

**Committee Name:** Coaches Committee: 2025 July Meeting

**Committee Chair:** Molly Hoover

**Vice Chair:** Aaron Schneider

**Minutes recorded by:** Jacky Merianos

**Meeting date/time:** July 8th, 8PM EST

## Roll Call

**Number of committee members present:** 10    **Absent:** 2    **# of other delegates present:** 0

**Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair):** Molly Hoover (Chair), Aaron Schneider (Vice Chair), Kenny Brishin (VPCS), Bill Brenner (Ex-Officio), Blake Woodrow, Chris McPherson, Gretch Sanders, Jacky Merianos, Laurie Hug, Rob Duguay,

**Not present:** Trey Taylor, Mike Hamm

**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)**

We are full steam ahead for Relay! All sessions and presenters are confirmed, and presenters have started working on their presentations. It's shaping up to be a great event!

### **Web Workouts (Gretch):**

Everything has been running smoothly. No issues have raised.

Question from Kenny: Are we able to access analytics for the web workouts—such as number of clicks and popularity trends?

Answer: Yes. Gretch will touch base with Kyle for Web Workout stats. She hopes to have them ready to present for our Annual Meeting next month.

### **Awards (Aaron)**

The Awards sub-committee received 8 Kerry Obrien nominations and 4 Coach of the Year nomination for this year's coach's awards. The sub-committee has begun their selection process.

Question from Jacky: Can someone win Coach of the Year more than once?

Answer: The Coaches Committee agrees that an individual should be eligible to win Coach of the Year only once. We will follow up with the Awards and Recognition Committee to discuss this further.

### **Education (Bill Brenner)**

We have a busy fall schedule that kicks off on September 1 in Reno, NV. Planning for 2026 is also underway, with one education weekend already on the books for February.

### **Level 4 Applications (Laurie)**

To date, we have only received one Level 4 application for 2025. The application window will remain open for one more week, through July 15.

### **LMSC Communication (Blake)**

Coaches Chair emails: Blake will be sending an email to Coaches Chairs later this month, which will include the following items: *push for USMS Coach Mentoring program, push for Summer Nationals On Deck Coaching, invitation to Coaches Chair to join us for our Annual Meeting in August.*

Discord Rollout: Blake presented the committee with the rollout plan for our Discord platform. An 'alpha test' will be conducted this summer, followed by a 'beta test' that will launch at Relay. If all is successful, we will roll this platform out to all coaches in January of 2026.

Blake requested feedback on Discord from the committee. The committee agrees that it is more effective than our alternative platform, the USMS Community Forums. However, they anticipate some challenges in active engagement from our coaches. Blake agrees, emphasizing the importance of our committee providing value through the platform to encourage participation.

### **Mentoring [Rob/Bill].**

Rob has put together a blurb to promote the USMS Mentoring Program – approved by Bill Brenner. Blake will include it in his next Coaches Chair email, and Rob will reach out to Publications to see if it can be featured in the next Streamlines for Coaches.

### **On Deck Coaching (Chris)**

As of today, 5 coaches have signed up to be On-Deck coaches at Nationals. Chris is confident the remaining spots will be filled.

We're grateful for the increased visibility on the USMS Nationals page!

### **Publications (Laurie)**

No updates this month.

Mentoring Idea for Rob: Put together an article highlighting mentor-mentee relationships for Swimmer Magazine and/or the USMS website. We can promote the Coaches Mentoring Program at the end of the article.

### **Peer to Peer (Jacky and Blake)**

Jacky is organizing a Coaches Social for Summer Nationals. She will email the committee additional details within the next two weeks.

### **Worlds (Jacky and Rob)**

We are less than one month out from the 2025 World Aquatics Masters Championships!

We were able to obtain the USMS roster and email list from World Aquatics for this year's World Championships. This is a major win, given the challenges we faced collecting this information in 2023 and 2024. This information was sent to Chad; he will be connecting with our USMS athletes this week.

Jacky and Rob touched base with Chad last week to ensure he has everything he needs before heading to Singapore. He's all set, but will reach out if anything arises.

Good luck, Team USMS!!

### 3. Liaisons

**D&I (Kenny):** Nothing new to report. The next meeting is scheduled for August

**ALTS (Mike):** Not on call; no update given.

#### **LMSC Development (Jacky)**

Jacky and her LMSC Development Sub-Committee (Volunteer Communications) are advocating for enhancements to USMS tech tools and web platforms. The group strongly believes that systems should support volunteer and member communications without relying on third-party platforms like WhatsApp and Discord. Committee members who would like to share input for a technology upgrade proposal are encouraged to email Jacky.

#### **Long Distance (Gretch):**

The Long-Distance Committee is now accepting bids for OW nationals 2026!

### 4. Old Business

**Award Winner Bios** - Thank you to everyone who has completed their bios. Please continue to prioritize this effort! [Awards Bios Assignments](#)

### 5. New Business

None.

### 5. This meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM Eastern Standard Time