

Roll Call

Committee Name: Coaches Committee: 2025 November Meeting
Committee Chair: Molly Hoover **Vice Chair:** Aaron Schneider
Minutes recorded by: Jacky Merianos **Meeting date/time:** November 11th, 8PM EST
Number of committee members present: 8 **Absent:** 4 **# 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, Gretch Sanders, Jacky Merianos, Laurie Hug

Not present: Trey Taylor, Mike Hamm, Rob Duguay, Chris McPherson,

Others present:

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:05pm Eastern Standard Time.

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

NCC/Relay (Aaron):

The Relay planning team will be contacting Coaches Committee members to assist with follow-up with Relay participants on the call to action. Look for an email later this week or early next week.

Web Workouts (Gretch):

The sub-committee has selected our Web Workout coaches for 2026-2027! A total of 53 candidates applied and 14 coaches were chosen—7 for SCY and 7 for LCM. Gretchen shared the selections with the Coaches Committee, which approved all candidates. The list will be submitted to the National Office tomorrow.

Question from Laurie: In future years, could we allow more time between the application deadline and the selection process?

Answer: We'll make every effort to extend the selection window in future years.

Question from Jacky: Can we do a better job spotlighting the coaches. Can their name, photo and bio be more visible than at the bottom of the page?

Answer: That's a question for Marketing.

Idea from Aaron: Can we include an article in Swimmer Magazine introducing our 2026-2027 Web workout coaches?

The idea was well received, and the committee discussed potential marketing avenues. Molly and Kenny will check with the National Office about featuring it in the January issue of Swimmer Magazine. We're also exploring the possibility of including an announcement in USMS Streamlines.

Awards (Aaron)

Coach of the Year award was presented at Relay to Bill Meier!

Education (Bill Brenner)

Our final Coach Certification weekend of 2025 is set for this upcoming weekend in Vancouver, WA, and the last ALTS class of the year will take place on December 7th in Augusta, GA. The 2026 calendar is starting to fill up!

Last week, we hosted our largest Level 1 class to date with 60 participants. The turnout will help build a strong pipeline of coaches pursuing Level 2 and Level 3 certifications.

It's been a stellar year, and we're looking forward to another one ahead!

Level 4 Applications (Laurie)

Mike and Laurie are reviewing and refining the application process to make it more streamlined for next year's applicants.

LMSC Communication (Blake)

No new updates to report other than Discord (see Peer-to-Peer).

Mentoring [Rob/Bill]

Nothing new to report.

On Deck Coaching (Chris)

Nothing new to report (this is our quiet season).

Publications (Laurie)

Nothing new to report.

Peer to Peer (Jacky and Blake)

We opened Discord to all participants in Relay and have grown the community to 40+ coaches! There has been quite a bit of engagement post-relay, particularly in the Workout Exchange channel. We are excited to see the engagement and hope it continues to build.

Discussion was had regarding adding more channels. For the time being, we will add a USMS Announcements Channel for Bill and the Coaches Committee to share updates. We will see how engagement continues to develop and will consider adding more channels at that time.

Worlds (Jacky and Rob)

Based on feedback from Worlds participants and our debrief with Chad, we're making two recommendations:

- 1) Consider funding two coaches for Worlds every other year instead of sending one to PanAms. World Aquatic Championships continues to run events in two separate pools, making it challenging for a single coach to support all athletes. Given the significantly larger scale of Worlds (200+ USMS athletes compared to 35-40 at PanAms), we

recommend the National Office prioritize funding a second Worlds coach instead of a PanAms coach.

- 2) If we get the green light to send two coaches to Worlds, we recommend appointing a Head Coach—someone with prior Worlds coaching experience—and an assistant coach who has not yet coached at a World Championships. This approach will strengthen team leadership and organization while offering meaningful mentorship.

Jacky will type up a formal report and send to committee leadership.

3. Liaisons

D&I (Kenny):

D&I Peer-to-Peer is tomorrow night! Wednesday, November 12th at 8PM(ET).

ALTS (Mike):

Nothing to report

LMSC Development (Jacky):

Last Volunteer Social Hour of the year taking place on Tuesday, December 2nd at 8PM(ET).

Long Distance (Gretch):

Nothing to report

4. Old Business

Award Winner Bios – We're almost there!! Thank you to everyone who has completed their bios. For those who have not, you have one month left! [Awards Bios Assignments](#)

5. New Business

No new business to discuss.

6. This meeting was adjourned at 8:57PM Eastern Standard Time. Our final meeting of the year will be held on Discord – Tuesday, December 9th.