

Vice President Olympic International 2026 Convention Madison, WI

It was a very busy year with a variety of international competitions attended by our Senior National Team (SNT), Junior National Team (JNT), and many USA Artistic Swimming Clubs. The United States was well represented with multiple medalists, and wonderful experiences were enjoyed by all.

Our international officials were very busy, as well! For World Aquatics (AQUA) competitions, four judges, Victoria Anderson, Krista Karwosky, Svetlana Malinovskaya and Christine McMaster-Shah, entered the Bronze Level, joining Sheila McNab (promoted to Silver Level), and our Gold Level judges/evaluator-Erin King (J), Kimberly Kohut (J), Irene Hawes (E), Debbie Latchford (J, promoted), and Cheryl Russell (J). Additionally, we have five (AQUA International Technical Controllers: Bronze Level: Victoria Anderson, Ludi Stsepaniuk, and Anna Yesipova. Our Gold Level controllers are Svetlana Malinovskaya and Bill May (also an Evaluator). For Pan Am Aquatics (PAQ), our Technical Controllers are: Teagan Betancourt, Chris Leahy, Megan Loehndorf, Tammy McGregor, and Heather Tiernan. The United States has the greatest number of Gold Level officials in the World!

Successful Trials were held in December, (Duet Trials-SNT, JNT), January (Junior Team Trials, Phase I and 2), April (Youth National Team, Junior National Team Trials, and Senior National Trials (Phase 7), and May (Phase 8, LA28 Olympic Team Training Squad, SNT).

International Activity

October 2025

International - 11th Asian Aquatics Championships 2025 (India, Meraquas of Irvine) and Central American Games (Guatemala, Teagan Betancourt was invited as a neutral Technical Controller)

November 2025

International - PAQ held a virtual Artistic Swimming Update with the AQUA 2026 rules (Bill May presented).

Club Options-Artistic Swimming Master League (Netherlands, Santa Clara Artistic Swimming) and II World of Adapted Artistic Swimming (Mexico City, Bay Area Artistic Swimming Club and Miramar Mermaids)

February 2026

National Teams – AQUA World Cup #1 (Medellin, Colombia; SNT):

Women's Solo Tech: 5th (Alvarez)

Women's Tech Duet: 6th (JNT)

Women's Duet Tech: 11th (SNT)

Tech Team: 2nd

Acro Team: 1st

March 2026

National Teams – AQUA World Cup #2 (Paris, France; SNT):

Women's Solo Tech: (Alvarez) 5th (3rd in Artistic Impression)

Women's Duet Tech: (SNT) 4th (1st in Artistic Impression)
(JNT) 16th

Team Tech: 7th (2nd in Artistic Impression)

Acro: 7th (1st in Artistic Impression)

International – Irene Hawes was selected as Evaluator for the European Youth Artistic Swimming Championships held in Luxembourg.

Club Options - Czech Republic Artistic Swimming Open Championship (Czech Republic; Meraquas of Irvine)

April 2026

International - Jr. and US Nationals (Buffalo, NY)

Miwako Homma (JPN) attended as Evaluator of Judges

Club Options - PAQ Artistic Swimming Championship (Santiago, Chile; Blue Legend and Walnut Creek Aquanuts), and Mable Moran Championship (Vancouver, BC; Seattle Cascades Synchro)

May 2026

National Teams – AQUA World Cup #4 (Pontevedra, Spain; SNT members and athletes from Santa Clara Artistic Swimming):

Sr. Tech Duet: 2nd

Sr. Free Duet: 4th

Jr. Tech Duet: 17th

Mixed Free Duet: 9th

Mixed Tech Duet: 9th

Sr. Tech Solo: 7th

Sr. Free Solo: 10th

Jr. F. Tech Solo: 25th

Jr. Male Tech Solo: 6th

International - Novice, Intermediate, 12-U, Youth Age Group & Athletes with Disabilities Worldwide Invitational (Florida, hosted by Coral Springs)

Club Options - 102nd Japan Swimming Championships (Tokyo, Japan; San Francisco Marionettes)

June 2026

National Teams – AQUA World Cup Super Final (Toronto, Canada; SNT and SCA):

Anita, Solo Tech: 4th

Anita, Free Solo: 7th

David, Solo Tech: 8th

David, Free Solo: 7th

Anita/Jaime Duet Tech: 3rd

Anita/Jaime Duet Free: 6th

David/Yilian Mixed Duet Tech: 7th

David/Chloe Mixed Duet Free: 6th

Team Tech: 2nd

Team Free: 3rd

Acro: 5th

International – Betty Hazle was selected as Assistant Referee for the AQUA Super Final.

Club Options - Cancun Open (Cancun, Mexico; Santa Clara Artistic Swimming); Canadian Masters Championship (Toronto; DC Synchromasters, Indy Synchro Masters, Sea Stars Chicago, and Seattle Cascades)

July 2026

National Teams - Olympic Development Camp (North Carolina and Brazil; YNT)

International - Asian Age Group Championships (Bangkok, Thailand); Kim Kohut was invited as a Neutral Judge.

Club Options - Hungarian Open (Budapest, Hungary; Santa Clara Artistic Swimming)

August 2026

World Aquatics Junior Artistic Swimming Championships (Budapest, Hungary; JNT):

Woman's Solo Tech: 6th

Men's Solo Tech: 6th

Woman's Duet Tech: 7th

Mixed Duet Tech: 7th

Open Team Tech: 7th

Acro: 9th

Men's Solo Free:

Woman's Duet Free: 5th

Mixed Duet Free: 7th

Team Free: 6th

International - Central American and Caribbean Games (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Neutral officials: Krista Karwosky (J), Tammy McGregor (Technical Controller), and Bill (Technical Controller Evaluator)

Club Options - European Masters Championships (Bratislava, Slovakia; MAC)

September 2026

International - ODESUR Games – (Rosario, Argentina)

Irene Hawes was chosen to be the Evaluator of Judges. Bill May was selected as Evaluator of Technical Controllers. Victoria Anderson and Debbie Latchford were selected as a neutral Judges.

Thank you to my committee chairs and members of their committees: Lara Teixara-National Teams, Sheila McNab-National Team Review Subcommittee, and Betty Hazle-International Relations and IR Review Subcommittee. This marks the end of Betty's term, and I wanted to tell her once again, how much I appreciated her experience, guidance, dedication, and hard work.

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl Russell