

Ozark Swimming HOD Meeting

Oct 8, 2025



Agenda

- Call to order – roll call - Board members:

General Chair, Nathan Stooke

Athletes Committee, Connor Dunker

Age Group Committee, Chris Etherington

Senior Chair, Kristy Stooke

Coaches Committee, Bob Rettle & Sean

Harrison Officials Chair, Jeff McCoskey

Operational Risk Chair, Brett Shank

DEI Chair, Terea Goodwin

Open Water Chair, Sean Harrison

Treasurer/Registrar, Trish Grant

Safe Sport Chair, Sam Stapleton

Finance Chair, Brian Perkins

Junior Athlete Rep-Samantha Stooke

Non Ozark Board members in attendance:

Amy Paul

Ryan Dorsey

Sam Carroll

Andrew Westerman

- Approval of last HOD meeting minutes - There was a motion to approve. That motion was seconded and the minutes were approved.

- Committee reports:

General Chair Report Nathan Stooke

-Nathan discussed what the Ozark Board has been doing over the past year at our monthly meetings and how the 5 year plan is progressing. He also talked about our need for more volunteer involvement in multiple areas. We need more athlete involvement as well so they can have more say about their sport.

Athletes Committee Connor Dunker

-The athlete committee has been developing a leadership event to be held over the holiday break in December. They are looking for input on dates of when to host that to get the maximum participation. Brett Shank mentioned that there is now a Junior Officials position available for athletes 16&over. He asked the athlete committee to help support this effort in the LSC.

Age Group Committee Chris Etherington

- Chris discussed the LSC's performance at Zones. The Age Group Committee has finalized meet line-ups for A Champs and Division I Champs. The Age Group Committee has created and shared a survey regarding Long Course Champs. He shared the feedback from that survey. Zones for 2026 is in Evansville, IN. It is a Thursday-Sunday format and will be 4 full days. 2027 Zones will be run at 3 sites

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rather than 2. Registration for Zones swimmers will now be \$175 from \$150. The Zones bag will stay the same from year to year so that kids only get bags once. Chris has also been talking with Indiana Swimming and Missouri Valley Swimming about Ozark attending a 14&under all-start meet. That meet will be January 10-11 in Des Moines, IA. That meet may cost \$165 for attending swimmers. 72 swimmers from Ozark will be able to attend. The Age Group Committee is trying to determine if it makes sense to add this meet this year or wait until 2027. It will be top 12 swimmers in the LSC per age group.

Senior Chair Kristy Stooke

-The Senior committee is working with the athletes to plan an Ozark athlete camp for January to help athletes learn more about leadership in Ozark and USA Swimming. The committee is also working on ways to keep 15&overs in the sport.

Coaches Committee Bob Rettle/Sean Harrison

-Sean discussed voting for Coach of the Year. Nominations close about a week and a half before A Champs. Bob reminded all about how to submit updated coach credentials on the Ozark website. He is in talks with Mark Hesse about a coaches' clinic for the spring.

Technical Planning Bob Rettle

-Bob reminded all that meet dates are posted and that the pre-meet and post-meet requirements are listed on the Ozark website and that we all need to complete these.

Officials Chair Jeff McCoskey

-The officials committee meets quarterly. Jeff mentioned again that we still have a shortage of new officials in the LSC. The committee is working on ways to entice new volunteers to get certified as an official. We have had 25 new officials join as of September 1, 2025. Jeff shared that Tom Lombardo served as an official at an open water meet in Singapore. He also discussed attending a USA Swimming HOD meeting about new rules. Our LSC has 3 evaluators, Jeff McCoskey, Tom Lombardo, and Brian Perkins.

Operational Risk Chair Brett Shank

-Since the last HOD meeting, we have had 11 Reports of Occurrence. These are listed in his report. We are seeing fewer reports from meets, but more at practices. It is imperative that all certifications and registrations are up-to-date so that if a report is filed, USA Swimming is able to support anyone who needs that.

DEI Chair Terea Goodwin

-Terea shared that St. Louis will again host international water safety day on May 15. Her committee would like to have an olympian attend. They wish to have swim lessons and a camp. The location is still to be determined. She is asking for help from the athlete committee to help run this event. Multi-cultural zones meet is June 19-21 in Madison, WI. She will need assistance for this meet. She also needs to know by November 25 which swimmers wish to participate in this meet.

Open Water Chair Sean Harrison

-Last summer 37 Ozark swimmers attended Open Water Zones in Pleasant Prairie, WI. Sean would like to see more athletes and from more teams. The qualifications

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for this meet are listed on the Ozark website. He discussed potentially hosting an open water meet in or near St. Louis to get more Ozark swimmers interested in trying that.

Safe Sport Chair Sam Stapleton

-Sam has been reviewing Safe Sport policies and helping teams keep up with those policies and earn safe sport recognition. He is looking for athlete representation on his committee.

Governance Need To Fill **Registration Trish Grant**

-Teams should check their rosters, both coach and athlete, to make sure that everyone who should be on the list is on the list and in good standing.

- New Business:
 - Workshop review (Terea, Kirsty, Sam, Jeff, Bob, Nathan)
 - What did you learn that can help the LSC or your team?
 - Terea - She enjoyed the Ladies of Governance committee and spoke with many officials and learned that becoming an official is easier than it used to be.
 - Kirsty - She learned a lot about the coaches' advisory council and what they do.
 - Sam - He learned more about what his role is as Safe Sport Chair and many things that he can bring back to the LSC.
 - Bob - He attended all of the coach track meetings. They spoke a lot about coaches within the LSCs communicating and working together. He listened to testimonials from coaches who had overcome adversity. He also talked about dealing with conflict at the LSC and team level.
 - Nathan - He shared that he would like to see Ozark athletes attend next year. He got to meet the new USA Swimming CEO.
 - Who did you meet there?
 - Finance Report and budget approval
 - Brian Perkins reviewed the budget report that was submitted. Terea asked about the amount allocated for the Multicultural zones meet. Brian asked her to research with other LSCs to see what a realistic budget number should be for that line item. Brian thanked Trish Grant for her efforts to organize the budget. Nathan talked about having deficit budget and looking forward trying to not have a deficit budget in coming years. A motion was made by Mark Imig to approve the budget with the caveat that we need a firm line item for DEI and the 3 items, uniforms for officials, meet ref travel reimbursement for officials and officials travel awards need policies and procedures created for them to disperse the funds. It was seconded by Kirsty Stooke. There was no discussion. All voted in favor and the motion passed.

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- Proposed Bylaws Changes - No bylaw changes were discussed.
 - Next steps for Year 1 of 5 year plan - Nathan discussed his report and encouraged all who run a committee to fill their committee with members so the committee can complete the tasks they are responsible for.
- Other new business - No new business
- Set date and time for next HOD meeting - Sunday, March 1, 2026 during the break at Division I Champs.
- Adjourn - The meeting was adjourned at 8:33pm