Zone 3 Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 15, 2026
Time: 7:31 PM – 8:27 PM
Location: Zoom

Call to Order

Chair Kevin (WANV) called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM.

Conflict of Interest

The Pacific Swimming Conflict of Interest statement was read; no conflicts were declared.

Attendance

Name	Club/Role
Kevin Twohey	WANV (Chair)
Andrew "Andy" Downs	UN (Vice Chair)
Sonya Shaffer	MCSD (Secretary)
Beau Caldwell	Pacific Swimming
Lehla Irwin	SSS
Sarah Obbagy	Zone 3 Officials
Sophie Waterson	VJO
Aaron Jon Toch	VJO (Age Group)
Victor Wales	TCA
Kian Tavakoli	NVST (Sanctions)
Ashley Deniz	SRN
Hannah Martin	SON
Julius Heilman	SFSL
Martin Plummer	NBA (new senior coach; first Zone 3 meeting)

Bella Stamps	NBA (Zone 3 Athlete Representative)
Charlie Barrett	UD
Sidney Ross	SS (Zone 3 Athlete Representative)
Mehrad Zarrehparvar	SRBY (DDE&I)

Approval of Minutes

July Minutes

Motion: Andrew Downs moved to approve the July minutes with corrections to the spelling of Mike Abegg's name and the REAL meet name. **Second:** Julius Heilman. Motion Passed. The Secretary will correct the minutes.

Correspondence/Announcements

- Lehla Irwin reported on the Pacific Swimming board retreat, which she attended as Zone 3's representative. Zone 3 has about 2,000 swimmers, approximately 14% of Pacific Swimming's roughly 15,000.
- Zone 3 is among the smallest and most geographically dispersed zones. Volunteer shortages and limited club participation leave Zone 3 without a voice at Pacific meetings.
- Ideas raised included a meeting to delegate zone responsibilities, an attendance-based fee, a list of vacant positions with time commitments, and encouraging head coaches to bring staff. No proposal was adopted.
- The Treasurer position had been vacant for some time. Pacific Swimming's Finance Committee sought resolution and might bill Zone 3 separately for services.
- The Zone 3 webpage is outdated.

Guest Speaker

Beau Caldwell – Pacific Swimming

- Presented USA Swimming's flywheel growth model, placing athletes at the center of its approach.
- Reported a July finding that block-party meets have a small effect on total sanctioned splashes.
- Recommended planning for anticipated attendance at meets with assigned locations or priority entry.
- Three-year zone data showed stable Zone 3 membership and increased sanctioned splashes.

- Presented officials-per-team data and a membership heat map by age and achievement level.
- Sarah and Andy flagged inaccuracies in the officials data, including VJO and SFSL appearing with no officials. Beau will re-check the data, and Sarah will send corrections.
- The Secretary will email Beau's report to the board for discussion at the next meeting.

Officer Reports

Chair – Kevin: No report.
Vice Chair – Andrew Downs: No report.
Secretary – Sonya: No report.
Treasurer: The position was vacant; Mehrad Zarrehparvar volunteered to serve (see New Business).

Committee Reports

Officials – Sarah Obbagy

- Compiled and contacted a list of approximately 80 officials who may be available to work; some asked to be removed.
- Reported progress developing officials for higher-level roles, while noting that training takes time and available officials remain limited.
- A liaison meeting is planned. Outreach to parents and an area-based approach to recruiting and supporting stroke-and-turn officials are underway.
- Overlapping meets and block-party schedules challenge staffing; Zone 2 officials have provided assistance.

Sanctions – Kian Tavakoli

- Meets were sanctioned through November, except NVST's early-November meet, submitted to Annie and expected to be sanctioned shortly. Kian will follow up.
- Andy noted that TCA's meet for the following week was not yet sanctioned. Victor reported that Sarah Paoli had resigned from related responsibilities, with no replacement identified; she was still expected to assist at the senior meet the following weekend.
- Teams planning January 2027 meets should ensure everyone listed on the meet announcement is registered for 2027 and in good standing, including Safe Sport and background-check requirements. Background checks may take approximately two weeks.

Age Group – Aaron Toch

- Winter JOs planning is underway, including technical details for using a second tank alongside the Olympic-size pool.

- Summer JOs are being planned as a three-and-a-half-day meet. Aaron invited members to bring questions or items forward.

Senior Committee

- Sean was absent. Beau reported that the committee meeting was moved to Thursday due to the chair's scheduling conflict; meet bids may be awarded there.
- Hosts are being sought for two senior meets in April and one in early June. One bid had been received for the early-April meet, with a possible additional bid for the late-April meet.

Equipment – Kevin

- One reservation was reported: the Piranhas' October meet.

Athlete Representatives

- Bella Stamps and Sidney Ross reported that the representatives' first season meeting was scheduled for September 27. They were planning an in-person summit in October.

DEI – Mehrad Zarrehparvar

- The committee's first meeting of the year was planned for the following week.
- The committee will nominate DEI award recipients and welcomes suggestions for additional work.

Safe Sport

- The chair position is vacant following Debbie's retirement.

Zone Governance / Bylaws Update

- Lehla reported sending the draft bylaws update around May without receiving responses. She will resend it.
- Andy noted limited availability for at least 45 days. The update is needed to meet USA Swimming requirements.

Zone 3 Championship Committee

- The committee consists of Aaron, Lehla, and Kevin.
- Initial meet setup work has begun, including consideration of returning to a preliminaries/finals format. Further information will be brought to a future meeting.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Treasurer Volunteer

Mehrad Zarrehparvar (SRBY) volunteered to serve as Treasurer. Kevin thanked him and will assist with the transition. Treasurer duties include Zone 3 Championship deposits and payments, equipment rental invoices, officials' fines, All-Star payments, financial reporting, and coordination with Pacific Swimming's Finance Committee. Pacific Swimming had sought resolution of the vacancy and might bill Zone 3 separately for services.

Meet Reports

Zone All-Star / Prelims-Finals Meet (Sonoma)

Reported by Lehla Irwin:

- More than 325 swimmers attended. The facility worked well for a meet of that size; Sarah served as meet referee.
- Athletes, coaches, and parents need more preparation for preliminaries/finals procedures, including scratches.
- Volunteers assigned to computer roles should attend, and a technical meeting in advance would clarify responsibilities and reduce last-minute staffing difficulties.
- Printer settings, computer setup, and the scoreboard displaying an incorrect age-group event caused issues.
- Sarah recommended an advance technical meeting with volunteers. Coaches can help educate parents, and VJO offered to train parents from any team on computers and Colorado operations.
- Sarah clarified that she was not assigning blame and was raising the issues to support officials and identify improvements. Lehla noted that her team completed advance checks, the facility configuration differed from prior setups, and she was concerned the discussion sounded like criticism of her team. The Chair closed the discussion.
- Andy noted that volunteer readiness varies at multi-club meets and that coach education helps.

Next Meeting

The next Zone 3 Board Meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2026 at 7:30 PM.

Adjournment

Motion: Andrew Downs moved to adjourn. Motion Passed; the meeting adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Submitted by: Sonya Shaffer