Aquatics / European Aquatics (formerly LEN)

AQUA, PanAm Aquatics and European Aquatics (formerly LEN) selected the following individuals for the below assignments in 2025. Once again, please join me in congratulating the following individuals on their assignments:

- **Irene Hawes** – Evaluator at European Aquatics Junior Artistic Swimming Championships, Athens, GRE, June 2025; Evaluator at Oceania Open Artistic Swimming Championships and New Zealand National Championships, Wellington, New Zealand, Sept 2025
- **Betty Hazle** – AQUA TASC member at the World Aquatics Championships, Singapore, July 2025
- **Shannon Korpela** – Judge at AQUA Masters Championships, Singapore, July-Aug 2025.
- **Chris Leahy** – PAQ TASC member at the PAQ Junior PanAm Games, Asuncion, Paraguay, Aug 2025
- **Bill May** – AQUA Host for World Cups & World Cup Super Final; AQUA Technical Controller at World Aquatics World Championships, Singapore, July 2025
- **Tammy McGregor** – PAQ TASC member at the PAQ Junior PanAm Games, Asuncion, Paraguay, Aug 2025

- **Sheila McNabb** – Reserve Judge for PAQ Junior PanAm Games, Asuncion, Paraguay, Aug 2025 (not attending)

Congratulations again to Irene, Betty, Shannon, Chris, Bill, Tammy and Sheila on their assignments!

V. AQUA/PAQ Judge retirements – Heidi Lurenz

It is with great sadness that we must say goodbye to AQUA “Silver” judge, **Heidi Lurenz**. At the end of 2025, Heidi will reach the mandatory retirement age imposed by AQUA. Heidi is an experienced judge, attending many AQUA and PAQ events, such as World Cups, Junior World Championships, Youth World Championships, Junior PanAm Games, PAQ Championships, AQUA World Championships and many open international competitions. We will miss seeing a familiar face in the judge’s chair at international events.

On behalf of USA Artistic Swimming, the IR committee, AQUA/PanAm Aquatic judges, athletes and coaches, I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to Heidi for her continued dedication and service to international judging for so many years as an AQUA and PAQ judge.

Thank you so much Heidi for your many years of service!

VI. Future Changes to AQUA Competition Rules – Elite and Masters

It was announced in January 2024 that changes were made to the Constitution and Competition Regulations. Amongst those changes, was a new method to making changes to the Competition regulations. In the past, a Technical Congress was held at the World Championships following the Olympic Games and Federations were allowed to submit rule changes. Those changes were reviewed by the appropriate technical committees and the Bureau prior to Congress and deemed either approved or rejected. During the World Championships, each Federation was invited to send 2 representatives to the Technical Congress to vote on the amendments.

Moving forward, rule changes can be submitted at any time on a form to the AQUA office. The AQUA Sports Department will review and consider the proposal with the appropriate technical committee. Following that review, the proposal will be submitted to the Bureau for determination. Implementation of any approved change will be determined by the Bureau. Publications of the Competition Regulations will occur each year on June 1st and December 1st.

In January and June 2025, a new version of the Competition Regulations was posted on the AQUA website, with no announcement made to the Federations. Mostly the changes made were housekeeping.

In July, just prior to the World Championships, the AQUA office sent an email to the Federations requesting any feedback to the Artistic Swimming Manual for Judges, Technical Controllers, Referees and Coaches 2022-2025. Due to the timing of this request, suggestions were sent on August 3rd.

In July at the World Masters Championships in Singapore, a seminar was held introducing new proposed rules and scoring system for the Masters events. Very few individuals were able to attend, though Nancy Weiman, our Master’s Committee Chair was available and has compiled her notes and the presentation slides used in Singapore. She has shared the information with members of her committee. It is my understanding that seminars will be held to explain these new rules that will go into effect for the next World Masters Championship in 2027 in Budapest, Hungary. More to come!

