

MINUTES
United States Aquatic Sports
Fourth Quarter & Annual Board Meeting via Zoom
November 15, 2023

ROLL CALL - The following Board members were in attendance:

USA Artistic Swimming: Adam Andrasko & Denise Shively

USA Diving: Lee Michaud; Samantha Perkins

US Masters Swimming: Ed Coates, Dawson Hughes & Britta O'Leary;

USA Swimming: Carli Brashier, Anthony Ervin;

USA Water Polo: Chris Ramsey, Bill Smith

Officers: Patty Miller, Jared Book & Gregory Eggert

Guest: Christine McMaster-Shah, Chef de Mission

Observers from USA Swimming: Eric Skufka, Michelle Steinfeld

MINUTES OF 3Q MEETING - A motion to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2023 was made, seconded and approved unanimously and will be posted to the website.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT - A written report was distributed in advance of the meeting. The President reminded the Board that nominations for PAQ Sport / Technical committees are due on November 22nd.

REPORT FROM WORLD AQUATICS TREASURER - The dates tentatively proposed for the 2025 World Aquatics Championships in Singapore are July 19 to August 3, 2025. Budapest was awarded the 2027 World Aquatics Championships and the likely dates July 18 to August 2, 2027. The bidding process for the World Championships includes 2029 hosting at the Beijing Water Cube. For 2031, interested cities include Australia (although no city or state designated at this time) and Spain (Seville, Barcelona, Madrid). A decision and announcement on 2029 and 2031 may be forthcoming in Singapore if not earlier. Regarding the Paris 2024 Olympics, there is a continuing concern over water quality in the Seine (a shared venue with Triathlon). World Aquatics has asked Paris to have a Plan B for open water swimming events. The USA will be well represented in terms of technical officials, judges and referees at the Doha 2024 World Aquatics Championships. While some of the current committees include more than 25 members, it is expected that only 10 are invited to Doha including the following individuals:

SEE OTHER INFO

AS - Svetlana Malinovskaya (Technical Controller)

DV - Cokey Huffman & Jeff Stabile (Judge)
HD - Steve McFarland
OWS - Sid Cassidy, & Mike Murphy (Official)
SW - Jay Thomas & Dale Neuburger, (Mike Dilly ITO)
WP - Hadi Farid & Darren Spiritosanto (Referee)

In order to ensure the highest level of integrity World Aquatics has empowered a three person committee across all sports who will select the officials and the assignments of individuals to their positions during World Aquatic events. This was previously in the hands of the commission of each of the Technical Committees. The new process will be in effect for the Doha 2024 World Championships.

CHEF DE MISSION REPORT - Christine McMaster-Shah expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve as the Chef de Mission for the World Championships in Doha. She indicated that Doha is a safe place and is insulated from what is happening in the Middle East and believes that there should be no major concerns for US travel. The World Aquatics flight subsidy was estimated to be \$1100 per athlete up to the designated quota for each sport. She reported that she recently attended the Doha Open-Day event where she learned that 3 of the 5 hotels the USA was interested in were sold out. It is likely that the USA will stay at the Wyndham and Pullman hotels which are located across the street from each other. It is likely that AS, HD WP and SW & OWS will stay at the other hotel, to be determined based on needs for single and double rooms. All hotels are within 25-40 min to the Aspire dome and only about 25 min to HD & OWS venues. Both hotels have separate entrances and elevators for athletes and staff. Christine reported Doha is very excited to be hosting the World Championships. She will be sharing videos and photos as well as subsidy information, dates and deadlines with Team Leaders. Christine asked board members if there is any information she needs to be aware of either about team size, security or any other special considerations. She will be requesting this information directly from the respective Team Leaders in the very near future. All sports should be prepared to advance the funds necessary for their respective accommodations in Doha. Christine will be in Doha before the first teams arrive and will be present for the arrival of all teams before she returns to the USA, about 5-6 days before the competition ends.

PAN AMERICAN GAMES & PAN AM AQUATICS - A brief recap of the performances in Santiago and the results of the elections from the PAQ Congress was given. Election results included PAQ Officers: Maureen Croes (ARU), reelected as President; Secretary Lisa Schott (CAN); Treasurer Van Donkersgoed (USA). USA members of the Executive Committee include Diane Maiese and Tony Ervin, Athlete Member of the Executive Committee. Nominations for US members of PAQ Sport/Technical

committees are due on November 22. USA Swimming and USA Water Polo will be the delegates for the PAQ Extraordinary Congress to be held in Doha during the World Championships.

2024 WORLD AQUATICS SUPPORT PROGRAMME - USAS is expected to receive a maximum of \$25K which was proposed to be split six ways. A discussion about whether USAS should receive one share, or possibly all of the World Aquatics support program funds more was held. A motion to distribute the 2024 support six ways was approved with two votes opposed and one abstention.

2023 FINANCIAL UPDATE and REPORT of the TREASURER - Jared reviewed the financial reports (Q3 2023 Financial Summary) and the proposed 2024 budget, each was sent to the Board previously. Jared reported that the American Express card was canceled. A premium for Directors & Officers insurance was paid in 2023. Jared predicts that USAS expenses in 2023 may be as much as \$35K below budget. The expenses for the Chef de Mission in Doha were estimated to be \$25K. The World Aquatics support program will offset some of these expenses. A motion was received to approve the budget and it passed with unanimous consent. A reminder that all sports should be prepared to advance the deposit and final payments for accommodations in Doha from their own funds as USAS will not be in a position to do so.

2024 PARIS OLYMPIC GAMES TICKETS - World Aquatics has invited USAS to submit the contact information for each of our Olympic sports so that they can be invoiced for their current ticket allocation. USAS has been asked to submit a point of contact for each sport on November 17th. USAS will remind World Aquatics that none of our sports wish to receive or be obligated for additional tickets beyond the current confirmation of available tickets.

MAX RITTER AWARD NOMINATIONS SOLICITED - The 2023 recipients of the award were Mr. Kiho Abe (JPN) and Virginia "Ginny" Jasontek. The awards were presented at the 2023 World Championships in Fukuoka and at the 2023 Pan American Games in Santiago, Chile. Board members are reminded that 2024 nominations should be submitted to Carol Zaleski via email before March 31, 2024.

2024 SPORT BOARD MEETINGS - Anthony Ervin, a member of the PAQ Executive Committee would like to attend the respective Board meetings of each sport during 2024 and would appreciate knowing the dates of future meetings and if he can participate on a virtual basis.

ADJOURNMENT - A motion to adjourn was received and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Gregory Eggert, USAS Vice President
Approved by the Board of Directors on March 11, 2024