



High Performance Committee 11.2.2025 Report of Discussions and Developments

Attendance Wyatt Allen
Will Daly
Yaz Farooq
Catherine Starr
Genevra Stone
Josy Verdonkschot
Stephen Hap Whelpley (Chair)

Agenda Approval of Previous Minutes
Discussion of 2026 Senior Selection Procedures

The meeting was called to order at 1:04PM. At the start of the meeting, Yaz Farooq, Genevra Stone, Stephen Hap Whelpley, Wyatt Allen, Will Daly, and Josy Verdonkschot were in attendance.

Approval of Previous Minutes

Chairman Stephen Hap Whelpley began the meeting by confirming no comments on the minutes from previous meetings. He also acknowledged that the High Performance Committee (HPC) will work to improve the timeliness of this process.

Discussion of 2026 Senior Selection Procedures

Coming off of the “town hall” meeting, the HPC had some pointed areas for discussion on the Selection Procedures.

To begin, the HPC discussed comments around the placement of lightweight selection. The HPC received several comments requesting to move the lightweight trials to the National Selection Regatta in May. This would allow athletes a longer time for Worlds preparations as well as the opportunity to attend World Cups. For the LW1x, LM1x, LW2x, and LM2x, the May regatta would function as a Trials from which the winners would receive berths for the World Championships so long as they met the CST. The HPC discussed that this will prohibit the participation of college athletes, but still felt it was the appropriate decision.

In the comments, there were several questions around the training camp prior to Selection Camp 1. While it was originally constructed as an exclusive training camp for residential Training Center athletes, the HPC and Josy discussed the scope and intent of this camp. Originally, the point of the camp was to ensure all Training Center athletes got on the water who were based in Princeton and Boston. After the discussion, the HPC and Josy agreed on the following criteria for camp attendance:

- Open to training center athletes
- Open to qualified athletes that do not have a training location for an approved reason

- Open to athletes invited to Selection Camp 1 that train for another club, but would like to be part of this training camp

Josy clarified to the HPC that Selection Camp 1 athletes are not necessarily on the team. While athletes nominated to the World Cups were sometimes named to the World Championship team in the last quadrennial, it is not the intention for this year. That being said, strong performances at a World Cup could demonstrate that certain athletes are essential components to the World Championship team. The HPC and Josy agreed that communication prior to and during Selection Camp 2 will be essential to this going well. Josy explained that committing prior to World Cup performances this early in a quadrennial would not provide enough information and data to support a decision. The document shared prior to Selection Camp 2 would specify any preselected athletes and clarify the remaining selection.

After members of the HPC remarked on the reduced pool of athletes attending the World Cup, Josy clarified that the development has already begun for this quadrennial and additional side projects for development will continue to occur. Josy noted that one such opportunity will exist by athletes outside of Selection Camp 1 petitioning for a World Cup start. The HPC noted that this process needed to be formalized. While athletes from Selection Camp 1 may have double entries, Josy noted that: at World Cup I, a nation can enter 4 boats per event; at World Cup II, a nation can enter 2 boats per event; and at World Cup III, a nation can also enter 2 boats per event.

The HPC discussed that one challenge to this year's plan is that athletes not selected at Selection Camp 1 will have periods of time without coaching as staff travels with selected athletes to altitude and Europe for the World Cups. Josy and the HPC discussed various possibilities, but also acknowledged that there are some pinchpoints and challenges as a new national team system evolves. The National Team must continue to grow its training centers, identify top athletes, and work to improve its systems for retention and development.

To conclude the meeting, Josy noted he will work to communicate with National Team staff and club coaches about the accessibility of the camp prior to Selection Camp 1.

The meeting adjourned at 1:34PM.