VII. PanAm Aquatics Artistic Swimming Technical Committee and Athlete Committee Members – see separate report

VIII. World Aquatics Artistic Swimming Appointments/ Elections for 2025-2029 Quad

Every 4 years at the World Championships held after the Olympic Games, World Aquatics elects new members to the World Aquatics Bureau and appoints new World Aquatics committees. In December 2024, World Aquatics requested nominations for the World Aquatic Committees for the 2025-2029 quad. The International Relations Committee reviewed the list of interested candidates and submitted their selection to the Board of Directors for final approval. US Aquatic Sports approved our nominations and submitted the following names to World Aquatics.

Referees & Officials Committee: **Irene Hawes**
Technical Artistic Swimming Committee: **Betty Hazle**
Athlete Committee: **Bill May**
Coaches Committee: **Tammy McGregor**

In August, Dale Neuburger, World Aquatics Treasurer provided US Aquatic Sports with an update on USA individuals that were either appointed or elected to the various committees. His comments to USAS are below:

"The World Aquatics Office has issued invitations to individuals selected for various World Aquatics Committees, and it is appropriate for me to make a few comments.

First and foremost, no National Federation within the 210 National Federations of World Aquatics has more assignments than United States Aquatic Sports. We also have more leadership positions than any other NF, a testament to the high level of technical expertise within the five organizational members of USAS.

Second, we have been assigned specific responsibilities within the five Olympic sports disciplines for our relationships with the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, both before and during the Games. The five individuals entrusted with this responsibility will be expected to be helpful, supportive, and strategic.

Third, the competition for committee assignments was more intense than ever before. Thankfully, strong American candidates were put forward.

Fourth, to echo Mick Jagger, "You can't always get what you want." While USAS makes nominations to World Aquatics, it is the prerogative of the President to make the final decisions. Sometimes his rationale is known, and sometimes it is not. "

Dale listed the following USAAS individuals and their respective positions as:

Athletes Committee - **Bill May, Member**
Coaches Committee – Artistic Swimming - **Tammy McGregor, Member**
Technical Artistic Swimming - **Betty Hazle, Member and Los Angeles 2028 Representative**

Thank you to **Teagan Betancourt**, **Irene Hawes** and **Linda Loehndorf** for expressing interest in a World Aquatics Committee!

Congratulations to Bill, Tammy and Betty on your appointments!

IX. World Aquatics Officials Pathway

In January 2024, we received an email from the World Aquatics office with information regarding a new structure for training and education of AQUA officials. This new structure will be based on individual progression and will comprise of three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold. The 3 main pillars of this

structure will be Certification, Evaluations and Experience. If a judge does not comply with the criteria of evaluations, certification and online test, they may have to start the training procedures from the Development stages independently of their current status. Upon further follow-up with the AQUA office, this new structure is being developed for all disciplines.

In November 2024, our Federation received information regarding our judges, technical controllers and evaluators reclassification under the new Officials Pathway. Unfortunately, the information shared did not come with any explanation as to the criteria for the new levels, and so the announcement caused a tremendous amount of anxiety amongst our members, as well as around the world!

At the end of February 2025, the Officials Pathway description and criteria was shared with the Federations, followed by a zoom meeting to review. After reviewing the criteria, a request for a case-by-case review of select USA judges and technical controllers was sent to the World Aquatics office. This enabled some of our judges and technical controllers to be reclassified at a higher level. Moving forward we will continue to ask for clarification as the new pathway continues to cause confusion and frustration.

X. International Bids – PAQ Duet and Mixed Duet Camp – November 2024

As reported in the 2024 IR Convention Report, USAAS held a PanAm Artistic Swimming Duet and Mixed Duet Camp in Charlotte, North Carolina as a joint venture with PanAm Aquatics, the U.S. Performance Center, U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee. Dates were Nov 5-10, 2024. Funding support was provided by the U.S. Performance Center and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee to reduce training expenses for all PAQ swimmers.

