

Committee Name: Coaches Committee: 2025 March Meeting

Committee Chair: Molly Hoover
Minutes recorded by: Jacky Merianos

Vice Chair: Aaron Schneider
Meeting date/time: March 11th, 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), Kenny Brisbin (VPCS), Bill Brenner (Ex-Officio), Blake Woodrow, Chris McPherson, Gretch Sanders, Jacky Merianos, Laurie Hug, Mike Hamm, Rob Duguay,

Not present: Aaron Schneider (Vice Chair), Trey Taylor

Others present:

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/Bill/Kenny)

In the final stages of finalizing session topics. Will soon begin to look for and assign presenters.

Bill Brener: would like to send volunteers home with an action list. "What are 5 things you can take home and bring to your LMSC." The response to this idea was unanimously positive.

Web Workouts (Gretch):

All coaches have been posting their workouts as scheduled. Nothing new to report at this time.

Awards (Aaron/Molly)

One award nomination has been received for Coach of the Year. It's still early; more nominations are expected to follow soon.

Question: Have we advertised for awards?

Answer: Not as a committee, though we believe marketing for national-level awards is a responsibility of the Awards and Recognition Committee.

Blake will include a blurb on USMS coach awards in his next Coaches Chair communication.

Education (Bill)

A Sched calendar has been created for all Coach Certification Classes, making it significantly easier for participants to view the complete list of classes and their respective locations. The Sched calendar is easily accessible through Coach Central on the USMS website.

Level 4 Applications (Laurie)

Level 4 applications to open soon. Taking feedback we've received into account, this sub-committee will review the current application and simplify it wherever possible. They hope to have this done by the time application open for this year (2025).

LMSC Communication (Blake)

Dawson will be sending a Coaches Chair distribution list to Molly and Blake, so Blake may move forward with email blasts. Blake will also manage and monitor the Coaches Chair Volunteer Forum, as well as the Coaches Chair WhatsApp channel.

We are eager to see which channel of communication our Coaches Chairs respond to best.

Mentoring (Bill)

A "Mentee Application" is now live on Coach Central. Between this and the marketing conducted at the conclusion of all Level 1 Coach Certifications, we hope to gain some new mentees this year.

Blake will advertise our Coach Mentor/Mentee program to our Coaches Chairs quarterly.

On Deck Coaching (Chris)

The Sign-Up Genius for on-deck coaches at Spring Nationals is ready to go! It was sent to the National Office two weeks ago for posting, though as of today it has not yet been added to the website. We are worried we won't get enough coaches, as Nationals is less than 2 months away.

Additional pathways for marketing: Jacky and Gretch will circulate the Sign-Up Genius to coaches in their LMSCs (South Texas and North Texas). Blake will include the Sign-Up Genius link in his Coaches Chair Communication this month.

Nationals wedges and ledges (starting apparatuses): Jacky will reach out to home team (AAAA) for information and details on the starting apparatuses.

Publications (Laurie)

Laurie connected with Terry to gather some insight on publications. Terry suggested having coaches contribute articles on technique, as well as short videos.

Question: How many articles are you looking for a month? Where will these articles be posted?

Answer: There's no specific number. Articles are for both the website and for Swimmer Magazine.

Question: How many coaches have been contributing each month?

Answer: A handful of individuals (coaches and non-coaches) are freelance writers who are paid for their content. However, few articles are submitted directly by coaches.

Peer to Peer (Jacky and Blake)

The sub-committee is currently exploring platforms to support Peer-to-Peer interactions among USMS coaches. Our leading platform at the moment is Discord. Jacky, Blake, Molly, Rob and Mike will do a beta test with Discord over the next two weeks. We will provide an update at our next meeting.

Blake will be joining the USMS Volunteer Peer-to-Peer Platform (WhatsApp), managed by the LMSC Development Committee, so he may stay connected with Coaches Chairs.

We would like to plan an in-person happy hour for coaches at Spring Nationals. Jacky has a place in mind that she used for a team social in 2022. The committee unanimously agreed to this. Jacky will move forward in contacting the bar to reserve patio space (free of charge).

Worlds (Jacky and Rob)

A Worlds Coach has been selected for the 2025 World Aquatics Masters Championships in Singapore. Congratulations to Coach Chad Derieux of Rose Bowl Aquatics! Bill will be in contact with him shortly to sign his contract.

The committee suggests that Chad designate an "assistant coach" to assist athletes at the second pool. This will ensure that all USMS athletes have a point of contact at the 2025 World Masters Championships.

1. Liaisons

D&I (Kenny)

The D&I Committee will be meeting every other month. Nothing new to report this month.

ALTS (Mike)

A lot of great things are happening in the ALTS realm! The committee is actively working to develop new programs across the country, strengthen existing programs, recruit mentors, and develop an ALTS 2.0 Class.

LMSC Development (Jacky)

Most updates have already been shared (Relay & Peer-to-Peer). One additional thought: should we consider creating a Coaches Committee Project and Communication Calendar? This will help us stay organized with our various projects and deadlines, and allow us to keep track of all the information we need to share with our Coaches/Coaches Chairs.

The committee agreed this will be a great tool to have. Jacky will move forward in creating a calendar.

Long Distance

Nothing to report!

5. New Business

If you are a coach involved in Social Meida, please fill out the ASCA survey forwarded along by Steve Hall. Molly emailed that out with our agenda yesterday (3/10/15).

6. This meeting was adjourned at 9:04PM Eastern Standard Time