



Minutes

Board of Directors

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

Board Members in Attendance: Kimberly Kohut, Heidi Lurenz (non-voting; Secretary), Stacey Chapman,, Jacklyn Luu (Team USA AC alternate), Andrea Nott Miles (General Athlete Representative), Anna Montgomery, Amy Oliver, Cheryl Russell, Natalia Vega (AEC President), Jaime Czarkowski (General Athlete Representative), Kerhyl Gantt, Mariya Koroleva (Team USA AC Athlete Representative), Bill May (non-voting; AQUA/PAQ Athlete Representative), Monica Velazquez-Stiak	
Staff Members in Attendance: Adam Andrasko	
Others:	
Excused: Rebecca Phillips, Becky Jasontek Tomsic (Athlete At-Large), Jennell Lynch, Joanne Pasternack	
Called to Order At: 8:02 PM EDT	BY: Kimberly Kohut. A quorum was declared.

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 January 28, 2026 BOD meeting	Presented by	Kimberly Kohut
Discussion	<p>Motion: Cheryl Russell motioned to approve minutes from the January 28, 2026 BOD meeting.</p> <p>Seconded by: Anna Montgomery</p> <p>Motion approved.</p> <p>Vote: Yes- 9 No- 0, Abstain- 0</p> <p>Motion: Cheryl Russell motioned to approve the minutes from the email vote February 8-11, 2026.</p> <p>Seconded by: Anna Montgomery</p> <p>Motion approved.</p>		

	Vote: Yes- 9, No- 0, Abstain- 0
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Topic	Athlete Report	Presented by	Natalia Vega, Mariya Koroleva
Discussion	<p>Natalia reported the AEC is hoping to have a bigger voice and a survey was sent out to the zone athletes. They received a small return but with good feedback. They will again send out the survey at the upcoming national meets in hopes of a bigger return.</p> <p>Mariya reported that they have finalized the selection process for the Sr National squad. It has been a complex process and is now more fair and transparent. Adam noted the process is now posted on the USAAS website.</p>		

Topic	Treasurer’s Report	Presented by	Anna Montgomery, Adam Andrasko
Discussion	<p>See report</p> <p>Adam provided a financial update by walking through the dashboard found in the meeting folder.</p> <p>He clarified the membership question asked at the last BOD meeting. He reported that in 2024 all the funds were allocated at one time, so they looked much bigger. In 2025 they were spread across 12 months so they did not look as big but there was indeed an increase in membership in 2025.</p> <p>He reports the organization is in the positive as the money from Texas for JOs but it is coming soon. There will also be a distribution from the Olympic committee in April.</p> <p>The foundation has indicated that \$20,000 has been exceeded on the Day of Giving and that the East and North have had a foundation trustee match.</p>		

Topic	VP Member Development	Presented by	Amy Oliver
Discussion	See report attached.		

Topic	VP Olympic International	Presented by	Cheryl Russell
Discussion	<p>See report attached</p> <p>Cheryl did note that the Sr National Team has already competed in the World Cup series Number 1 in Colombia.</p>		

Topic	Action Item 21.01.D Athlete Affiliation Clarification needed.	Presented by	Kim Kohut
Discussion	<p>See item attached</p> <p>Motion: Cheryl Russell motioned to include the line“ Trials are not recognized as a competition in which an athlete represents a club.” In Article 21.01.D</p> <p>Seconded by: Andrea Miles</p> <p>Discussion Kim provided background information that an athlete had changed clubs but participated in trials and then the 120 day requirement was waived so she was able to participate in West zones with her new club. Adam clarified that she was granted provisional permission dependent upon the outcome of this meeting.</p> <p>Points brought up regarding changing the language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What constitutes a competition and why is trials not considered a competition because results are announced, including the club the athlete represents. • At trials athletes compete for themselves. Coaches help them but they do not represent a club. • Are dues paid to an athlete’s club when preparing/participating for trials? • Athletes do pay club fees but enter trials as an individual. Athletes are tied to a club because of our sport 80 system. No points are earned for a club. • What is the intention of the 120 day rule of not letting athletes participate? Is it to prevent club hopping thinking things are better with a different club? It could spread drama and cause issues with club/athletes in the middle of the season. • Has it been fair and followed in all situations? • Is this a rules issue and should it wait until convention? Is this a rules clarification and does it warrant a bigger discussion? • Should today’s vote be on approving the language, not approving the language or sending it back to committee. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Athletes should not be punished because of any lack of clarity in the context of the rules. <p>Motion Fails.</p> <p>Vote: Yes- 0 No- 7, Abstain- 3</p> <p>Further discussion regarding this athlete will be held in the closed session.</p> <p>Anna requests that Rebecca is made aware that we want to have more consideration than we can in this meeting and we genuinely want to discuss it and understand it better. We did not have enough information on this, and we did not feel we were prepared enough for it and we didn't want to do it on a short timeline and then have regrets,</p>
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Topic	President's Report	Presented by	Kimberly Kohut
Discussion	<p>Kim asked if we are comfortable with the operational plan and the strategic plan. We want to look at is wholistically are we satisfied with our target outcomes and strategic plan. Some are well achieved and others are areas that still have room for growth. Are there things we want to redefine?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Are we in compliance with the language (removal of the letters DEI)? Are we in compliance with the federal government and the USOPC. We are not receiving federal funding but do receive Olympic funding and they follow the Ted Steven's Act. Extensive research and work has been done and we are in compliance so we will not change it now. Target outcomes should have specific target numbers. Goals should be more specific and measurable. The descriptor should be more defined, so it is evident why they have or have not been achieved. Proposal made to look at 1 pillar at a time for a richer conversation and avoid the BOD being overwhelmed. 		

