

Committee Name: Coaches Committee: 2026 May Meeting
Committee Chair: Molly Hoover **Vice Chair:** Aaron Schneider
Minutes recorded by: Jacky Merianos **Meeting date/time:** May 12th, 8PM EST

Roll Call

Number of committee members present: 14 Absent: 2 # of other delegates present: 1

Committee members present: Molly Hoover (Chair), Aaron Schneider (Vice Chair), Kenny Brisbin (Executive Committee), Barbara Ingold, Doug Garcia, Gretchen Sanders, Jacky Merianos, Laurie Hug, Marcia Benjamin, Michael Hamm, Robert Duguay, Todd Samland, Karyn Austin, Wynne Kirchner

Not present: Angie Brennan, James Miller

Others present: Dawson Hughes (CEO)

Minutes

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

1. Welcome Coaches!
2. **Update from Dawson:** Bill Brenner retired from his role of Senior Director of Coach and Club Development this past Friday (5/9). While the announcement may have felt sudden, the timing was Bill's choice. He was very adamant on waiting until the last minute to announce his retirement - he did not want to take away from Spring Nationals. He will be at Relay and NCC in the fall for a formal farewell and send off.

All Coach Education is on hold for the time being (Level 1, 2 & 3 classes, Clinic for Coaches and ALTS trainings). The USMS board will be discussing a plan forward on what support for Coach and Club Development will look like moving forward. Dawson will have more information for us at our June meeting.

Questions for Dawson:

What direction are we heading to?

The National Office is looking to expand modular, on-demand training opportunities—such as Zoom meet-ups, webinars, and podcasts. The vision includes tapping into expertise from across the country to support coaching and program development moving forward.

Who will be taking over for Bill?

We are still determining how Bill's workload will be covered moving forward, though we do not anticipate the role returning in its previous capacity. Current discussions are being had on what responsibilities the National Office can absorb long-term and which gaps may need to be filled by volunteers or additional staff—either contract or National Office.

Although Bill was not present on the call, several members of the Coaches Committee expressed their gratitude for him and his countless contributions over the years. The committee also shared their best wishes for his retirement.

3. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

Web Workouts (Gretch)

We are down one Long Course Coach and are in the process of selecting a replacement. We are confident we will have one soon!

The National Office is looking into ways to track which workouts are most popular.

NCC/Relay (Aaron)

Aaron has been in contact with the USA Swimming Foundation for a list of Golden Goggle Attendees. The guest list might help us identify potential speakers for NCC, as the conference will be happening in Denver the same weekend as Golden Goggles.

Question from Kenny: Do we have a backup plan if we can't get Golden Goggles attendees to present at NCC?

Aaron: Yes! I am working on it.

Question from Jacky: Is there an overarching theme for the NCC? Or will it depend on the speakers and their areas of expertise?

Aaron: The theme will be shaped around our key speakers.

The NCC webpage with information (hotel, etc.) will be updated very soon.

Awards (Laurie)

Awards submissions are now open! We're excited and ready for Kerry O'Brien and Coach of the Year nominations to come in.

Education (Mike)

All coach education is on hold for the moment.

Level 4 (Laurie)

Even though our Level 1, 2, and 3 certification courses are currently on hold, we will still be accepting Level 4 applications this year. The submission period opens soon.

LMSC Communication (Marcia)

Emails went out to LMSC Coaches Chairs earlier this month! Received two kind responses - no emails bounced.

Question from Jacky: How do we notify Marcia if there is a change to our LMSC's Coaches Chair?

Answer: Update all contact information with the National Office -- Marcia will receive the update.

Mentoring (Todd)

Prior to his departure, Bill connected us with two mentees. Todd was able to reach one of them, though they are not yet ready to move forward. He attempted to contact the second mentee twice but has not received a response.

Molly: In the absence of Bill, please reach out to Molly to assist in connecting mentees with mentors.

Question from Molly: where are all the mentoring requests going now that Bill is gone?
Answer (from Dawson): All emails are currently going to the Club & Coaches National Office Staff. They will forward any mentorship-related messages to the committee.

On Deck Coaching (Rob)

Spring Nationals was a great success! We had a strong group of coaches on deck all four days, and they served our competitors very well. There were a few requests to have coaches available during the afternoon warmup sessions – tbd if that’s something we wish to bring back for future National meets.

Shoutout to Celia Wolff for coordinating a great coach social! The location was perfect for our group.

The Summer Nationals on-deck coach sign-up form is ready to go. Rob will connect with Jay to get this up on the Nationals webpage.

Publications (Doug)

Nothing new to report.

Peer to Peer (Jacky & Doug)

Webinar Update: We have our first webinar of the year scheduled for Sunday, June 14 at 7 PM EST. Marcia Cleveland, head coach of North Shore Masters in suburban Chicago, will lead a workshop on “Getting athletes ready for their next open water adventure or triathlon!”

Question for Committee: We plan to market to Coaches Chairs (via Marcia B.). Does anyone have other recommendations on channels we can use or groups we should target for marketing?

Ideas: Open Water chairs would be a great group to market to as well!

Discord Update: The Discord group has seen quite a bit of engagement in the workout-exchange channel, but activity elsewhere has been minimal. We’re considering shifting the platform to focus solely on workout sharing, with separate channels for different types of workouts (e.g., aerobic, USRPT, IM/stroke, etc.).

Feedback from Dawson: Will connect with this sub-committee and discuss other tools we can use to set up a workout exchange.

Worlds (Jacky)

Nothing to report at this time. Will begin to focus on Worlds (2027) in the Fall.

4. Liaisons

D&I (Kenny)

Nothing to report since last meeting - D&I Committee meeting next week.

ALTS (Mike)

ALTS Certification class to take place in San Jose on May 9th. That is the last one currently on the books.

LMSC Development (Aaron)

Nothing to report.

Long Distance

Nothing new to report - the Long-Distance Committee has not met since our last committee meeting.

5. New Business - nothing was brought to the committee.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:59PM Eastern Standard Time