The following PAQ Federations attended: **Aruba, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.**

XI. Technical Controllers/ Evaluator – AQUA and PAQ

After the 2024 convention, World Aquatics notified each Federation that they may nominate additional individuals to become World Aquatics Technical Controllers for Difficulty and Synchronization. Each Federation was allowed to nominate 5 people for each category. The International Relations committee's strategy was to approve the same 5 people for both categories to allow more flexibility for use at World Aquatics Events.

Our 5 World Aquatics Technical Controllers are:

**Victoria Anderson
Svetlana Malinovskaya
Bill May
Ludi Stsepaniuk
Anna Yesipova**

Congratulations to Victoria, Svetlana, Bill, Ludi and Anna!

In turn, PanAm Aquatics also increased their list in addition to the World Aquatics Technical Controllers, and the International Relations committee approved **Teagan Betancourt, Chris Leahy, Tammy McGregor** and **Heather Tiernan** to be included.

Congratulations to Teagan, Chris, Tammy and Heather on your selection and training!

In December, the World Aquatics office contacted our World Aquatics Evaluator, Irene Hawes, directly to inquire if she was interested in continuing as a World Aquatics Evaluator for 2025. In previous years, World Aquatics notified each Federation that nominations for the Evaluator list were available and up

to 2 names may be nominated. In the past, the USA has been very fortunate to have 2 individuals on the Evaluator list. The current list is for 2 years and expires in 2024.

At that time, it was unknown why the change in protocol with the World Aquatics office communicating with an Evaluator directly plus extending the list for only 1 year. Later we were advised that due to the many changes with the Judges Pathway, World Aquatics was not actively seeking new Evaluators. As our policy is to approve nominations to World Aquatics, the International Relations committee approved Irene to continue.

Congratulations to Irene Hawes!

XII. PanAm Aquatic Events – Congresses/ PanAm Championships / Junior PanAm Games

The PanAm Artistic Swimming Championships were once again held in 2025 as a part of the new PanAm Aquatic Championships. The Colombian Federation was the host and held the event in Medellin, COL in May. Our Junior National Team was not able to attend due to the early timing of the event, even though our Team was required to attend in order to participate in the Junior PanAm Games in Asuncion, Paraguay this August. However, one of our clubs, Seattle Synchro, stepped up to the plate to participate in the May event in the Junior category in order to qualify our Team for the August event. Per PanAm qualification rules, we only needed to participate in specific events in order to qualify as our Zone is automatically qualified. In addition, other clubs attended as club options (see section I). USA participants included PAQ Judge Christine McMaster-Shah, and PAQ Technical Controller Teagan Betancourt.

During the PanAm Aquatic Championship, PanAm Aquatics held a Congress on May 17, 2025, in Medellin. The USA representatives were Bryce Elser from USA Swimming and Adam Andrasko from USA Artistic Swimming. Both attended the Congress virtually. Below is Adam's report:

"Honestly, I have nothing of substance to report. In the spirit of keeping everyone informed there was one topic that is worth noting, but it is noteworthy. As a requirement of AQUA all Continental organizations must adopt an integrity code that aligns with AQIU. Patty Miller, USAAS President/Legal Committee representative, presented the code proposal for PAQ. It was approved. The financial statement and the previously shared candidates to AQUA from PAQ were presented (see 2024 IR report)."

PanAm Aquatics held the Junior PanAm Games in Asuncion, Paraguay in August. Our Junior National Team was well represented and made us proud at the event. The top medal count went to Mexico with a total of 3 gold medals. The USA National Team tied for 2nd with Chile with 2 medals (1 silver and 1 bronze each). Canada and Brazil each earned 1 medal (Silver for Canada and Bronze for Brazil).

XIII. National & International Awards – USAS / ISHOF

The International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) held the 60th Annual Hall of Fame Induction ceremony in Singapore, during the World Aquatics Championships on Monday, July 28, 2025. Excerpt from their article below:

"ISHOF's 60th anniversary celebration marked many firsts: Celebrating in a new city; Honorees from four new countries; new traditions; and lots of excitement! The year 2025 marked 60 years the International Swimming Hall of Fame (ISHOF) has been inducting the greatest aquatic athletes, coaches, and contributors from around the globe, and we thought it only fitting to do something extra special."

