

TAC Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/8/2025

Call to order

The monthly board meeting of the Thunderbird Aquatic Club was held at Fidalgo Pool and Fitness Center conference room on Wednesday, 1/8/2025 . President, Letitia Houtby, called the meeting to order at 5pm.

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, Co-Treasurer / Fundraising Coordinator
- Lara Knowles, Co-Hospitality / Parent Representative
- Robin Chambers, Secretary

Absent

- Forest Jacobsen, Co-Treasurer- *Resigned from position on 1/6/25
- Emily Wray, Co-Hospitality / Parent Representative

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved as distributed via email on 12/30/25.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved as distributed on 1/2/25.

Roundtable Reports

TAC:

As of now, only Excel team is signed up for our January swim meet. There are 3-4 new swimmers who will receive the welcome letter. Snorkels will be given to Silver group tomorrow.

TAC Intra-Island swim meet is still not finalized since the pool is not available on Saturday, Feb 8th. Friday, Feb 7th is available before practice, but there are details that will need to be worked out with the ferry schedule. Hypothetically, they can take the 3:45pm ferry from Friday Harbor to arrive in Anacortes by 5:15pm and warm ups can start 30min later and will last 1.5hrs. This would be a non-sanctioned practice meet in which no times qualify and no officials are needed. The last ferry back in the evening would be at 8:05pm. We can discuss options with the other coaches to schedule and use Gold and Junior swimmers for timers.

There is currently only one swimmer who qualifies for SR CHAMPS Sectionals on March 13th-16th in Boise and we will prioritize this group only because it is the pathway to an entry level national meet and college. This will prevent traveling to Boise two weekends in a row (for age group regionals) and all

others can swim at the PNS CHAMPS meet March 29-30th. Everyone can swim at this meet, not just CHAMPS qualifiers, but those qualifying for sectionals are not eligible.

Considering adding a last chance qualifier swim meet in Snohomish hosted by SRST on February 22nd and 23rd. If so, there will be no practice on Monday Feb 24th. Hailey will coach at the Mighty Marlins meet 3/15 and 3/16 since George will be traveling to Sectionals in Boise. No practice on Monday, 3/17.

Budget:

Treasurer's report was sent on 1/2/25 via email. More snorkels will need to be ordered for a few new swimmers. Taxes were submitted by Tammy and she advised that it is ok for non-profits to back-date for place holding purposes on the budget, but the checks will have the correct date that bills were paid. This will allow for correct budgeting for the fiscal year. The welcome letter was printed on pink paper and given to George to hand out to new swimmers. Consider dropping the sport auction as a fundraiser in the future if the polar plunge and Swim-TAC-ular are successful. We need to look for someone to replace Forest as co-treasurer. There have been 18 gift cards purchased for officials and AO's for our January winter pentathlon.

Need to discuss criteria for "CHAMPS Swimmers travel expenses". Budget allows \$400 for coach and up to \$1200 for swimmers who qualify. No single swimmer will receive more than the coach to help offset the costs of traveling.

Embroidery for backpacks can be done at MrT's on an as needed basis. The logo needs to be digitized for a one time fee of \$75. One backpack minimum order for \$25, at the swimmer family's expense.

TAC hosted swim meets:

January 25th-26th: TAC Winter Distance and Pentathlon Open; prelim/final format. Roughly 60 swimmers have registered between TAC and Excel (a fairly big team). Couldn't schedule a restaurant takeover for the Monday afterward because of booking delays. The medals will be ready next Wednesday. The ducks and ribbons are well stocked, but may need to order more if there are more entries. May order more anyway if we are adding an additional meet in February.

February 8th: Might move to Feb 7th?: TAC Intra-Island; approve sanction meet inviting San Juan Islands and South Whidbey AC. Consider using older kids as timers since this will be more of a practice meet. In the future we may consider inviting the San Juan teams to the Pink v Black meet in September since times do not qualify.

March 29th-30th: 2025 PN Spring Finale; converted to a CHAMPS meet, but everyone is invited, not just qualifiers. Need another site to agree and sign up or it faces cancellation. Meet details were discussed and it will be a prelim/final format. We will need a lot of volunteers for this meet. Officials will be scattered since the CHAMPS meets are all over the local area. Swimmers will probably register mostly from Bellingham and TAC. There will be no distance events. 3 sessions: 11-12yo in am, 10 & under pentathlon, 13 & over in pm.

May 2nd, 3rd, 4th: TAC Spring Thunderbird Open; timed final format. need to finalize details.

Hospitality:

Summary from email update sent on 1/7/25:

Winter pentathlon food is finalized. Timers and on-deck support will have cold water available in a cooler near the head timer. Snacks will be delivered when possible as long as there are enough volunteers for concessions. Consider a snack basket for volunteer easy access near the Nest as long as it's kid-free. The hospitality suite is reserved exclusively for coaches and officials to give them a quiet, parent and kid-free space for discussions. TAC coupons (from George) will now only be redeemable for concession snacks, when offered. To simplify things, we'll limit requests from TAC parents for food

donations to only TAC parties. Leftovers will be given to George and/or Hailey and in abundance to the lifeguards. As a backup, DoorDash will deliver to the pool or a board member can pick up more food.

Fundraisers:

Saturday, February 1, 2025: Polar Plunge Event to raise money for gear. Loop walk/run around Washington Park; no practice that day. Start at 9am. Team building, hot chocolate, fire pit and then plunge. A table will be needed for hot chocolate. The Ott family may be able to bring a fire pit in addition to pits at Washington Park. Loop walk will be led by George and the Juniors and Seniors can mentor and guide younger swimmers. So far, 10 families have donated out of 76 accounts.

Saturday May 3rd: Silent Auction with the Anacortes Youth Sports Coalition; Will now be the same weekend as our home meet. Still need a few volunteers to help set up and clean up.

Friday, June 6th: Swim-TAC-ular! Takes place during practice. Raise money for senior scholarships and team wish list.

SafeSport:

There is a new MAAPP policy that went into effect for the new year. We need every swimmer's family to sign a written acknowledgement of the new policy. Included in the policy: there will be no one outside of the coach or board members using social media in the name of TAC.

For Action

- Finalize details of May swim meet (TAC Spring Thunderbird Open)
- Decide if we will still keep the Intra-Island meet this year and if it will be 2/7/25
- Discuss criteria for budget line items: cap replacements and travel expenses
- Supplies for Polar Plunge
- Promote/Market Polar Plunge

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:35pm. The next TAC Board Meeting is on February 5th at 5pm in the FPFC conference room.

Minutes submitted by: Robin Chambers, Secretary

Minutes approved by: Letitia Houtby, President

Date: 1/30/2025