

Athletes Committee Meeting Minutes

PanAm Aquatics

Date: June 21, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM CT

Location: Zoom

Facilitator: Valerie Gruest (Chair)

Minutes Recorded By: Valerie Gruest (Chair) and Bill May (Secretary)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **3:00 PM CT** by Chair Valerie Gruest.

2. Roll Call / Attendance

Members Present:

- Dylan Woodhead
- Edgar Crespo
- Mel Goldstein
- Percy Escobar
- Bill May
- Yona Knight-Wisdom

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved with **no corrections**.

4. Committee Updates and Ongoing Initiatives

Housekeeping & Communication

- Reminder to confirm attendance for future meetings.
Encouraged consistency in participation and timely updates.

Task Forces and Initiatives

- Ongoing initiatives continue to gain momentum with strong feedback:
 - **Certification Program:** Received positive feedback and growing involvement.
 - **Mentorship Program:** Second round of mentor-mentee check-ins currently underway.
 - **Masters & Athlete Development:** Committee remains aligned with strategic goals to support Masters athletes alongside current elite competitors.

5. Program Planning & Summer Activities

Educational Programming

- **Summer Sessions Ideas:**
 - Expanding athlete engagement opportunities, especially with coaches.
 - Exploring **Athlete365** integration (e.g., workshops on career planning and dual careers).
 - **Power Up Sessions** proposed as short, high-impact webinars.
- **Impact Session:**
 - **Volunteers and speakers still needed** for panel participation.
- **Underwater Chats (UWC):**
 - Planning for **summer panels** is in progress.
 - **Panelists** needed — open call within the committee.

6. Content & Media Updates

Podcast & Webinars

- **Podcast Launch:** In early stages of planning.
- UWC highlights and recordings of past webinars being reviewed for repurposing and promotion.

Newsletter

- Committee encouraged to submit updates and initiatives to be included.
- Proposed sections:
 - AC news
 - Topic of the Quarter
 - Discipline-based activities
 - Initiative highlights

7. Outreach & Survey Planning

Open Calls and Reaching the Community

- Goal to increase visibility and engagement with:
 - **National Federations (NFs)**
 - **Clubs**
- Plan to launch **free webinars and clinics**, tied to survey insights.

Survey Development

- A **major survey** is in development — focus on:
 - Athlete preferences, needs, and communication habits.
 - Used to inform programming, outreach, and performance support.
 - Distribution strategy to be finalized.

8. Long-Term Planning

Convention Planning

- Early Save-the-Date reminder for **PanAm Aquatics Athlete Convention – Early 2026**.
- Further details to be discussed in future meetings.

Terms of Reference & Committee Structure

- Discussion on:
 - Clear roles and expectations.

- Community engagement strategies.
- Data analytics and recruitment.
- Supporting professional development and transitions (e.g., Athlete365, judging pathways).

9. Q&A / Role Delegation

Open discussion focused on:

- **Establishing priorities** for upcoming quarter.
- Identifying **areas of support** across committee tasks.
- Enhancing **time and task management** through role clarity and delegation.
- Encouraging more panelist participation and leadership across programs.

10. Action Items

Task	Responsible Party	Notes
Finalize speakers for Impact Sessions	Committee Members	Volunteers still needed
Develop content & structure for newsletter	Bill May, Percy Escobar	Contributions requested
Recruit panelists for UWC summer sessions	All Members	Ongoing
Survey finalization and rollout planning	Valerie Gruet, Dylan Woodhear	In development
Define committee roles and task distribution	Valerie Gruet	In progress

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at **3:30 PM CT** by Chair Valerie Gruet.

Minutes Submitted By:

Valerie Gruet (Chair) & Bill May (Secretary)

Date Prepared: June 21, 2025