On Monday, July 28, 2025, the second day of the World Aquatics World Championships swimming competition, just after prelims concluded, ISHOF officially inducted its 60th anniversary class in Singapore. The Honoree Induction was celebrated at the beautiful Park

Royal Collection, Marina Bay, and thanks to the support of World Aquatics, the event had more than 300 attendees, 30-plus Federation Presidents, World Aquatic Bureau Members, Honorees, aquatic superstars, and friends and family who enjoyed lunch, followed by the Induction ceremony.”

It is with great pleasure to announce the following individual from Artistic Swimming was inducted during this prestigious event:

Honor Artistic Swimmer: **Andrea Fuentes (ESP)**

The ISHOF Masters Induction, Aquatic Awards (presented by AqualCal) and the ISHOF Specialty Awards ceremony will be held on **September 13, 2025** in Fort Lauderdale, FL. The ceremony will be held at the Sonesta Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort.

It is with great pleasure to announce the following individuals from Artistic Swimming who will receive awards during this prestigious weekend as follows:

Honor Masters Artistic Swimmer: **Joyce Corner (deceased) (CAN)**

Honor Masters Swimmer: **Charlotte Davis (USA)**

Honor Masters Artistic Swimming Contributor: **Barbara McNamee (USA)**

ISHOF Aquatic Awards for Artistic Swimming: **Ana Maria Lobo (BRA)**

Congratulations to Joyce, Charlotte, Barbara and Ana Maria!

XIV. Succession Plan Continues

The IR succession subcommittee was established in 2013 and consisted of Charlotte Davis, Betty Hazle, Ginny Jasontek, Judy McGowan and Barbara McNamee. The role of the subcommittee was to develop an overall succession plan with assigned mentors for interested people for the FINA/AQUA and UANA/PAQ Technical committee positions.

In 2017, the positions within United States Aquatic Sports were added to the list for possible succession plan development.

The IR succession subcommittee has continued to expand to include the current international experts consisting of Irene Hawes, Bill May, Tammy McGregor and Denise Shively. The subcommittee continues to help encourage individuals to participate in various areas of our sport and assign mentors to help prepare them for an assignment / selection.

A zoom call was held in October 2022 of the IR succession subcommittee to discuss a strategy moving forward. It was decided to expand the list of positions to include the International Relations committee, International Relations Chair, Vice President Olympic International, and International Judge or Technical Controller in order to continue to encourage growth and interest in these additional international positions. A tentative list of new candidates was discussed.

From April – June 2022 the IRC Chair consulted with various leaders to create a list of individuals to send a special invitation to become more involved in the international arena. Over time, as positions become available (i.e., Technical Controller), people expressing interest in serving have been added to the ongoing list.

Following this convention, the IR succession subcommittee will be reestablished and review the list of interested people and assign new mentors to be a part of the Succession Plan. The IR succession subcommittee will also discuss deletions to the list of those individuals already assigned a position or no longer interested.

Many individuals have been appointed positions within AQUA, PAQ and USAS and the IR committee needs to continue to develop talented and interested people for positions within and outside of our organization.

During convention, the IRC will discuss updates to Appendix N with regards to an application process for new international Technical Controllers.

XV. National Competitions in the US with International Participants

A. US Junior & National Championships – April 2025

This year, we were fortunate to have international participation at this combined championship in Greensboro, North Carolina. Participating Federations included Canada.

B. 12&U Invitational and Youth Championship – April 2025

This year, we were fortunate to have international participation at this combined championship in Greensboro, North Carolina. Participating Federations included New Zealand.

XVI. Invitation and Intent to Participate Forms – Local Events

This year we continued the use of our foreign invitation and intent to participate form to assist local meet hosts with notifying the IR Chair of foreign participation at their local, regional and zone championships. The form is used to inform local, regional and zone meet managers of the rules and policies of the organization. Last fall, the form was distributed to each Zone Chair to distribute to their registered clubs.

