

Humboldt Swim Club Board Meeting

November 18, 2025

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

ZOOM LINK: <https://humboldtstate.zoom.us/j/3235274549?omn=89682556055>

Be respectful of time, this meeting is scheduled until 7:00 P.M.

- Board Members Present: Jamie, Pat, Nona, Patricia, Pam entered 6:38 via zoom
- Board Members Absent: Winslow
- Public: Rebecca, Ben, Heal, Beth, missing 3 public zoom members

1.0 Call to Order:

Issues with zoom. Call to order at:

2.0 Approval of Agenda Order:

Motion made Pat, 2nd Patricia

3.0 Consent Agenda:

3.1 Approval of October Minutes - [October Minutes](#)

3.2 Treasurer's Report - To be updated at the Dec. Meeting

3.3 President's Report - [Report](#)

4.0 Reports:

4.1 **Board Member updates and new reports** - *New Board Members Sworn in: Jamie Workman, Daniel Eden and Rebecca Baugh. Winslow reelected but not in attendance to sign HSC*

4.2 **Coach's Report** - *Two meets in November: Far Western and Team Records achieved.*

Attendance is improving. Groups are struggling with joining practice on time.

5.0 Public Comment (20 Min Total)

- Heal: Appears new goals are primarily competition focused. What are the specific meet expectations? The relationships found in previous staff appear lost. Missing are a focus on friendship, commitment to team building, individual progress and pace. New Program appears top heavy down.

- Ben listening

- Beth listening

- Rebecca listening

Emails to be read by

HSC President

1. This (new proposal) is pricing my family out of swim team. Between monthly dues and supporting Creepy Crawl and other fund raiser, we are tapped out. Times for younger kids are not allowing for decompression and family time at the end of the day. The current 5:45-6:45 puts our swimmer home after 7, then dinner, and almost time for bed. Since parents both work full time, grandparent picks up after school and they pick up from swim. The new schedule will exacerbate the challenges.

2. I am sending written comments on the **Proposed 2026 Group Structure & Schedule** to be read during public comment or considered in decision making as appropriate:

Our daughter ([edit](#)) was recently moved up a level to Intro 2, which I believe is equivalent to what would be AG2 in the new proposed structure. The practice times of 6:15-7:30 for AG2 is quite late for this age group. Our daughter currently goes to bed at 8PM. Not getting out of the pool until 7:30 means a very delayed bed time for an age group of kids who still need quite a bit of sleep and time with their families. This has us reconsidering advancement out of Intro 1 (or "Developmental"), which goes against the goal of working to advance and achieving a move-up pathway. Please consider an earlier start time for this group of swimmers -OR- a varied schedule with choices for earlier start times for this age group. Thank you for your consideration. Our daughter loves being a part of the team and we would like to continue being a part of it.

3. [Letter to the HSC Board](#) Ashley Toms

4. I'd be curious to know how the coaches/board think that the current structure (bronze, silver, gold, etc) compares to the proposed structure, particularly with respect to minimum placement competencies, practice expectations and meet attendance.

5. UPDATE: Sent to President after the initial meeting before Q&A

To the Board and Coaches of Humboldt Swim Club:

I'm writing to respond to the proposed changes to swim team structure. We are disappointed in recent developments in the areas of finances, scheduling, and the management of transitions. I'm concerned about these changes' impact not only on our own family, but on the viability of HSC as a club; I fear the proposed structure will lead more families to leave than already have. First, the financials. I understand that you're not technically charging any more per hour; rather, you're charging the same hourly rate, and adding more hours. But we weren't even using the full allotment of hours already available to our child at her level. Neither, from all appearances, were plenty of other families. Why exactly are more hours being added? I've heard other parents suggest you need to charge more because so many families have left the team; if you raise prices and more families leave as a result, we get into a bit of a vicious cycle.

Our family lives on extremely tight margins. We're on public assistance; in November we skipped grocery-shopping for nearly two weeks for financial reasons. We're not looking for pity; plenty of families are more strained than we are. But we'd like some understanding about swim's financial impacts. For instance, past [edit AG COACH](#) almost always had a hand-me-down swimsuit when our kid outgrew hers. When we asked previous [edit AG COACH](#) whether that system still existed, he told us to just buy a new suit, which we've now had to do a few times. Our maximum budget for doing that is \$20 per suit, twice a year. There is simply no way we will ever pay \$60 for a suit—it would have to come out of our food budget. (On top of other financial barriers to attending meets, the requirement to wear Arena suits adds another.)

