

Minutes of the
1Q USAS Board Meeting
March 10, 2025

Roll Call of Board Members & Invited Guests in attendance

USA Artistic Swimming: Adam Andrasko, Kimberly Kohut

USA Diving: Lee Michaud

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

USA Swimming: Shana Ferguson, Carli Brashier,

USA Water Polo: Jamie Davis, Bill Smith

World Aquatics Treasurer: Dale Neuburger

USAS Officers: (Non Voting): Patty Miller, Jared Book & Gregory Eggert

Invited Guests

Chef de Mission: Christine McMaster-Shah

Pan Am Aquatics: Diane Maiese, Van Donkersgoed

USA Swimming: Bryce Elser

Approval of Draft Minutes of past meetings

- + Q4 2024 Board of Directors Meeting - The Board approved the motion by Ed Coates and second by Bill Smith to approve;
- + January Special Meeting of the USAS Board - The Board approved the motion by Ed Coates and second by Kim Kohut to approve

World Aquatics Championships – Singapore 2025

Chef de Mission Christine McMaster-Shah received the Summons from the Organizing Committee (OC) and expects to make a site visit to Singapore likely with USA Swimming staff including Cari and Bryce Elser in March. They hope to meet with key leaders of the OC on the topics of transportation, accommodation and dining (about expanded meal hours), and tours of the venues and hotels. Christine reported that the cost of hotels is extremely expensive compared to Doha and Fukuoka. There are two hotels located in close proximity to each other that may be suitable for the USA teams. Following the site visit they will select the best possible hotel(s) but expectations should be lowered for athletes and staff as these will not likely be 5 star hotels. Singapore has been reluctant to answer questions about the hotels but recently added 3 star hotels as options. Peer nations (Canada and Australia) express similar concerns and are also considering 3 star accommodations. Preliminary entries are due in the first week of

April. Accommodation deposits will likely be due on or about April 25th and an additional 25% is expected in early June. Board Chairs and CEOs will be registered by their respective team leaders.

PanAm Aquatics (PAQ)

Patty introduced Diane Maiese and Van Donkersgoed who are US members of the PAQ Executive Committee. Van reported the following:

- + PAQ is taking a more active role in development, events, officials and in qualifying events for Junior Pan American Games (Asuncion 2025) and for the next edition of the Pan American Games (Lima 2027)
- + The PAQ Bulletin is a critical communications tool that includes future calendars and events schedule,
- + The status of PAQ events serving as qualifying events will not change, but PAQ promised to communicate further in advance;
- + PAQ is already looking out to dates in 2027 to schedule future events, and soon to be looking at dates in 2028. PAQ has a goal to have a 4 year calendar in advance to allow National Federations to plan better.
- + PAQ is willing to have conversations offline about schedules explaining that they have recently engaged with Aquatics Canada;
- + PAQ intends to better communicate what is going on at the Executive Committee level and to ensure that info sent to Technical Committees will trickle down to the National Federations.
- + Based on questions from Board members it was clarified that if a US team has already qualified for a World Aquatics event, it is not obligated to attend a PAQ Qualifying event;
- + Swimming will continue to qualify by achievement of a time standard;
- + A written report will be provided to USAS in the future;

Patty reported that she has spoken to PAQ President Maureen Croes about improving communications. Dale reported that the dates of the 2027 Pan American Games fall on the same traditional dates of the World Championships and indicated that some negotiation will be necessary to allow athletes from the Americas to compete in both events.

A PAQ Congress is scheduled for May 17 in Medellin COL. USAS delegates to the PAQ Congress will be from USA Artistic Swimming and USA Swimming and must be registered in mid April. Patty was asked to confirm that virtual attendance and voting is possible.

Patty indicated that she and Greg will attend the PAQ Championships in Medellin in May. The PAQ Legal Commission, which Patty chairs, prepared the proposed PAQ Integrity Code which will be presented for ratification at the PAQ Congress. Greg will attend the PAQ Congress as an Observer.

