

High Performance Committee
12.6.2025 Report of Discussions and Developments

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

Agenda Review of Previous Minutes
Update on Current HPC Athlete Candidate Process
Review of Comments around 2026 Beach Sprints Procedures
Check Status of 2026 U19 and U23 Selection Procedures
Discuss Recent DAS Stipend Changes
Summary of Current Camp and Preview of Upcoming Camp

The meeting was called to order at 6:04PM. At the start of the meeting, Yaz Farooq, Genevra Stone, Stephen Hap Whelpley, Will Daly, Catherine Starr, and Josy Verdonkschot were in attendance.

Review of Previous Minutes

Chairman Stephen Hap Whelpley began the meeting by confirming no comments on the minutes from previous meetings. There were no comments.

Update on Current HPC Athlete Candidate Process

Josy and the High Performance Committee (HPC) discussed potential candidates for the next athlete representatives on the HPC as Gevvie Stone and Liam Corrigan would both complete their terms this year. The committee revisited the nomination and selection process, which happens entirely outside of the HPC. At the same time, everyone appreciated the efforts and insights of both Gevvie and Liam during their tenures.

Review of Comments around 2026 Beach Sprints Procedures

Josy explained to the HPC why trials is not the ideal selection process for the Olympic boat classes in Beach Sprints. The structure and format of the Olympics will ultimately make trials an impossibility. For the Olympics, there will be only two athletes across three events. There will be a men's single and a women's single that will combine to form a double. Furthermore, the athletes will potentially race upwards of 12 times in a few days. As a result, in the Olympic year, the process is no longer selecting a boat. The process must select a team. Josy also noted that we need to start refining this process before the Olympic year to ensure its success.

The Beach Sprints comments were critical of the selection requirements for Olympic boat class selection. Specifically, some wanted a specification for the running surface for time trials. Comments suggested that the surface should be similar to competition locations. However, these surfaces vary from venue to venue and from

day to day. The goal of the time trial is to provide a demonstration of relevant running speed rather than absolute assessment. Additionally, there were several comments debating the necessity of erg submissions. However, the erg submissions are not to assess the exact abilities, but to establish the necessary physiological capacity to compete at the highest level across the Olympic programming. All the requirements for Olympic boat class consideration are necessary at the professional level required by Olympic competition.

Many of the questions and comments stemmed from a confusion between International and Olympic Events. International events like the quad are still decided by trials. The physiological requirements of erg tests and running time trials are only for Olympic Events. The HPC suggested cleaner language and distinction between International Events and Olympic Events.

Check status of 2026 U19 and U23 Selection Procedures

The HPC inquired as to the status of both the U19 and U23 Selection Procedures. Both were being handled by US Rowing Pathways. Josy noted that the HPC still needs to get included in the process similar to its involvement with senior selection procedures.

Josy updated that the U23 selection procedures received no comments.

Meanwhile, the U19 procedures had extensive discussion that drove Pathways to create a stakeholder group. Catherine Starr asked to be more engaged with this process as the HPC U19 Representation. The stakeholder discussion would predominantly discuss whether the selection of the double and the timing of trials relative to other U19 events.

Discuss Recent DAS Stipend Changes

Josy informed the HPC of changes to the USOPC health insurance. While he made significant progress in the last quadrennial with the USOPC's support of athletes through health insurance, the USOPC has changed its policy across all sports. To summarize the USOPC's changes to Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI):

- Only athletes currently on a National Team can receive EAHI
- Olympians are eligible to receive EAHI for 24 months after the Olympics if they are continuing to train or exempted for a cleared reason
- If an athlete is offered EAHI and declines it, the insurance cannot be offered or allocated to another athlete
- USRowing is awarded 48 spots for EAHI based upon the number of athletes qualified for the 2024 Olympics and the emergence of Beach Sprints as a new Olympic event

Fortunately, athletes receiving EAHI will still keep it for the duration of the calendar year in which it is awarded. Nonetheless, Josy stressed that these changes will require a careful allocation of the resource.

The HPC agreed with keeping all athletes in an Olympic event at the 2025 World Championships or 2025 Beach Sprints World Championships on stipend. Additionally, a group of Olympians planning to return in 2026 will continue their training stipends. This made the total of people receiving stipends 51 with a few Olympians not continuing or not making the 2025 team.

Josy presented one request from an athlete to receive a higher stipend. Josy and coaches were ok with this promotion based on the athlete's performances outside of the World Championships in 2025. The HPC endorsed the decision as well while stressing the importance of emphasizing the written criteria for stipends.

Summary of Current Camp and Preview of Upcoming Camp

At this point, Josy and the HPC discussed the start of the 2025-2026 year and the general outlook.

Josy shared that the initial altitude trip went very well. The camp had a significantly younger and newer population that learned a lot from the experience. He and the HPC noted that this early season developmental camp in November or December would be a good ongoing occurrence.

In terms of the coming year's selection, Josy noted that some invitations for Selection Camp 1 were already established by the World Championship results. All medalists from the World Championships would gain invitations to the first selection camp. Erg scores were still required from these athletes. The rest of the invitations would be determined by erg scores, 2025 season, and Fall Speed Order.

The HPC discussed the new structure to the Selection Panel for this year and that they needed to choose a representative for Selection Camp 1.

Josy concluded the meeting with a thank you to Gevvie for her service.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14PM.