

## **2021 Eastern Zone Fall Business Meeting, Sept 19, 2021**

### **Athlete's Report**

Submitted by Gavin Formon and Aaron Zhu

Coming off 2020-21 with many unique challenges and many typical athlete representative opportunities made virtual, we are excited and look forward to working with our 2021-22 EZ LSC Athlete Reps as we begin planning for the next chapter in athlete representation in the USA Swimming Governance Structure.

#### **Communications with EZ LSC Athlete Reps**

Especially over the course of the pandemic, EZ Athlete Reps have been focused on keeping our LSC Athlete Reps engaged and communicating information pertaining to athlete rep matters, especially in the absence of in-person zone meetings and conventions. Meetings were held at least bi-monthly throughout the beginning of the 2020-21 year, discussing the status of swimming in LSCs and how we could best support them as well as collecting athlete input as we planned for EZ Championship Meets.

#### **Zone Director's Council (ZDC) and Zone Athlete Reps Council (ZARC)**

Zone Athlete Directors and Zone Junior Athlete Reps were officially included in the Zone Director's Council for the first time this year, working alongside the Zone Coach and Non-Coach Directors. ZARC worked together to find a functional role in the USA Swimming Governance structure, serving as a bridge between the grassroots and national levels of swimming especially for athletes but also the entire Zone. ZARC also collaborated heavily as a subgroup of the USA Swimming Athletes' Executive Committee (AEC) assisting in designing athlete programming and education resources, especially pertaining to legislation.

#### **USA Swimming USOPC Compliance Legislation**

Especially with the legislation pertaining to the USA Swimming HOD, more work has been done in educating athletes on the proposals and encouraging them to voice their opinions to the working groups, collaborating with ZARC and AEC to do so. Pending the current HOD Working Group proposal passing, ZARC has also been discussing plans to formalize the selection of LSC Athlete Reps as delegates for the Annual Business Meeting for future years. Regardless, Zone Reps will be looking for ways to get grassroots athletes more involved in the higher levels of governance in USA Swimming.

#### **Eastern Zone LSC Athlete Reps Workshop**

EZ Reps are planning on having a workshop for it's LSC Athlete Reps to further build and mentor on leadership skills pertaining to athlete governance. Other Zones have typically done this in the past for their LSC Athlete Reps and we would like to start doing the same. We are looking to have one potentially in the Spring of 2022.

#### **Zone Junior Rep Athlete Elections**

As the Zone Junior Athlete Rep position is a one year term, we will be conducting elections for the EZ Junior Athlete Rep for the 2021-22 year. The election will be held September 19 at 5pm EST just prior to the EZ Fall Business Meeting, results to come.

### **Social Media and Weebly Site**

As a reminder, EZ Athlete Reps have created both an instagram account and Weebly site to share happenings around the Eastern Zone. We encourage all to follow the instagram (@ezathletes) and check out the Weebly site which is updated periodically with new resources and information for EZ LSC Athlete Reps (<https://ezathletes.weebly.com>).

We'd like to especially thank our 2020-21 Eastern Zone LSC Athlete Reps for all their contributions during a tough year. We'd also like to thank Tim, Jerry, Tristan, Nadine, and all the LSCs in the Eastern Zone for their strong support of athlete representation in the governance structure. We look forward to continue working with you all in 2021-22!