

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Summer 2026

Governance had a busy year in 2026:

- USOPC Audit follow-up and completion
- Updates to Appendices K, P, Q, S, U, X (housekeeping)
- Update assistance to Appendix C (housekeeping)
- Updates to Admin Rules (housekeeping)
- New Appendix Z from the USOPC (housekeeping)
- Continuing work to clarify Athlete Representation on the Board of Directors

Item approved by the Board of Directors:

- Revise title of VP DEI to VP Athlete Access and Opportunity
- As housekeeping after BOD approval, revise the related committee name to Athlete Access and Opportunity Committee

****Two action items to bring before the Board of Governors:**

Item 1: Revise Admin Rule 21.01 D, 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 **and/or Trials**. **Refer to National Team, Olympic Development Program and All-Star Camp Selection Procedures (Appendix E)**. The athlete must complete and submit to the National Office a fee and transfer form indicating the date of last competition **and/or Trials** 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). **For waivers of this rule, refer to USAAS Administrative Rules, Article 22, Section 22.01.**

*Rationale: to clarify that an athlete who wishes to transfer to another club must wait 120 days without representing any club in competition **and/or Trials**. There was some confusion at a competition earlier this year, and this was discussed at length with both Lara, our Chief of Sport, and Kim, our President, before putting forth this proposal.*

Item 1, Passed in Committee, Recommended for Discussion by the Board of Governors prior to sending to the Board of Directors

Item 2: Proposal to revise Code, Article 10, Amendments

10.01 Requirements: ~~The year following the Summer Olympic Games shall be defined as the legislative year. These Regulations may be altered, amended or repealed at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors in the legislative year as follows:~~

- A. **Revisions to Part One (USAAS Code), Appendix A and B (By-Laws); Part Two (USAAS Administrative Rules); Part Three (USAAS Technical Rules) and Part Four (USAAS Figures Rules):**
 - 1. By two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors present and voting.

B. The effective date shall be the first day of the next calendar year.

10.02 Proposals: An amendment or new legislation (“amendment”) may be proposed by an LASC, a committee of the Corporation, a member of the Board of Governors, or a member of the Board of Directors. All proposed amendments shall be in such form as to show the entire section as it will read if adopted, with any changes in language underlined if new and lined out if deleted. If not submitted in the proper format, the amendments will be rejected and not considered until re-submitted correctly.

A. All proposed amendments shall be considered by the following:

- Figures Subcommittee - USAAS Figures Rules;
- Governance Committee - USAAS Administrative Rules, USAAS Code, Appendices A, B, D (Associations/Zones), ~~J, and M~~ and O; and
- Rules Committee - USAAS Technical Rules, Appendices D (Regions) and L.

Note: Revisions to additional Appendices are the responsibility of the respective committee or subcommittee.

B. Each respective committee shall prepare a report and recommendation to the Board of Directors.

10.03 Proposal Deadline: All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the respective Committee Chair no less than ninety (90) days prior to the start of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors. The respective Chair shall see that the appropriate committees receive all proposed amendments in order to be able to comply with Section 10.04 below.

10.04 Notification: All proposed amendments to all parts of the USAAS Code shall be published on the USAAS website and all delegates to the Board of Governors shall receive notification of the posting by any type of broadly available communication method not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors.

10.05 Modification: A proposed amendment may be modified in any manner by the Board of Directors while under consideration, but such modification must be germane to the subject matter of the proposed amendment. If more than one (1) amendment has been proposed on the same subject matter, and there are substantive differences between such amendments, the Board of Directors may adopt a compromise of substance as well as form, and if the adoption of an amendment as proposed or amended or compromised is inconsistent or in conflict with other parts of the USAAS Code, the Board of Directors may adopt conforming amendments appropriate to the case.

10.06 Expired Deadline Requirements: ~~In the legislative year,~~ if the deadline has expired for submission of legislation to the Rules and Governance Committees:

A. ~~a~~Additional amendments may be proposed no later than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting, and ~~amendments may be proposed in non-legislative years,~~ but such amendments ~~may~~ shall be adopted only when ninety percent (90%) of the Board of Directors present and voting vote in favor of such amendments.

B. Legislative amendments or new legislative items shall not be accepted less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting.

Rationale:

1. AQUA has changed their process so that rules/legislative changes happen every year, instead of every quad. It makes sense to update our process as well.

2. We wish to reject any new rules/legislative amendments proposed at the Annual Meeting. It has happened that folks wait until the Annual Meeting to bring items forward with no prep work at all, thus circumventing the Rules/Governance committees completely.

Item 2, Passed in Committee, Recommended for Discussion by the Board of Governors prior to sending to the Board of Directors

Many thanks to my committee members:

- North Zone: Heidi Lurenz
- South Zone: Ginny Whisenhunt
- East Zone: Jennifer Wilczynski
- West Zone: Valerie Williams
- Athlete Representatives: Natalia Vega, Claire Barton, Tammy Crow Declercq

I'd also like to thank Betty Hazle for her invaluable insights and willingness to work with me on our organization's documents. Her help is crucial to the success of our work.

Respectfully submitted,

Scotti Nichols, Chair