



**Annual Southern Zone Athletes' Meeting
October 8th, 2023**

1. Call to order at 11:35 AM Central Time
2. Roll call was skipped for this meeting being that there was no voting taking place at the meeting this year. However those in attendance were (Zach Toothman (ZDC-CZ), Nicole Caruso (SZ-JR), Megan Braman (SZ-AD), JD Busby (MS), Brooks Spies (MS), Gracen Bailey (SE), and Holly Mattson(GA))
3. Zach's ZARC Update:
 - a. Discussed the adjustment to the Zone Athlete's election for this year, resulting in no election for Junior Rep. The purpose of this adjustment was to align the Zone Athlete Director and Junior Rep positions and stagger the Zones' elections cycles so that all of ZARC does not term out at the same time. Next year, the SZ will have a special one year term election of both the Athlete Director and Junior Rep positions, but in September 2025, the election cycles will resume as normal.
 - b. The ZDC is currently working on a new membership category that will be available for September 2024: the junior official program. This will allow athletes aged 16-17 to start officiating under the tutelage of a qualified adult official.
4. Social Media task force: In order to compensate for the fact that there will be no elected position available for athletes this year, the Southern Zone will be creating a social media task force to introduce new opportunities in athlete leadership. The goal is to have two subcommittees, one that will revitalize the SZ athletes' instagram and one that will revitalize the SZ athletes' website. A survey will be sent out to cultivate interest for these endeavors.
5. Check-ins (Round Two): This time around the check-ins will be conducted just by the SZ athlete reps as opposed to additional AEC members. We will begin scheduling check-ins in the upcoming weeks via text, as it is an easier and more efficient mode of communication. The worksheet has been revamped to include new questions and will be sent out for the athletes of each LSC to view ahead of time so that each meeting can be more individually tailored to meet athlete needs. The goal is for this new round of check-ins to all have a scheduled date to meet before New Year's.

6. Announcement of SZ Athlete Summit and Olympic Trials watch party: The summit/watch party will be taking place June 21-24, 2024 at the University of Louisville. The summit will be akin to a smaller scale version of the leadership programming that was offered at the USA Swimming April Workshop. Each LSC will be able to bring 6 athletes to participate at the summit.
7. Project planning follow up: A survey will be sent out to see how much progress each LSC has made on the project they planned at the April Workshop. This will also serve as supplemental information during the LSC check-ins.
8. Contact Information: A new contact form will be sent out to the SZ GroupMe so that new athlete reps have the opportunity to update their contact information.
9. Meeting called to adjourn at 11:53 AM Central Time