

Committee Name: Coaches Committee: 2025 October Meeting
Committee Chair: Molly Hoover **Vice Chair:** Aaron Schneider
Minutes recorded by: Jacky Merianos **Meeting date/time:** October 14th, 8PM EST

Roll Call

Number of committee members present: 9 **Absent:** 3 **# of other delegates present:** 0

Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Molly Hoover (Chair), Aaron Schneider (Vice Chair), Kenny Brisbin (VPCS), Bill Brenner (Ex-Officio), Blake Woodrow, Chris McPherson, Jacky Merianos, Laurie Hug, Mike Hamm

Not present: Gretch Sanders, Rob Duguay, Trey Taylor

Others present: None

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:04pm Eastern Standard Time.

1. Welcome Coaches!
2. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

NCC/Relay (Aaron):

See everyone at Relay next week! The Relay planning team has put together a great event.

Web Workouts (Gretch):

The application process for the 2026-2027 Web Workout Coaches is underway. The updated application form was sent via email to USMS coaches in early October. The committee will be accepting submissions through October 31. Gretch, Blake, and Laurie will review all applications and make final selections.

The Web Workout sub-committee is hoping to have coaches selected by our next Committee Meeting (November 11th). Megan and Kyle (National Office) would like the names of those selected before they are notified.

Awards (Aaron):

The Kerry O'Brien Award winners were announced and recognized during the Annual Meeting in September. The Coach of the Year will be announced and honored at Relay. The selected individual has been notified.

Education (Bill Brenner)

We have three Coach Certification weekends and four ALTS classes remaining in 2025. Bill is currently coordinating and finalizing the lineup of classes for 2026.

Level 4 Applications (Laurie)

We will be recognizing our newest Level 4 coach at Relay.

The Sub-Committee (Laurie, Mike and Chris) is currently reviewing the Level 4 application and will make necessary revisions. The updated application is expected to be ready for use in 2026.

LMSC Communication (Blake)

Not much to report since the summer. Will work on a Fall email to Coaches Chairs.

Mentoring [Rob/Bill].

Nothing new to report - no new mentees have come through.

On Deck Coaching (Chris)

Nothing new to report.

Publications (Laurie)

Nothing new to report.

Peer to Peer (Jacky and Blake)

Since August, we've invited a handful of new non-committee coaches to the Coach Discord channel. Two have been very active, utilizing the platform on a weekly basis to engage with the group.

Jacky and Blake asked the committee if they are in support of us launching the Coaches Discord Chat at Relay to participants. The group unanimously agreed.

Blake recommended that we test out the Video feature as a committee. The committee agreed that we'll try this for our November or December gathering.

Worlds (Jacky)

A participant survey was distributed to all USMS Worlds athletes in September. As of today, 23 responses have been received. Overall, feedback indicates that the USMS Worlds Coach was wonderful with electronic communication but was not always accessible in person. This was not a reflection of the coach's performance, but rather a logistical challenge—managing two separate pool venues with only one coach onsite. Similar feedback was received following the 2023 World Championships, which also featured two pool venues and only one coach onsite.

Another recurring piece of feedback was a desire for a more unified federation. Participants expressed interest in seeing more USMS-branded gear and federation identity.

Question: Can we create a USMS Worlds Club team and have all USMS participants join that team?

Answer: The committee believes the answer is likely no—reasoning that if it were feasible, it would likely have been implemented already.

Jacky will reach out to Nadine Day and invite her to join our next committee call. Hopefully she will be able to answer our World Aquatics question.

Jacky will type up a full Words report and sent it to USMS leadership (Dawson, Bill, Kenny, Molly, Aaron, etc.)

3. Liaisons

D&I (Kenny):

D&I Has a Peer-to-Peer call coming up on November 12th. This call is targeting USMS' D&I Chairs, though all LMSC Board members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

ALTS (Mike):

USA swimming opened application for ALTS Grants early this year. The committee is continuing to work on mentoring program.

LMSC Development (Jacky)

Other than Relay, nothing new to report.

Long Distance (Gretch):

Nothing new to report

4. Old Business

Award Winner Bios:

Please continue to work on these! We've made great progress, but there is still work to be done.

5. New Business

6. This meeting was adjourned at 8:58PM Eastern Standard Time