Topic	Announcements	Presented by	Adam Andrasko/ Kim Kohut
Discussion	<p>Adam announced a renewed sponsorship from Thorne for \$4000 value in kind</p> <p>A new sponsorship from Vermillion a sunglass partnership with value in kind</p> <p>Garden Cup food for our athletes on the National team and they will provide them with 6 meals/ week during the competition season</p>		

	<p>Kim announced that Collegiates will be held next week in Stanford World Cup in Paris will also be held and the National team will be swimming the same programs they did in Colombia</p> <p>She reminded the board they can still donate for the Day of Giving that was held on March 17.</p> <p>The next board meeting will be May 27, 2026.</p>		
Topic	Closed session including Adam	Presented by	Kimberly Kohut
Discussion	<p>Motion: to move to a closed session including Adam was made by Cheryl Russell</p> <p>Seconded by: Stacey Chapman</p> <p>Motion approved.</p> <p>Moved into closed session at 9:11 EDT</p> <p>Vote: Yes 9 , No- 0, Abstain- 0</p> <p>Adam provided safesport updates</p> <p>Motion: Made to move out of closed session made by Cheryl Russell</p> <p>Seconded by: Stacey Chapman</p> <p>Motion approved. Moved out of closed session at 9:37 EDT</p> <p>Vote: Yes- 9, No- 0, Abstain- 0</p>		

Adjournment at 9:39 PM EDT		
Moved to adjourn by: Cheryl Russell	Seconded by: Stacey Chapman	Motion Approved unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,



Heidi Lurenz
Secretary

Attachments:

VP Membership Development Report, March 2026

Amy Oliver

Membership Committee:

Chair – Shari Darst

The Membership Committee, along with the national office, compiled a survey to gather focused feedback to better understand where clubs and members need the most support – particularly the areas of recruitment, retention, and fundraising. The survey was sent to zone chairs ahead of the zone championships in hopes to increase participation as well as generate productive conversation amongst the members during their respective zone meetings.

The committee is also planning and preparing a presentation to be hosted at JO Championships for coaches, club organizers, and parents. The presentation will be focused on providing resources and support based on the feedback gained from the survey.

Coaches Committee:

Chair – Camille Albrecht

The Coaches Committee is working alongside the national office to revamp, rebrand, and relaunch the club excellence program. The hope is to increase not only participation from clubs, but also prove the benefit to the clubs/coaches for participation.

The committee is also very excited for the “Year of the Coach” initiative presented by the national office. They are eager to help make this initiative successful and impactful

Masters Committee:

Chair – Nancy Weiman

The Masters Committee is working hard to roll out their new slogan: “Masters – sport for life.” This committee has organized a monthly newsletter specifically geared toward the masters community, addressing issues that are relevant to them. The national office is graciously distributing the newsletter to the entire USAAS membership community, as we can all learn something from this fabulous group of athletes.

Additionally, this committee has formed an ad hoc committee to address the rule changes AQUA has made for masters. They are communicating with masters programs from Canada and France to gain insights on how they have adapted or adopted these changes. The ad hoc committee is preparing rule proposals for our USAAS masters to be included in the rules packet for this upcoming 2026 convention.

Collegiate Committee:

Chair – Monica Velazquez-Stiak

The Collegiate Committee, along with all collegiate coaches, agreed to test pilot the inclusion of a choreography hybrid in trio routines this season. They are evaluating if this is a change they would like to propose formally in the future.

Additionally, initial conversations have occurred around the idea of introducing a club option for collegiate teams. The idea is to increase the number of athletes that participate during his or her college years, in hopes of retaining athletes that will later turn into coaches and/or masters athletes.

