

Roll Call

Committee Name: Coaches Committee: 2026 April Meeting

Committee Chair: Molly Hoover

Vice Chair: Aaron Schneider

Minutes Recorded by: Gretch Sanders

Meeting Date/Time: 4/14/2026, 8pm EST

Number of committee members present: 13 **Absent:** 4 **# of other delegates present:** 0

Committee members present: Molly Hoover (Chair), Bill Brenner (ExOfficio), Kenny Brisbin (Executive Committee), Doug Garcia, Gretchen Sanders, Jacky Merianos, Laurie Hug, Marcia Benjamin, Michael Hamm, Robert Duguay, Todd Samland, James Miller, Wynne Kirchner

Not present: Aaron Schneider (Vice Chair), Angie Brennan, Karyn Austin, Barbara Ingold,

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm Eastern Standard Time.

1. Welcome Coaches!
2. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

Web Workouts (Gretch): All coaches have hit their stride and are posting regularly! Kenny asked for follow up on a ranking system regarding workout popularity—committee members are wondering which workouts are receiving the most views and clicks. Is there a way to track this? Gretchen will follow up with Meghan and Kyle in the main office.

NCC/Relay (Aaron/Bill): Note from Aaron—Monthly meeting pushed back to week of Nationals. Aaron will forward any info he receives.

Regarding NCC, Bill said he built a registration page. There are gaps in information about lodging. Jessica will assist. There were questions about who is attending and who pays for delegates and others to attend. Discussed that the Golden Goggles banquet is something attendees must pay for (individual seat is \$2000 without a discount). Can appeal to LMSC for financial support to attend certain events, such as NCC/Relay.

Jacky asked if coaches on the committee can attend NCC/Relay events, specifically those that pertain to coaching.

Education (Mike/Bill): Big weekend in Mission Viejo this weekend-certification classes happening for Level 1 and 2, plus clinics for coaches and ALTS certification classes and stroke development clinics. Next up are clinics in Boise on April 24, and then a level 2 and level 3 class in Boise. ALTS instruction will also happen on May 9. Bill is looking at data—how many clinics happened in 2025, this year so far. He included those numbers in the chat.

LMSC Communication (Marcia): Discussion regarding how much info to include in our communication emails vs. what is coming at us to share. Marcia is highlighting the important parts and including the minutes from our meeting. LMSC Development info that is sent to us needs to be filtered down to only communicate info pertaining to coaches.

Mentoring (Todd): Nothing new to report.

On-Deck Coaching (Mike and Rob): Mike report for Rob, reports the volunteer spots are filled for Spring Nationals on-deck coaching. Many people signed up this year. All spots are full! No second warmup. Great volunteerism!

There is a coaches social at a local brewery on Saturday night during Spring Nationals in South Carolina with 25 spots available, so sign up now on the Nationals webpage!

Awards (Laurie): Doing online applications for Carrie O'Brien and Coach of the Year applications, which should be open online May 1. First year doing applications this way.

Level 4 (Laurie): Laurie reports that she is working with the subcommittee on updating the application, but nothing will be ready for this year, maybe next year. Bill adds that registration for Level 4 should open in Club Assistant on May 15 and go through July 15.

Publications (Doug): Not many updates. Discussed whether there should be a review process before articles and other written materials go live? Should we take a better look at accuracy, style, length before emails and written communications go out? Also, discussed that Streamlines publications are needed at least a month before publication. Email Daniel for publication dates.

Peer to Peer (Jacky and Doug): Talk of doing a seminar or webinar for coaches that focuses on open water swimming. Open water season is upon us! Expert open water coaches would lead the seminar, possibly Bob Bruce or someone else with open water experience. Could pick a different topic for webinars and offer them quarterly.

World's/Pan Am's (Jacky): No big update, not picking a coach this year for World's. Jacky will work on an online store.

D&I (Kenny): First meeting this year for D&I. Working on creating best practices, which will be shared in a webinar or email at some point. Not much to report.

ALTS (Mike): No recent meeting since they don't have a committee. An ad-hoc ALTS committee exists to offer support to those who need it. Received 42 grants and split \$150,000 across recipients. This sum of money is the largest to date.

Golden Goggles will be held in Denver on September 26, 2026. They are looking at reducing costs and offering discounts. They are collecting items for an auction, so please donate art work or baskets or whatever you can!

LMSC Development (Aaron): See above

Long Distance Committee (Gretch): The LDC had a committee meeting last week. Discussions included the OWNC held in Sarasota FL at the beginning of April. Entries were 200+ for both the 5k and 1 mile. Most swimmers opted for the 1 mile. Short on officials and will make this a priority next year. Weather and conditions were good. The cost of hotels was high. Will change from Easter weekend next year. Committee continues to work on rules which will finish in May. Discussed how the new interim eligibility rules affect the two remaining OWNC and the Virtual National Championships.

Bill and Kenny discussed recent board meetings, such as brainstorming ideas that came up for keeping USMS moving forward.

The committee discussed who on the committee will be attending Spring Nationals in a few weeks. Several going!

This meeting was adjourned at 7:40PM Eastern Time. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 12 at 8:00PM EST.