

MINUTES

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Executive Committee Meeting
Tuesday, January 6, 2026
5:00 p.m. MT

Present:

Bruce Baumgartner, President, Chairman
Joan Fulp, 1st Vice President
Kerry McCoy, 2nd Vice President
Don Reynolds, Treasurer
Nate Engel, Secretary
Veronica Carlson
Rob Cate
Zac Dominguez
Adeline Gray
Pat Culp
Craig LaMont
Pat Ream
Mallory Velte
James Ravannack, Past President
Robby Smith, Non-Voting Attendee
Rich Bender, Executive Director
Megan Ball, Manager of Executive Affairs
Cody Bickley, Associate Executive Director, National Teams
Greg Dana, Director of Finance & Administration
Richard Immel, Senior Manager of Communications
Pete Isais, Director of National Events

Absent:

Mike Macchiavello

1. WELCOME

President Bruce Baumgartner welcomed the committee and called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm MT. He overviewed the invitation of Robby Smith to the committee as he will fill in for Mallory as interim AAC chair when she goes on maternity leave. He asked Secretary Nate Engel to read the Declaration of Conflict of Interest and Oath of Confidentiality. No conflicts were present.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FOR DECEMBER 2025

Nate Engel made a motion to approve the December 2025 minutes; Zac Dominguez seconded. Motion approved.

3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT/UWW UPDATE

President Baumgartner provided a brief update to the committee. He recently attended the Salt Lake Slam in Utah and the Beat the Streets Bay Area Youth Wrestling Luncheon at Stanford University. This week he heads to Colorado Springs for the staff holiday gathering and a meeting with monthly donors before going out to LA for an Olympian alumni event.

On the UWW front, the Bureau has not met since the last Executive Committee meeting. Previously, President Baumgartner reviewed rule changes that were approved, but we are still waiting for the written interpretation to be shared. Visa issues are still high on the concerns list, but staff continue to work with the hired firm and UWW to get ahead of any potential issues.

4. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT/USOPC REPORT

Rich Bender began his update by thanking the Executive Committee for their leadership and support for the new office building. He applauded Greg Dana, David Mathews, and Tony Black for the time they spent during the holidays ensuring the building and offices were ready when staff arrived yesterday.

Today the organization sits at 267,000 members compared to 240,000 on the same day last year. All data points to the sport and organization continuing to grow.

Rich spoke with Mark Munoz at Cal Baptist regarding how USA Wrestling can support the efforts to save the wrestling program.

He announced the agreement with Hotel Polaris to host the State Leaders Summit and Board Meeting again this August, as well as adding an Athlete Summit portion to the meeting. Additional details on the summit will follow.

Additional updates included a new media center on themat.com Richard Immel built over the holidays and the training camps in town at the OPTC.

Rich thanked the committee and wanted to instill a message of gratitude for their support in helping the organization create an environment to allow us to keep being better.

President Baumgartner asked if Cody Bickley could provide an update on his site visit to Bahrain. Cody will depart at the end of the week and has site visits planned to different training site options, hotels, catering companies, as well as meetings lined up with Bahrain Olympic Committee representatives and Bahrain Wrestling Federation representatives.

Rich concluded his report with a USOPC update. The USOPC Board met in December with the primary focus on Milan-Cortina as the Winter Games quickly approach. The US Center for SafeSport has hired a new CEO, former Olympian Benita Fitzgerald Mosely. She will take over the role on February 1. There were no questions for Rich.

5. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer Don Reynolds provided the Finance Committee Report. At their last meeting they reviewed and approved the financial statements through October 2025. The committee will meet later this month to approve November and December.

Membership and clubs are both up 9% over last year, and chartered events are up 24%. Financially, the organization is off to a very strong start.

Regarding the building, the contracts have been signed and with all costs considered, the project is expected to be completed within the estimated cost originally approved. Notably, the vast majority of those expenses will remain on the balance sheet and slide down to fixed assets.

6. ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Mallory Velte shared the AAC report. She thanked Robby for stepping in while she is on leave and thanked Bruce for attending the Beat the Streets events in California. The AAC meeting cadence will be adjusted to meet monthly, but every other month will be reserved for committee members and staff liaison. The committee is working on planning the AAC Summit and looking for ways to include state leaders in the agenda.

In 2021, the AAC worked to expand our USOPC related athlete definition to include all national team members since 2000. That exception is due for renewal and the request has been submitted to the USOPC. It is expected to be renewed. Lastly, a committee interest form has been created that will be shared out to eligible athletes soon to support committee repopulations when needed.

7. TEAM USA AC UPDATE

Veronica Carlson shared the commission hasn't met since the last Executive Committee meeting. Commission members were notified that a fake allegation list supposedly from the Center has been circulated. The Center and USOPC have confirmed it is a false document.

8. JOWC/GRASSROOTS UPATE

Pat Ream provided the Grassroots update. The youth season has been ramping up and expect to see a new wave of members in January as well as the end of February/beginning of March as the high school seasons begin wrapping up. The freestyle numbers continue to grow, and more data is sought regarding youth member retention.

9. NEW BUSINESS

President Baumgartner asked for any new business. There was none.

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Motion to enter Executive Session: Mallory Velte
Meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm MT