

Roll Call

Committee Name: Coaches Committee: 2026 January Meeting
Committee Chair: Molly Hoover
Minutes recorded by: Jacky Merianos
Vice Chair: Aaron Schneider
Meeting date/time: January 13th, 8PM EST

Number of committee members present: 10 **Absent:** 7 **# of other delegates present:** 0

Committee members present: Molly Hoover (Chair), Aaron Schneider (Vice Chair), Bill Brenner (Ex-Officio), Kenny Brisbin (Executive Committee), Doug Garcia, Gretchen Sanders, Jacky Merianos, Michael Hamm, Todd Samland, Wynne Kirchner

Not present: Angie Brennan, Barbara Ingold, James Miller, Karyn Austin, Laurie Hug, Marcia Benjamin, Robert Duguay

Others present:

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:03pm Eastern Standard Time.

1. Welcome Coaches!

Introductions! Everyone shared their name, their role(s) in their LMSC and their role(s) on their masters team.

2. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

Web Workouts (Gretch)

Responsible for reviewing and selecting USMS' Web Workout coaches, a process that takes place every two years in the fall. The newest group of coaches was chosen this past November and officially began on January 1, 2026. They are all off to a strong start.

The subcommittee monitors the workouts throughout the year, making sure everything is posted as scheduled. Meghan Varner from the national office has been assisting with this effort and has been incredibly helpful.

NCC/Relay (Aaron)

Relay 2025 was a great success! With its emphasis on Coach and Club Development, both our coaches and volunteers left energized with fresh ideas to share with their LMSCs.

Our focus for 2026 will be the National Coaches Clinic. As of today, a date and location have not been decided on.

Awards (Aaron)

The Awards Subcommittee is responsible for reviewing applications and selecting the Coach of the Year and Kerry O'Brien Award recipients. Several members of the Coaches Committee serve on this subcommittee (3-4) to review applicants and vote on the honorees. It's a truly rewarding group to be part of.

Application reviews and award selections occur over the summer months.

Education (Mike/Bill)

2026 is beginning to fill with Coach Certification Courses, Stroke Clinics and ALTS Classes. Please refer to the [Coach Certification Course Schedule](#) for the most up-to-date list of locations.

Level 4 Applications (Laurie)

Responsible for reviewing all submitted Level 4 applications and for evaluating and updating the Level 4 application each year. The Level 4 application deadline falls in the summer months, which is when the review process takes place.

Request from Bill Brenner: please take some time to review the Level 4 application and send recommendations to this year's sub-committee chair.

LMSC Communication

Responsible for sending monthly email communication out to all USMS Coaches Chairs. Works closely with the Peer-to-Peer Subcommittee to ensure all shared information is consistent across the board.

Mentoring (Rob): Works closely with the National Office (Bill) to ensure that coaches requesting mentorship are paired with a qualified mentor. The National Office manages a formal mentor request form and maintains a pool of skilled coaches available to serve as mentors.

On Deck Coaching (Mike)

Responsible for creating and managing sign-ups and recruiting coaches for On-Deck Coaching at Spring and Summer Nationals. The sub-committee has a template that outlines how many coaches are needed and at what times. It's a fun assignment that brings our USMS coaches together twice a year.

This committee is a great opportunity for those who plan to attend both USMS Nationals – Spring and Summer.

Publications (Laurie)

Works with coaches who are preparing articles for publication. This area has been relatively quiet in recent years, as the National Office has been contracting paid writers. If you know of a coach interested in developing an article for publication, please direct them to this subcommittee.

Peer-to-Peer (Jacky)

In 2025, our peer-to-peer initiatives included launching the Coaches' Discord and hosting Coach Socials at both National Championships. Both efforts were successful, and we look forward to expanding them in 2026.

Worlds (Jacky)

Responsible for preparing the application, promoting the position, and selecting the Worlds/Pan Ams coach each year. Once the coach is chosen, the subcommittee also supports the coach as they prepare to lead team USMS at the global event.

This year is a PanAms year (October 2026). Our sub-committee will begin the selection process in March.

1. Liaisons

D&I: Kenny to be liaison

ALTS: Mike to be liaison

LMSC Development: Doug to be liaison

Long Distance: Gretch to be liaison

2. Old Business

Discord will continue to be used for informal Committee communication and for connecting with USMS coaches. Jacky will email instructions to all new Coach Committee members.

5. New Business

No new business was brought up.

6. This meeting was adjourned at 8:46PM Eastern Standard Time. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 10th at 8:00PM EST.