

2026 U.S. Masters Swimming Annual Meeting — Virtual

Committee Name:	Coaches	Session #:	1/1
Committee Chair:	Molly Hoover	Vice Chair:	Aaron Schneider
Minutes recorded by:	Marcia Benjamin	Date/time of meeting:	8 pm EST, August 11, 2026

Number of committee members present:	11	Absent:	5	Number of other delegates present:	14
Committee members present (list all, including chair and vice chair): Molly Hoover (Chair), Aaron Schneider (Vice Chair), Karyn Austin, Marcia Benjamin, Ken Brisbin, Doug Garcia, Laurie Hug, Barbara Ingold, James Miller, Todd Samland, Gretch Sanders					
Committee Members Absent: Angie Brenan, Rob Duguay, Jacky Merianos, Wynne Kirchner, Michael Hamm					
Guests: Nicole Christensen, Marilyn Fink, Neil Gregerson, Andrew Greule, Stephen Ingram, John Janszen, Andreas Lorenz, Ann Marshfield, Crystie McGrail, Barbara Protzman, Doug Sayles, Robin Smith, Carrie Stolar, Paul Windrath,					

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 PM EST.

1. Attendance
2. Welcome
3. Sub-Committees
 - a. Web Workouts (Gretch)
 - i. Web workouts (7 different types online), with experienced weekly workout writers
 - ii. Workouts are checked to make sure they are being posted weekly and insure there is a nice variety
 - iii. Working to make a feedback loop
 - iv. You can find these on the USMS website ("online workouts"), must be a member to see them. You can subscribe and they will be sent to your email.
 - b. NCC/Relay (Aaron)
 - i. NCC is coming soon; great speaker lineup (the schedule has already been published, but as of now the speakers have not been finalized -- though it looks very promising)
 - ii. Coaches can be a part of Relay as well but not the other way around
 - iii. In conjunction with Golden Goggles, which will be a big event
 - c. Awards (Laurie)
 - i. Kerry O'Brien Award (six nominations this year), Coach of the Year (one nomination only, this category will be reopened until August 24)
 - d. Education (Mike -- absent/Gretchen and Kenny reporting)
 - i. In a hold now, as Bill Brenner (now retired) was in charge. Some L1 coaches were in the process of being certified and that has been addressed.
 - ii. L1 can still be generated for coaches in facilities that require this certification
 - e. Level 4 Applications (James/Laurie)
 - i. This has been put on hold with the retirement of Bill Brenner
 - ii. No applications received this year
 - f. LMSC Communication (Marcia)
 - i. With the end of aliases for LMSC Coaches Chairs, there is no good way to distribute minutes of our Coaches meetings. Minutes went out successfully through June, and of course are all posted on the USMS website.

- ii. We don't have a way to communicate with LMSC coaches chairs at this time. Kenny Brisbin will be looking into this.
- g. Mentoring (Todd)
 - i. No new mentor applications this last month. None for this year as well.
 - ii. The mentorship program seeks to connect new coaches with peers to bounce off ideas or get information on starting a club, the business side, and/or running workouts
 - iii. If you know of any coaches who could benefit from this, please contact us at the Coaches Committee
- h. On Deck Coaching (Robert—absent/Marcia reporting)
 - i. Adequate number of coaches for Summer Nationals as well as a decent turnout at the Coaches Social.
- i. Publications (Doug)
 - i. Writing that is required by the National Office has been assigned to appropriate writers.
- j. Peer to Peer Calls (Jacky – absent/Doug reporting)
 - i. Excess of 50 people with Marcia Cleveland's wonderful webinar on OW Swimming
 - ii. Working on next topic, hopefully in October, perhaps on Goal Setting – open to suggestions!
- k. World's/Pan Am's (Jacky – absent/Molly reporting)
 - i. No coach for Pan Am's (less than 100 swimmers)
 - ii. Working on finding two coaches to World's in Budapest.
- 4. Liaisons
 - a. D&I (Kenny)
 - i. Meeting every month, working on a "playbook" for coaches on making swimmers feel welcome in their first 30 days
 - b. ALTS (Mike)
 - i. No report
 - c. LMSC Development (Aaron)
 - i. Included in Relay report
 - d. Long Distance (Gretch)
 - i. No report
- 5. Other Business
 - a. Suggestions from members and guests:
 - i. (Jim Miller) some sort of article on drills or a general article on injury prevention for shoulder injuries would be helpful as this is the most common injury for swimmers
 - ii. (Paul Windrath) is the Coaches committee consulted on videos on the USMS website? In particular, the backstroke start video (ledges) appears to be out of date.

Tasks for the Upcoming Year

- 1. Goals for the second half of 2026:
 - a. coach education back up and running
 - b. connection to coaches needs to be improved, now that the USMS aliases have been discontinued. We need to find a way to place information into the hands of the coaches.

The meeting was adjourned at. 7:48 PM EST