

WI LSC Athlete Representative Election Candidates

At the April House of Delegate Meeting, we will be electing two incoming athlete representatives to serve as an intermediary between athletes who are members of Wisconsin Swimming and the WI Swimming Board of Directors and House of Delegates. Reps will have a two year term and participate annually in House of Delegate meetings with the LSC in January and April and October. Representatives will attend at least two of the regularly conducted Board of Directors meetings and will potentially represent the LSC at the annual NATIONAL USA Swimming Convention in September. Representatives will be called "junior representatives" for their first year and then become the WI Swimming "senior representatives" in their second year.

Teams will have the opportunity to cast votes for these representative candidates at the Annual Meeting in April. Each team will be granted as many votes as they had 13 & Over athletes at the time of the WI State Meet in March 2018. Team ballots will be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

Ben Gabbey - Express

For more than 8 years of my life I have been blessed with the opportunity to competitively swim. In 3rd grade I quit my basketball team to focus on my swimming in the winter. In 5th grade I quit my baseball team so that I could free up my summer to try long course swimming. In 8th grade I quit my football team to have a fall season of swimming to prepare for high school swim. My sophomore year I quit my golf team because I realized I couldn't miss any more seasons and need to focus my attention on the sport I truly love. Swimming has not only taught me life lessons but it has kept me on a path to success. Being a fully committed swimmer makes me see that I am ready for the challenge of understanding and participating in the decision making process of my sport. Additionally, I believe I possess leadership and communication skills that will allow me to not only speak up and participate at the board level, but also to return to my teammates and competitors and share accurate information with them.

Jacob Brehmer- Madison Aquatic Club

Not all swimmers are famous like Michael Phelps or Katie Ledecky. We all don't step up onto the blocks and chase a world record; we just hope to do our best. Something that we do have in common, famous or not, is our ability to make a difference in the sport in which we all share a common bond. This is what I hope to do if I have the opportunity to serve as one of Wisconsin Swimmings Athlete Representatives. Through various activities such as: student council, DECA, and my part-time job I have learned effective communication, good listening, an strong

leadership skills. Armed with these skills as well as 8 years of swimming knowledge, other athlete representatives, and LSC members I believe we can all work together to better Wisconsin Swimming. If elected, I will work hard with the other leaders of Wisconsin Swimming to make a positive impact.

Thank you for your consideration.

Santiago Cloud - Lake Country

I would like to say what a pleasure it is to be a swimmer. I've been swimming for the past 6 years and have found a true passion for the sport. Over this time I've been awarded with MVP, and multiple coaches awards for the hard work and dedication I've put forth. This past High School season I've had the tremendous honor of being elected the team captain for the HUHS Boys Swim team. Over my high school season I strived to promote a positive and energetic work environment for my team. I feel like I would be qualified to hold this leadership position because of my experience of being a captain for the HUHS Boys Swim team and being the 2017-2018 HUHS Band President. Through these positions I've learned the importance of communication and listening, and keeping to my word. I hope that I maybe considered the wonderful position of Swim Representative and proudly represent not only swimmers but the sport.

Thanks for your time,

Santiago Cloud

Olivia Meinberg - Lake Country

Hi. I am Olivia Meinberg and I am interested in becoming a student representative for WI swimming because it would allow me the opportunity to be a part of something I am very passionate about. I've been a member of the LCST for 10 yrs and Hartford HS Swim Team for 2 years. This past year I was elected Team Captain during my sophomore year, which was an amazing and fun experience. I also had the opportunity to be a manager for the boys swim team my freshman and sophomore year. I have won 3 coaches awards - 2 with LCST and 1 from my HS team. I'd like to make a positive contribution to my sport and to my fellow swimmers. I've watched my parents run big meets for as long as I can remember. I've seen what happens behind the scene at meets and what needs to be put into it to be able to function properly and run smoothly.

Thank you for your consideration,

Olivia Meinberg

Will Bethard - Fort Atkinson

In joining swimming I have been given much knowledge and many opportunities that I wish to share with others. I had no knowledge of what swimming was before I joined our local club in the 6th grade. Within a year I found myself in love, not just with my swimming experiences but

also the sport as a whole and the role models that I saw at it's top levels. Now being in my 6th year of swimming I have started to see the younger kids on my teams and even some friends in school look up to me with the same kind of admiration that I had for those swimmers at the top level. I have also been around unfortunate situations where an athletes behavior cost them chances to swim at a higher level, even within my own team. Because of those situations, I lead by example to show younger swimmers how to perform well and show sportsmanship. It is with this sense of sportsmanship and passion to set a positive example that I ask to be an athlete representative to Wisconsin's LSC so that I may continue to lead my team and others in the sport of swimming.

Danielle Cramer - J-Hawks

Hello, my name is Danielle Cramer and I swim for J-Hawk Aquatic Club in Whitewater. I would like to be a WI LSC Athlete Representative because swimming has made such a substantial impact on my life. My passion for swimming has lead me to new friendships and opportunities and I would love to get the chance to expand my relationships within the sport. Getting to experience the LSC world at the state and national level would be a once in a life time opportunity and I would learn so much from participating in something much larger than myself. Swimming has made me into the person I am today, in more ways than one, and my passion for the sport has lead me to the opportunity of applying for a Junior Representative position. The sport of swimming has allowed me to step outside my comfort zone and has introduced me to my best friends. Being an Athlete Representative would enable me to connect with others about their passion of swimming and to help me be more involved in my states strong swimming history. I would love and appreciate a chance to use my dedication to swim to impact others.