World Aquatics Support Program – 2024 Final Report and 2025 Application

Patty indicated that the final report for 2024 was submitted and accepted by World Aquatics. USAS has very recently received disbursement from World Aquatics and our sports should receive their checks later this month. The 2025 Application was submitted on time and awaiting confirmation from World Aquatics

Report from World Aquatics Treasurer Dale Neuburger - written report received

- + An interim Office in Budapest was established a few months ago and will likely have 20 employees by the time of the 2025 World Championship. The likely date for a full move to Budapest is early 2028. The Lausanne office will continue to be headquarters for the World Aquatics Integrity Unit and the new World Aquatics Foundation. Since the development department works closely with the IOC coordination they will also remain in Lausanne SUI.
- + World Aquatics recently posted the Competition regulations. Each sport needs to be aware of the new regulations, to become familiar with the specific rules for each sport and to regard this as your sports bible. Water Polo should pay particular attention to recent rule changes.
- + World Aquatics has amended the Sport Nationality rules, reducing the wait period from 3 years to 1 year. This continues to require a proof of residence and a rationale for the move. A passport alone is not sufficient for the rationale. Water Polo may see a limit to the number of athletes permitted to change their sport nationality and only one sport nationality change will be permitted per career.
- + World Aquatics has introduced new pathways for officials to be certified by World Aquatics. Some sports have already scheduled their first online presentations and the others will follow later this month.
- + World Aquatics will shortly announce that Carmel, Indiana and Westmont, Illinois are venues hosting back to back World Cup Swimming events in the USA, to be followed by the third leg in Toronto. Special thanks are extended to USA Swimming for their efforts.

- + **It is expected that World Aquatics will announce venues for the 2026 short course (25m) World Championships in the next few months. Dale indicated that Beijing will soon be announced as the host city for the 2029 World Aquatics Championships.** The 2027 World Aquatics Championships are already confirmed as Budapest and the OC is expected to confirm their dates in the near future. Beijing CHN has expressed interest in the 2029 World Aquatics Championships and Madrid ESP has expressed interest in the 2031 World Aquatics Championships. Swimming World Juniors will continue to be scheduled in the latter half of August.
- + World Aquatics shares its concern about Singapore hotel rates and indicates that this was a negative surprise to World Aquatics. While it is well known that Singapore hotels are expensive, World Aquatics was disappointed that there was not a broader offering of hotels at lower price points.

World Aquatics Masters Championships - Singapore 2025 - A written report provided by Nadine Day, Chair of the World Aquatics Masters Committee, indicated that those nominated as ITO's for the World Masters Championships will be officially announced in March and the names of USA based ITO's will be posted in her report.

USAS Treasurer's Report - written reports provided

Jared Book presented a Financial Report which included a 2025 budget a final 2024 Financial and Budget Analysis, an Investment Update and notice of the filing of the 2024 Form 990:

- + For the Board's review, the final financial statement of Budget to Actual expenses for the full year 2024 was sent to the board. As expected the overall financial results were better than budget as expenses were significantly reduced. The reasons were discussed at the December 2024 meeting;
- + The CD which was placed in a different FDIC insured institution matured in January and a new CD with Goldman Sachs was purchased at 4.15% maturing July 22, 2025. As noted, rates have declined some from 2024 levels but still gives USAS a chance to make some income. Both of our banking relationships are below the \$250,000 FDIC insurance levels;
- + The Board was sent the Annual Report, Form 990 for their review and opportunity to ask questions. The report was filed timely in February'
- + There were no followup questions at this time from the Board.

Loan to Support Sports ahead of the World Championships - Singapore 2025

A motion was made by Ed Coates and seconded by Lee Michaud to advance funds to USA Artistic Swimming and USA Diving for the purpose of paying the deposits to the Singapore 2025 OC for their accommodations in advance of the World Championships. Jared reported that approximately \$225,000 was not currently invested in CD's and that some portion of these funds might be available. The motion to advance funds for this purpose, with repayment due by September 30, 2025, was approved by the Board. Patty indicated that she would draft a commitment document. Both sports expressed their appreciation to USAS and indicated their commitment to timely repayment. Adam indicated that Artistic Swimming is currently working on development efforts to solicit more funds. Both CEO's Sports indicated that an advance like this will not be necessary in 2 years.

Announcements -

Greg's connection to the Zoom meeting was lost and he was unable to return to the meeting before its conclusion. Greg sent to the entire Board

USAS Max Ritter Award Nomination Deadline is March 31st

The Max Ritter Award is presented annually by United States Aquatic Sports to the organization or individual of a World Aquatics member country who has contributed the most to the advancement of understanding and good will among nations through international participation in amateur aquatic sports. Nominations by any member of the USAS Board of Directors for the 2025 Max Ritter Award may be submitted to Steve McFarland, subcommittee chair via email: steve@duraflexinternational.com The deadline for nominations is March 31, 2025.

[Link to the previous recipients of the R. Max Ritter Award](#)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted by Gregory Eggert, USAS Vice President - Approved May 29, 2025