

Roll Call

Committee Name: Coaches Committee: 2026 March Meeting

Committee Chair: Molly Hoover

Vice Chair: Aaron Schneider

Minutes recorded by: Jacky Merianos

Meeting date/time: March 10th, 8PM EST

Number of committee members present: 13 Absent: 4 # of other delegates present: 0

Committee members present: Molly Hoover (Chair), Aaron Schneider (Vice Chair), Bill Brenner (Ex-Officio), Kenny Brisbin (Executive Committee), Barbara Ingold, Doug Garcia, Gretchen Sanders, Jacky Merianos, Laurie Hug, Marcia Benjamin, Michael Hamm, Robert Duguay, Todd Samland,

Not present: Angie Brennan, James Miller, Karyn Austin, Wynne Kirchner

Others present:

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 8:02pm Eastern Standard Time.

1. Welcome Coaches!
2. Sub Committee Reports and Updates

Web Workouts (Gretch): All coaches have hit their stride and are posting regularly!

Question from Gretch: Is there a way for swimmers to electronically “like” or rank their favorite workouts?

Answer: The subcommittee and Molly will explore this possibility with the national office.

Feedback from Kenny: A brand new USMS Coach he is mentoring told him that she loved the USMS workout library!

NCC/Relay (Aaron/Bill): Pool has been secured for Sunday’s session - 7:30AM - 12PM. The sub-committee will be working with the Relay crew to ensure we have ample classroom space for Saturday’s sessions.

Awards (Laurie): Nothing new to report.

Note from Molly: The Awards Committee recently sent out information, including upcoming deadlines for submitting feedback.

Laurie: On it!

Education (Mike/Bill): We’ve held several ALTS and Coach Certification Courses so far this year, and the schedule continues to fill. Please refer to the [Coach Certification Course Schedule](#) for the most up-to-date list of locations.

Abilene, TX Program Spotlight (Jacky)

Representatives from the North Texas LMSC board visited its sole team in Abilene, TX, located about four hours from our LMSC's Dallas hub. The club has an established program and a passionate coach, Jana Kappel, who has built a strong foundation and now needs support in getting the word out about her great team. Our LMSC reps spent the weekend meeting with Jana, assisting with outreach efforts, connecting with her swimmers, and sharing information about the many benefits of Masters swimming—including virtual events.

Both Jana and her swimmers ended the weekend feeling energized and excited about the future of Masters swimming in Abilene. Jacky will continue checking in with Jana monthly over the next year to help support the team's growth and momentum.

Level 4 Applications (Laurie): Nothing new to report. Will continue to work with Mike Hamm on edits for the Level 4 application.

LMSC Communication (Marsha): The first Coaches Chair email of 2026 has been sent—and someone even replied with a thank-you 😊

Mentoring (Todd): Met with Bill to get fully oriented on the mentoring program. Todd will help Bill match mentees that come through with appropriate mentors. If no mentors are available, he will reach out to our committee to identify someone who can step in.

On Deck Coaching (Rob): Get your highlighter yellow shirts ready – the Sign Up Genius for Spring Nationals has been created and sent to the National Office for posting. We will have coaches available only during morning warm-up sessions. Please encourage coaches to sign up!

Working with Celia Wolf to set up our Coach Social. Celia is currently in discussion with a local brewery – details TBD!

Publications (Doug): Nothing new to report

Question from Doug: Is there a way to publish the information from Relay each year?
A committee discussion was had about possible approaches, though this is LMSC Development's territory, not ours.

Peer-to-Peer (Jacky): Will be back in action starting this week. Plans to meet with Molly to finalize a 2026 game plan and will connect with Doug Garcia in the coming days.

Worlds (Jacky): Met with Jay Eckert in February to discuss gear. Will be working with him to create a PanAm's (2026) and Worlds (2027) Swim Outlet store. Parameters have been set on what we can and can't design.

Question from Jacky: Will we be sending a Coach to PanAm's this year?

Answer: Not this year.

Jacky will connect with Molly for additional guidance on subcommittee priorities.

3. Liaisons

D&I (Kenny): First meeting is next month. The committee's focus this year will be on inclusion – how do you make every master feel welcomed in their first 30 days.

ALTS (Mike Hamm): Nothing new to report.

LMSC Development (Aaron): Tom Moore (LMSC Development Chair) sent an email to all Chairs highlighting key USMS events and upcoming deadlines.

Question from a committee member: Why didn't we get the email?

Answer: The email went only to Zone Chairs. They were to pass the information onto LMSC chairs, who were to pass it onto LMSC board members.

Aaron to forward to all members of our committee

Long Distance (Gretch): Nothing new to report

4. Old Business

None.

5. New Business

Our committee reviewed and discussed the newly approved rules, policies, and guidelines framework from the Board of Directors. Feedback was positive!

There were no questions from committee members.

6. This meeting was adjourned at 8:52PM Eastern Standard Time. Our next meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 14th at 8:00PM EST.