



NEW JERSEY  
SWIMMING

## NJS Athlete Committee

Meeting Minutes - December 20, 2020, 6:00 PM

Submitted by TJ Walsh

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Members in attendance: Gavin Formon (BAC), Wesley Tseng (LIFE), Tamsin Formon (BAC), Carly Criares (SAY), TJ Walsh (WY), Zoe Appio (CJAC), Grace Barrows (GMNY), Clayton Bernauer (LHY), Julia Meisner (GSCY), Bridget Davis (FSPY), Aiden Bryceland (MB), Adam Lalani (LHY), John Murray (SAY), Abigeal Gammond (MB), Quinn Hoagland (CJAC), Ellie De Keukelaere (NJBL), Catherine Meisner (GSCY), Andrew Moss (GSCY), Chris Burmaster (BB), Amira Washington (GMNY), Anthony Trezza (RANY), Flora Jeng (MCSC), Jerry Zheng (GCSY),

- Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM
- No additions to the agenda
- All of the Board Representatives (Gavin, Wesley, Tamsin, Carly, and TJ) introduced themselves to the rest of the Committee.
- Tamsin began by discussing the importance of athlete representation and the athlete voice in governance. Because this is our sport, it is important for the athlete's voice to be heard.
- Gavin continued by saying that all athletes can be added to the Committee GroupMe so they can be present for future BOD and HOD meetings in the future. Part of the reason that this Committee is seeking increased membership is to gain a broader athlete perspective from more teams.
- Gavin also mentioned his intent for creating subcommittees and task forces and asked for volunteers.
  - Social Media - Would run our Instagram ([@njswimming](https://www.instagram.com/njswimming)) and create constant content and interaction for NJ Athletes.
    - Bridget Davis, Clayton Bernauer, Tamsin Formon, TJ Walsh, Carly Criares, Amira Washington, Anthony Trezza, Flora Jeng
  - Events - Many other LSCs along with the National Athlete Executive Committee have this subcommittee to plan engaging events for their members. Some possible ideas right now are an athlete leadership summit or college recruiting prep.
    - Gavin Formon, Wesley Tseng, Julia Meisner

- Team Reps Task Force - NJS currently has around 60 teams and would reach out to teams to get full participation from all team reps. They could even reach out to our coaches' chairs in order to get increased participation.
  - Bridget Davis, Grace Barrows, Chris Burmaster, Catherine Meisner
- Safe Sport - This subcommittee would work with the social media subcommittee to disseminate Safe Sport content and also work to increase the amount of Safe Sport recognized teams.
  - Abigeal Gammond, Aiden Bryceland, John Murray III
- Gavin asked the committee for their thoughts on meeting frequency and members agreed that it would be best to have monthly meetings especially with COVID and how everything is changing month to month.
- TJ went over the idea for an athlete leadership summit. USA Swimming and many other LSCs host a day-long event for high school-age athletes to develop their leadership skills. After gauging interest, many members said that this would be something of interest to them or their teams.
- Gavin also mentioned the potential proposal of a bylaws change for the election of athlete representatives. Instead of opening the election to all members 13 & over, only team reps would be eligible to vote, essentially stopping the election from being a popularity contest and allowing for each team to have an equal vote.
- TJ went over the current effort to get back in the pool, specifically the athlete letter asking Governor Murphy to reconsider his pause on swimming. He also mentioned the goal of growing our Instagram following and using it for showing safe swimming in the future.
- Next meeting will be **TBD** via Zoom.
- Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM