

High Performance Committee
1.9.2026 Report of Discussions and Developments

Attendance Wyatt Allen
Will Daly
Yaz Farooq
Nick Mead
Meghan Musnicki
Catherine Starr
Josy Verdonkschot
Stephen Hap Whelpley (Chair)

Agenda Welcoming of New Committee Members
Review of HPC Charter and Responsibilities
Approval of 2026 Q1 DAS and EAHI
Approval of 2026 U23 Selection Procedures
Discussion of 2026 U19 Selection Procedures Comments & Feedback
Approval of 2026 U19 Selection Procedures
Discussion of Selection Camp Representative

The meeting was called to order at 11:02AM.

Welcoming of New Committee Members

Chairman Stephen Hap Whelpley began the meeting by welcoming Nick Mead and Meghan Musnicki to the High Performance Committee as athlete representatives. The two of them having recently retired after being 2024 Olympians offer a necessary perspective to the committee. With that, Josy mentioned that Meghan may still entertain more competitive rowing.

Review of HPC Charter and Responsibilities

As part of the onboarding process, Hap circulated the current HPC Charter and shared that the function and structure of the HPC changed in 2022. Meghan has previously served on the HPC prior to 2022. Josy noted that the shift in the charter moves the HPC to more of a front-end discussion position rather than a back-end decision position. That being said, the HPC has several explicit decision-based duties: the employment of the CHPO, the allocation of DAS, the hiring of certain National Team coaches, and the approval of selection procedures.

The HPC and Josy discussed how the HPC could improve its structure and utilization. One suggestion is to introduce a regular meeting schedule that revolves around the timing of certain events. This type of calendar would ensure that relevant topics were discussed with enough runway. All felt that this would be a good idea in addition to any necessary ad hoc meetings.

Approval of 2026 Q1 DAS and EAH

Josy relayed that the USOPC changed some of its policies around Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI). While we made progress last quadrennial to have EAHI coverage run until the end of a calendar year for any athlete awarded it, the rules have changed in terms of how many and when an athlete can be awarded EAHI. The eligibility is still for 12 months, but you must be a part of Team USA to receive it. The USOPC has clarified that Non-Olympic events cannot be considered part of Team USA, but a spare can be. This means you must be named to the World Championship team in order to receive EAHI, which happens at its own timing relative to the calendar year. Additionally, the USOPC is capping the rowing delegation at 48 spots.

As mentioned in previous minutes, this means USRowing will have to do a careful allocation of its EAHI spots each year and will have to take care to have clear communication with athletes in order to best support them.

Also as mentioned in the previous minutes, there was one athlete exception to DAS allocations from the Women's 8+. An athlete petition was supported based on results outside of the World Championships. This drove a conversation about the need to include World Cup performances in DAS consideration for the future. World Cups would not qualify you for DAS, but they could determine what level of DAS you receive. [Here](#) is the current Direct Athlete Support criteria. Josy noted that athletes should not be penalized for the final selection decisions if their performance is at the level of international performance.

The HPC continued to have a discussion around the equal support of all boat classes. The aim is to have all qualified Olympic boats receive equal support in the Olympic year.

Approval of 2026 U23 Selection Procedures

No comments were directly received on the U23 selection procedures from the community. Some comments were received on the U19 selection procedures. The HPC discussed the difference in demographics and how that might affect feedback from each.

On both the U23 and U19 level, the biggest shift is moving the 2x into the camp as a selected boat. There were varying opinions across the HPC on this topic. Josy noted that if someone has a valid project and presents that to USRowing, it could be incorporated and considered at the start of a selection camp. HPC members noted that while it may not affect collegiate participation, it could affect club rowing in terms of projects, endeavors, funding, and future participation.

The HPC noted that a formal means of communication would need to exist around small boat projects in addition to a structure of testing those projects. In the Netherlands, Josy said that people who had a project needed to present a plan and meet a time standard.

Nick Mead had to drop off the call at 12:04PM due to another commitment.

Josy noted that there are rising costs around the U23 camps as we try to have the athletes live together.

Discussion of Selection Camp Representative

The HPC discussed having a Selection Panel representative for the Selection Camp 1. Josy noted that the representative does not need to be present for all of camp, but at least a portion of it.

Meghan Musnicki had to drop off the call at 12:13PM due to another commitment.

Discussion of 2026 U19 Selection Procedures Comments & Feedback

Catherine began the discussion around U19 Selection Procedures as the representative to the U19 community. Catherine got an update from Pathways on the stakeholder meeting. She informed the HPC that the stakeholder meeting said that the single and pair needed separate trials from youth nationals. The stakeholder group also discussed whether the double should return to trials in the future.

With Catherine, the HPC is looking for a better way to connect with a larger group of junior coaches in order to hear people out and explain procedures. The HPC also discussed how the stakeholder group was assembled and if it had complete enough representation.

Approval of 2026 U19 Selection Procedures

The HPC approved the selection procedures with an eye towards improving communication and making sure to evaluate the effectiveness of this year's process.

The meeting adjourned at 12:41PM.