**Proposal:** To create the membership category of Provisional Coach.

**Rationale:** Many times, a club may be put in a position that requires a coach to be hired expeditiously in order to continue to offer the sport of swimming to its members. In an ideal world, fully-vetted and trained coaches would be readily available to any and all clubs desiring to hire. This is simply not the case in the real world. For whatever reason, a coach may leave a club with little to no advance notice. Career advancement, career change, life circumstances, a better business opportunity, unforeseen illness, or unexpected death can all leave a swim club without the necessary manpower to continue its operation or to continue its operation at the level necessary to meet the needs of its members. Smaller clubs, which make up the majority of USA Swimming’s club membership, are particularly vulnerable.
 This proposal allows a club to hire an individual who it has identified as a qualified coach, but who does not yet have the myriad of paperwork and/or coursework completed to fully meet USA Swimming’s Coach member requirements. This is not a permanent membership status. The theory behind the Provisional Coach membership is to allow a coach to get on deck with minimal certifications, allow the club to keep functioning for the benefit of its swimmers, and grant the Provisional Coach a 30-day window to bring his training up to par with the full USA Swimming Coach member requirements.
 The minimal requirements are proposed to be: USA Swimming background check, team-initiated background check, USA Swimming provisional coach membership registration (a sub-category of non-athlete membership), and Athlete Protection Training.
 If at the end of the 30-day period an individual has not completed all the USA Swimming Coach member requirements, he/she will remain as a Non-Athlete member, but no longer be allowed to coach on the deck until the Coach member requirements have been met.
 We all know it takes time to complete the Coach member requirements. Unfortunately, time is sometimes not a luxury clubs have when needing to quickly hire a coach. Passage of this proposal is the right thing to do. It keeps teams viable, it keeps our swimmers in the water, and it is a logical response to a real-world scenario.

**By Laws
Article 2 – Membership
2.4 Individual Membership**

1. Non-athlete membership consists of two classes: individual and life. Individual Non-athlete members are designated as Coaches, Provisional Coaches, Junior Coaches, Officials or Other.
2. Each class of membership (except life membership, provisional coach membership, seasonal membership and single-meet open water membership) is for a calendar year period. Individuals applying for calendar year membership on or after September 1 will receive membership valid through December 31 of the following year.
3. A Provisional Coach Membership is for a 30 day period and cannot be renewed. Once the Provisional Coach member successfully completes all requirements for a Coach membership, the Provisional Coach membership will be upgraded to a Coach membership and be valid through the end of the registration year, per the provisions in Article 2.4.6. If at the end of the 30 day Provisional Coach membership period an individual has not yet met the requirements necessary to obtain a Coach membership, that individual will be designated as a Non-Athlete Member-Other.
4. An LSC shall not impose requirements for Individual Membership in addition to those set forth in Article 2, except an LSC may require that persons other than Life Members who register as unattached members must reside within the LSC’s geographical boundaries. An LSC may require proof of birth date prior to competition in age-classified events.

**2.6 Responsibilities and Privileges of Membership**

.1 A Coach or Provisional Coach member of USA Swimming must be at least eighteen (18) years of age. Junior Coach members must be age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17).

. 2 All non-athlete members of USA Swimming must have satisfactorily completed criminal background checks and athlete protection education as required by USA Swimming. The criminal background check requirement is waived for Junior Coach members.

1. All clubs, including seasonal clubs, shall ensure that all athletes and coaches participating in practices and USA Swimming sanctioned competition are members of USA Swimming.
2. All referees, starters, administrative officials, chief judges, and stroke and turn judges must be non-athlete members of USA Swimming.
3. Anyone who coaches swimmers at a USA Swimming practice or competition, must be a Coach member, a Provisional Coach member or Junior Coach member of USA Swimming. ~~and~~ A Coach member or Junior Coach member must have satisfactorily completed safety training, criminal background checks and other coaches’ education as required by USA Swimming. A Provisional Coach member must have successfully completed criminal background checks and athlete protection education as required by USA Swimming. Junior Coach members are not required to complete a criminal background check but are subject to pre-employment screening.