

TAC Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 7/9/2025

Call to order

The monthly board meeting of the Thunderbird Aquatic Club was held at Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center conference room on 7/9/2025. President, Letitia Houtby, called the meeting to order at 4:58pm.

Present

- George Minkel, TAC Head Coach
- Letitia Houtby, President / SafeSport Liaison
- Joanna Rolfes, Co-Vice President / Meet Director
- Melyssa Stephens, Co-Vice President / Meet Director
- Sam Hollenbach, Treasurer
- Lara Knowles, Co-Hospitality / Parent Representative
- Robin Chambers, Secretary

Absent

- Emily Wray, Co-Hospitality / Parent Representative
- (Vacant position, Fundraising coordinator)

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed via email on 7/3/2025.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting unanimously approved as distributed on 7/13/2025.

Roundtable Reports

TAC:

End of year pool party will be on Friday, August 1st from 3-5pm and will include Wibit rental. BBQ at Washington Park will follow afterward. We need folding tables and some chairs just in case the pavilion is not available. Bring coolers with ice for drinks/water, etc.

There was discussion on whether the Pink vs Black intra-squad meet on September 20th should be a sanctioned meet or not. Considering the Inter-Island meet on February 7th would already be sanctioned with one day and one session, this seems equivalent. This meet would bring in some away team entry fees to reimburse some of the cost verses our intra-squad meet. Our team can save money on the pool rental if we move the date to Friday, September 19th during practice times. We would also not have to pay PNS tap fees or gifts for officials and hospitality. There would be no official USA swimming times recorded for this meet in September, but we will save around \$1000. The Board decided to save the money and move the meet.

New swim group information:

The pool schedule will be similar to this year, but the Bronze and Silver groups will have a their practice times extended by 15 minutes. All groups will be split into A and B teams; A- competitive, B-multi-

sport/seasonal/recreational (more flexible). These designations are determined by coach recommendation and may include age based and skills divided criteria as well as PNS Gold/Silver cuts, Champs cut, or Motivational Standards double BB times. All USA Swimming memberships will be offered (Premium, Flex, Outreach) to each group except the Senior A group that will only be Premium or Outreach. George is hopeful that this revision of groups will offer a streamlined approach to advancing through groups. Seasonal athletes are defined by dates (September through the end of January and April through August) and must upgrade their memberships if they want to participate outside of those dates. There will be a one time holding fee of \$50 to hold registration within the season. The youngest swimmers will be the Bronze B team and consists of ages 7-9 who might be just out of swim lessons. They require more guidance and will be assisted by a coach in the water. We plan to test these new swim groups for one year, but understand it may take a few seasons to work out. These new swim groups will be discussed at the parent meeting and specifically “what to do to get your swimmer to move up”. Hiring another assistant coach is still something to be considered to help out George and Hailey.

Budget:

Treasurer's report was sent on 6/25/2025.

The Hollenbach family will no longer be swimming and we will need to recruit a new treasurer. Sam Burfield has decided that she cannot help at this current time.

PNS Swimming is still behind on tap fees as they figure out their new system for collection.

The proposed budget was reviewed and discussed line by line with a few changes determined. Revisions will be made and a new version will be emailed out to the board. Once the budget is finalized, it will be distributed to the membership ahead of voting at the parent meeting on September 5th.

Swim-TAC-ular earned around \$8000 of its \$10,000 goal. Consider not using PayPal next year. Our old treasurer, David, is still on the account and it is very difficult to switch to a new person (social security number required). Cheddar Up is a system that will still allow online donations and passes the fee to the donor. There were some complaints about the prizes given. Maybe we should consider simplifying and give less quantity, but higher quality prizes next year.

Replacement parts were ordered by George. 12 backup plungers and 6 new Techtronics timing pads. Techtronics is phasing out of swim equipment and may not be around for replacements in the future. They will only focus on scoreboards going forward. There are alternatives like Omega, etc.

Starting blocks will fit into existing holes, but they need to be retrofitted with new threads. For 6 starting blocks it will cost between \$26,000-30,000. Adding a backstroke wedge will add \$250 each. Discussion was had on whether we needed to increase the budget for this fiscal year and how to go about voting in the approval of this purchase. The general membership needs to vote on any purchase over \$5000. It was decided that we will hold a virtual special meeting with online vote open for one week to approve the purchase of starting blocks. This will allow time for purchasing, shipping, and hopefully installation during the pool maintenance closure in August. There will be no meeting in August and the next general membership meeting will be the parent meeting on September 5th.

Finn turned in an essay about his time with TAC as an application for the senior scholarship. The board will review and notify him.

Vendors were contacted about a team banner and two quotes were given. SignDog was \$125 for a vinyl banner. Another vendor quoted \$225.

Still need to order t-Shirts and water bottles for next season's gear.

Lara scanned the current by-laws so the board can comment and edit from home, since the revision will take some time to complete. We are unsure if we will have them ready for the general membership meeting in September or if we can vote them in at the October meeting.

O'Conner Photography was contacted for the team photo and does not charge for services only for prints. Currently scheduled during the intra-squad (pink vs black) meet on Saturday 9/20, but with the date change to Friday 9/19, we will need to reschedule as an evening time slot, potentially 5pm.

TAC hosted swim meets:

Done for the season

Hospitality:

Nothing to report

Fundraisers:

Done for the season

SafeSport:

Nothing to report at this time.

For Action

- George will send out new handbook, paperwork, and registration info to parents.
- George will determine the exact cost of the new starting blocks.
- Board will continue to revise and edit by-laws.
- Robin will write and set up online vote to approve starting block purchase.
- Board will recruit a new treasurer.
- Sam will make discussed changes to the budget and email revised copy to the board.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm. The next TAC Board Meeting is on 9/3/2025 at 5pm in the FPFC conference room. General membership and Parent information meeting is on 9/5/2025 in the exercise room upstairs at FPFC.

Minutes submitted by: Robin Chambers, Secretary

Minutes approved by: Letitia Houtby, President

Date: 8/20/2025