

Athlete Advisory Committee Call
October 15, 2025, at 3:00 pm, Mountain Time

AGENDA

Roll Call

Present: Mallory Velte, Macey Kilty, Nate Engel, Nick Gwiazdowski, Erin Golston, Dymond Guilford, Adeline Gray, Mike Macchiavello, Veronica Carlson, Beau Bartlett, Claire DiCugno, Robby Smith, Xavier Johnson

Others: Rich Bender, Joan Fulp, Megan Ball, Meredith Suess, Jaimie McNab, Katie Kriebel, Kenya Dixon, Mike Clayton, Stephanie Jezwinski

Absent: Joey McKenna, John Stefanowicz

I. Welcome & Establish Quorum

Mallory Velte welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm MT.

II. Conflict of Interest Disclosure & Oath of Confidentiality

Mallory Velte read the conflict-of-interest statement and asked for any conflicts. No conflicts present.

III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve previous meeting minutes: Dymond Guilford

Second: Adeline Gray

Unanimously approved.

IV. USA Wrestling Update

Rich Bender provided the USA Wrestling update from the Teams Conference in Columbus, OH. He stated he was proud of the teams' performances in Zagreb and asked the committee to pass along the organization's gratitude for how their fellow athletes represented the country. Many of the team is on the way over to Novi Sad, Serbia for U23 World Championships, Rich will join following a NWHOF event in Atlanta and retirement event for Gary Abbott.

Rich shared updates on LA28's fundraising efforts and shared with the committee how LA28 and the USOPC corporate partnership works together with funding once awarded the Games by the IOC.

Rich let the committee know that UWW officially announced USA Wrestling will host the 2026 Senior Pan Am Championships, the 2026 U23 World Championships, and the 2027 Senior World Championships. In addition, the USA Veteran's team took the MFS team title in Hungary and won a total of 26 medals at the tournament.

On the membership side of things, numbers are up about 15% from last year, and preseason nationals is close to selling out. Club, events, and sanctions are all up from last year.

Rich added that in Zagreb he had a technical commission meeting where they discussed the potential changes to women's weight classes. The technical commission moved forward a recommendation from the medical commission to the UWW Bureau. The Bureau has not met to vote on that recommendation yet.

Committee members asked Rich about the timeline for the weight changes and how to contact the chair of the UWW Athlete Commission. Rich added that Robby Smith was officially announced as the recipient of the 2015 Bronze World Medal and will receive his Living the Dream Medal Fund award.

Rich answered follow up questions from the committee and concluded his report.

V. Executive Committee Interim Member

Mallory Velte overviewed the need for an interim executive committee member while Johnny is unavailable. Previously Joey McKenna held the interim role. The committee agreed on nominations from the floor and via email. The email nomination window will close in 48 hours, if additional nominations are made, a vote will take place in the Board portal.

Nominations from the floor: Adeline Gray

VI. Repopulate Committees

Mallory Velte overviewed the need to repopulate one athlete representative spot on the WFS Sport committee, and six athlete representatives on the Official's Committee.

Julia Salata was nominated and accepted her nomination to the Official's Committee. Robby Smith was nominated and accepted his nomination to the Folkstyle Committee.

The committee voted to affirm the nominations. In future meetings, the committee will review other repopulation needs.

VII. Operation Gold Expansion

Jaimie McNab explained that USAW staff have been working with the USOPC to expand Operation Gold. Previously, USAW has only been able to pay out bonuses to athletes in college for Senior World or Olympic Games. The expansion will allow the organization to also pay out bonuses for Senior Pan Ams, ranking events, US Open, and the UWW payments won at ranking events.

Katie Kriebel is also working on NIL agreements to be able to pay NCAA athletes. She overviewed the process and how she is working to make it as seamless for athletes as possible.

Jaimie and Katie answered a few questions from the committee on the timing and processes for both projects.

VIII. US Open Schematics

Christina Hargrove overviewed the new schematics for the US Open after taking athlete feedback into consideration. She showed how the layout was changed to provide more warm up areas and cubicles for clubs/teams that register a certain number of competitors. The event's team also added a specific athlete seating zone, a centralized medical area, and adjusted the bathrooms to support the need.

Athletes thanked Christina for the adjustments and asked a few follow up questions.

IX. ACTC – National Team Packet & Resources

Katie Kriebel overviewed the updated national team packet. All national team members should have received a welcome page and packet sent via their coach and the national team WhatsApp group.

Within the packet, the different resources for national team members are listed out and who they need to contact for the different options. Katie has also been present at camps at the OPTC to share about both the AAC and Athlete Career Transition Committee.

Committee members asked about coaching course options for athletes provided by USA Wrestling. Mike Clayton shared he would speak further with Tony Black and Dave Mathews to help make it available to all.

X. New Business

No new business.

XI. Adjournment/Executive Session

Motion to Executive Session: Robby Smith

Second: Adeline Gray

Meeting entered Executive Session: 4:11 pm MT