Also, I asked in December 2024 if there was assistance with the annual HSC Registration fee, akin to the assistance provided by USA Swimming. I was told the board would be discussing it at the start of the 2025 season. I inquired again this October to see if any such aid had been implemented, and was told it had been discussed but not voted on. I wrote a comment for Jamie to share at the October 16 board meeting; I haven't heard anything in response. Has any action been taken? I'll note that while our family relies on the scholarship and any form of financial assistance we can get, our kid has been the #2 fundraiser in the Creepy Crawl two years in a row, so we are still contributing financially. But we hope families whose community can't support them so well will have the same opportunities as all families. Second, the timing of practices. When the fall schedule came out I expressed disappointment in the lateness of silver practices, and HSC Board Meeting Agenda

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was told it would be revisited in the winter. The proposed changes have not only silver but also bronze (the new AG2) swimmers finishing practice at 7:30pm. Before the fall practice schedule, our kid went to bed at 8pm. Now at least four times a week she's getting an hour less sleep—sleep that would certainly support her development as an athlete. At the board meeting, the reason cited for having earlier practices was that the senior-level kids have more homework. Why can't they practice later and do homework before? The fact is, younger kids need more sleep than older kids. I think there's a chance you'll lose even more families by having more 9-year-olds finish practice at 7:30pm. We recognize that in any large organization full of families and kids, participants need to be flexible and good-natured: things will always be changing. These changes would be easier to sustain and work with, though, if it felt like team morale and partnership were tended to with warmth, transparency, and collaboration. We are worn out by the past year's repeated transitions and changes. This is the time for some vital healing, rather than articulating proposals that feel like top-down proclamations.

Our requests:

- Reconfigure the schedule so AG1 and AG2 swimmers finish practice by 7 at the very latest, preferably 6:30.
- Create a suit and gear library for kids whose families can't afford new gear as often.
- Offer financial assistance for the annual HSC registration fee.
- Release the full results of the stakeholders survey, not just summarized results.
- Provide full transparency about whether anyone benefitted (financially or otherwise) from the agreement with Arena, binding our families to buying more expensive suits and equipment.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I wouldn't have taken the time to write it if I didn't care deeply about Humboldt Swim Club, which has been a source of vital growth for our kid.

6.0 Old Business: Updates Only (5 Min)

5.1 Arena: Store and Championship Caps

-CC Arena bags have been ordered. Total cost: \$2749.64

-Coach Casey looking into costs and ordering for Championship Caps with Arena, will use current Championship caps in stock for winter AG. Look into personalized team caps as well.

5.2 High School Swimming HSC Community Outreach to allow for AHS and EHS HS Swim. The season runs February- April. Most participants are USA/HSC athletes but those who are not will swim in 1 donated lane only. More information from Coach Jacob in early 2026

5.3 2026 Meet Schedule (includes Cal Poly: motion) **Cal Poly 1/22, 2/2 one day?** Included Elk Grove. Jamie made a motion to approve the 2026 meet schedule, Patricia seconded, all in favor.

5.4 ACP HSC Contract All rates were approved at \$10/hr per lane. This is an over 5% increase from 2025. Awaiting response from ACP after their 12/16 meeting for donation of already scheduled rental space for Creepy Crawl 2026. (1 Saturday, 4 lanes, 11-2pm)

5.5 2026 Program and group proposal: **Approved Date set in person and zoom Q&A with HSC membership, Coach Casey, Coach Jacob and available board members 12/4 6-8pm Arcata Community Center.**

-Coach Casey: new program stream lines changes between groups like AG2 is not Intro 2 and offers benefits to swimmers.

-Accommodates HS swim

-some working families find the later schedule more accessible for their swimmer

- Saturdays will be a clinic to all swimmers 1-2pm

5.6 Budget: Set date for last study session. Dec. 10th

5.7 Swimmingly- Fall block party issues.

-Swimmingly was still used just times were hand entered. It appeared that electronics acted up because the program needed to be deleted and redownloaded to reset the program.

7.0 New Business

6.1 Discussion of Board elected officer roles and board member job descriptions. Motion in December's meeting.

-Officer Positions up for election: President & Treasurer. Other jobs include: fundraising, DEI, grant writing, sponsorship, booster club etc. Pat Spellmeyer has agreed to remain as HSC Meet Director, and continue to support coaches and board members.

6.2 HSC '24-'25 Survey Recap

-Most families are happy with the current practice schedule, though a few mentioned that evening sessions end too late or that transitions to new times are difficult. Safety at practices is rated positively, with nearly all respondents agreeing that coaches keep swimmers safe. Families also feel that HSC is welcoming and diverse, though a few parents said they were unsure about available diversity resources. All respondents said they would recommend HSC to other families, which shows strong overall satisfaction. Some parents suggested improving communication for new members and giving more clarity about meeting expectations. Overall, families appreciate the coaches, team spirit, and organization but would like clearer communication and slightly better scheduling flexibility.

6.3 Board meeting future time and location discussion

-HSC will need to secure a new location for December and 2026 dates. Patricia is discussing options with Arcata parks and rec and Jamie with AHS and Beth/ Arcata health clinic. Ideas for Sunnybrae or other campuses?

-Update: December 18th meeting to be held at Arcata Walk in Cline. Beth will be on site as a clinic rep.

6.4 Holiday Schedule: Festivities, Pool closures, Senior swim.

-ACP will be closed 12/22-1/3/25. Senior groups will host practice at Healthsport with Coach Jacob 12/22-26 and Coach Casey 12/29-1/2. The schedule will be sent to seniors by Coach Casey. Last day of practice will be a "festivius" party 11-1pm at ACP on 1/20/25. All groups. Reindeer & Candy Cane races, Ugly suit, shirt or sweaters, dessert and food buffet.

6.5 Private Lessons Policy proposal To be discussed with Head Coach Casey in closed session due to privacy.

Meeting Closed: 7:01pm

7.0 Closed Session -