XVII. Private Invitation Form

This year we continued the use of the form for our clubs to notify the IR Chair of private invitations to international events. The form is very similar to the Club Option application form. Private invitations follow the same policies and procedures as the Club Option policies.

XVIII. IR Review Subcommittee

Throughout the year, the IR Review Subcommittee was asked to review and approve 12 club option applications (see section I). Note: Masters club option and PAQ Event winner/club option applications for most events do not need approval as the competitions allow multiple entries, so the IR Chair approves the applications rather than the subcommittee.

XIX. International Clinics, Schools, Coaching Assignments & Invitations

In addition to items already listed in this report, many members of our organization have been requested to organize clinics, coach foreign individuals and teams, and lecture at seminars around the world, as well as others have attended various competitions/events. Below is a summary of the activities provided to the IR Chair.

- Houston SynchroStars hosted 2 athletes (Joaquin and Ayelen) who are members of the Ecuadorian National Team, and they competed at gulf association, south zones, regional, youth nationals and JO last season (2024/2025) – Houston SynchroStars
- Philippines athlete training with Meraquas of Irvine attended the Singapore Open (Nov 2024) – Carmina Tan
- Philippines athlete training with Meraquas of Irvine attended the 46th South East Asian Age Group Championships in Bangkok, Thailand (Dec 2024) – Carmina Tan
- Judged virtual National Team Trials for Ecuador (Dec 2024) - Mari Flores, Kendra Laughlin, Becky Meitin, Alice Seipeit and Denise Shively
- Volunteered coaching and attended the Splashquatics International Invitational Competition in Kingston, Jamaica (Feb) – Becky Meitin

- Cayman Islands athletes and coaches attended the 2025 Najla Brannin Memorial Invitational in Temple Terrace, FL (Feb)
- Volunteered coaching and attended Cancun Open with Ecuador athletes (Feb-Mar) – Becky Meitin (see additional report)
- Worldwide Invitational Event hosted Brazil, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Martinique, Peru, Puerto Rico, Turkey, and 7 USA clubs in Florida (May) – Ashley Johnson and Coral Springs Aquacades
- Volunteered coaching in Ecuador (May) – Eugenia Gillan (see additional report)
- Judged at the Ontario Provincial Championships in London, Ontario, CAN by invitation from Erika Lindner (May) - Beth Borland, Scotti Nichols & Alice Seipelt
- Freedom Valley Synchro athlete training this summer with Madrid Federation and Madrid club “EL Retiro” (summer) – David Llorente Fernandez
- Judge and Technical Controller at virtual Jamaica Nationals (July) – Ashley Johnson
- 5 athletes from Coral Springs Aquacades attended a camp in Spain (July) – Coral Springs Aquacades athletes
- USAS Chef de Mission at World Aquatics Championships, Singapore, SGP (July) – Christine McMaster-Shah
- Hosted a four-day clinic with 4 Canadian athletes from BCAQ Aquasonics (July) – Seattle Synchro
- Head coach at In Synch Camp in Winchester, England, coaching 42 athletes from different countries alongside Italian Olympian Gemma Gali and former British national team member Daisy Gunn. Also, guest coached at EDSC Synchro in London (July) - Bianca Danae Hofstatter, San Dieguito Sea Dragons
- Coached Mixed Duet from Ecuador who attended the Youth World Championships in Greece in August (July) – Becky Meitin (see additional report)

XX. Club Options 2026

If interested in a 2025 Club Option, applications will be due **Friday, January 31, 2026**. Please refer to the website for additional information or contact the IR Committee Chair for more information and the application form.

XXI. Upcoming Events in 2025-2026

- A. 2025 ISHOF Specialty & Aquatic Awards and Masters Induction weekend, Sept 13, 2025, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- B. Worldwide Invitational, May 15-17, 2026, Coral Springs, FL
- C. PanAm Artistic Swimming Age Group Championships, July 4-7, 2026, Ibague, COL
- D. World Aquatics Junior Championships, TBC
- E. PanAm Masters Championships, Oct 19-27, 2026, Buenos Aires, ARG