Awards Committee & Lilian McKellar Award Committee:

Chair – Debbie Latchford

Chair (s) – Mary Ellen Wiegand & Carole Mitchell

The Awards Committee is currently working on updating Appendix R in an effort to maximize the recognition and celebration of the great men and women of USAAS. The goal is to have this finalized and approved prior to receiving nominations for the 2026 Convention.

The Lilian McKellar Committee is preparing to host a breakfast or coffee on Saturday morning at the 2026 Convention to celebrate all past award recipients. The committee has connected with these individuals, and the majority have committed to attending the event. More details to come!

Committee Collaboration:

Following the conclusion of the 2026 competitive season, I would like to form a collaborative group of individuals from the Membership Committee, Coaches Committee, and Officials Committee to work on developing resources for the USAAS community centered around further education on understanding changes from AQUA, creating coach cards, etc. These resources (videos or slideshows on “how to”) would be accessed through the USAAS Academy, and would be geared toward the various levels of athletes (novice, intermediate, JO, elite, and masters).

VP Olympic International Report, March 2026

National Teams:

Our Senior National Team competed in the first World Cup of the season in Medellin, Colombia in February. Our Acro Team placed first, Tech Team was second, the Junior Tech Duet was sixth, the Senior Tech Duet placed eleventh, and our Senior Tech Solo was fifth. Up next will be the World Cup in Paris in March.

International Competitions:

PAQ Artistic Swimming Championship (Santiago, Chile; April)

Walnut Creek and Blue Legend will attend. Teagan Betancourt will be the Technical Controller.

Mable Moran Championship (Vancouver, BC; April)

Seattle Cascades Synchro will attend.

102nd Japan Swimming Championships (Tokyo, Japan; May)

The San Francisco Marionettes will attend.

Canadian Masters Championship (Toronto, June)

Seattle Cascades Synchro Club and Raleigh Rhythm Rays will attend.

European Masters Championships (Bratislava, Slovakia; August)

MAC was invited (by a European club) and will attend.

10TH Pan Am Aquatics Masters Championships (Buenos Aires, Arg.; October)

Nevada Desert Mermaids, Raleigh Rhythm Rays, Santa Clara Artistic Swimming Club, and Unsyncables of La Mirada will attend.

International Athletes

Great Britain's Ranjuo Tomblin and Isabelle Thorpe trained with Santa Clara in January. The Italian National Team trained with them (Coach Anna Voloshyna) at the end of February for two weeks and the Chilean Mixed Duet trained with them from Feb. 23-Mar. 4.

Tammy McGregor traveled to Grand Cayman for a week to work with their national team.

Officials

All of our PAQ Technical Controllers have taken their required re-certification exams and passed with perfect/near perfect scores. They are Teagan Betancourt, Chris Leahy, Megan Loehndorf, Tammy McGregor, and Heather Tiernan.

Congratulations to Christine McMaster-Shah – USAS has confirmed her appointment once again as the Chief de Mission for the World Aquatic Championships in Budapest, HUN in 2027.

Central American and Caribbean Games (Santo Domingo) allowed nominations for neutral officials for their upcoming games in August. ALL interested officials were submitted as nominees for positions. The following were nominated: Teagan Betancourt (TC), Krista Karwosky (J), Chris Leahy (TC), Tammy McGregor (TC). Krista and Tammy were selected, and Tammy will be the Tech Controller Coordinator!

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Russell

I have reviewed this and I don't believe we are changing any language, but we are adding clarification. The rule is located in Administrative Rules Article 21.01.

The suggested language is: **Trials are not recognized as a competition in which an athlete represents a club.**

This language can be added into the existing 21.01.D or as an additional point 21.01.G. I propose adding it after the first sentence of 21.01.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. **Trials are not recognized as a competition in which an athlete represents a club.**

ARTICLE 21

ATHLETE AFFILIATION

21.01 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. The athlete must complete and submit to the National Office a fee and transfer form indicating the date of last competition 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).
- E. To transfer representation from a club to unaffiliated status, an athlete must complete and submit to the National Office a fee and transfer form indicating the date of last competition 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 Appendix J.
- F. The one hundred and twenty (120) day requirement in Section 21.01 D-E above is waived when the club with whom the athlete is affiliated has dissolved.

21.02 Unaffiliated Athletes: An unaffiliated athlete is a member of the Corporation who represents no club. Unaffiliated athletes shall be identified in competition with the LASC or place of residence in which registered. Example: J. Doe, Unaffiliated (Middle Atlantic), or J. Doe, Unaffiliated (Philadelphia, PA).