High Performance Committee Minutes
6.22.2023

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

Agenda
Review of World Cup 2
General Discussion of Selection Camp 2
Possible Staff for Selection Camp 2

The meeting was called to order at 12:00PM EST.

Review of World Cup 2

Chair Stephen Hap Whelpley called the meeting to order with the High Performance Committee (HPC), and then Chief High Performance Officer (CHPO) Josy Verdonkschot provided an in depth recap of the US performance at World Cup 2 (WC2).

The top finishing W2- did well throughout racing, met the qualification standard as an NSR winner, and will accept the bid to be the W2- at the World Championships.

The W4- selected at Selection Camp 1 did very well in racing, but the lineup is not finalized. A final consideration and assessment will happen early on at Selection Camp 2.

On the openweight women's sculling front, the top finishing W2x demonstrated consistent and competitive speed through the training camp and the World Cup. At the same time, the W4x did not yield the speed necessary to prioritize that boat.

Both LW2x had solid performances, and this will factor into final considerations at Selection Camp 2. Meanwhile, the LM2x did not have the speed to qualify the boat at the World Championships. As such, new pairings will be made of the LM2x to see if there is a faster combination out of the four athletes.

Like the W2-, the M2x and W1x from NSR qualified and demonstrated enough speed to finish in a qualifying position. They will accept their bids as the men's double and women's single. In contrast, the M1x from NSR did not achieve a qualifying position and likely does not have enough speed to qualify for the Olympics at the World Championships. This boat class will go to trials.

Finally, like the W4-, the selected M4- performed well and demonstrated the ability to be competitive in the field. The lineup will also need some final verification at the start of Selection Camp 2.

The CHPO and HPC proceeded to discuss the outcomes and how they might have implications and directions for the next selection camp.

General Discussion of Selection Camp 2

Moving on from race results, the CHPO and HPC looked at how to approach Selection Camp 2 in a systematic way.

For women's sweep, the priority emphasis was now to build an 8+. The four needed one more evaluation, but really would not interfere with the selection of the 8+ as [there were no other obvious choices. The two pre-selected women who also raced the pair at WC2 would be in the boat with a relatively wide net of camp participants including those invited last year as well as new college graduates.

The performances of the doubles and quad at WC2 shifted the focus for women's sculling. With the same lineup as last year's World Championships proving their speed at WC2, it made a clear point that this lineup should be prioritized. They would have to qualify through trials, but the successful domestic outcome seems likely with any faster crew being of similar promise at the World Championships as well. The other two athletes from the quad will have seats in a quad to be selected at Selection Camp 2. The invitees for this selection will consist of those involved in the quad last year with a couple new additions. Those participants will go through a doubles matrix to determine the last two seats.

With regards to the lightweight women, the World Cup and preceding camps point towards three athletes: Michelle Sechser, Molly Reckford, and Mary Jones. Michelle has consistently proven herself to be the fastest of the three throughout the year, so they will practice the two different combinations that include Michelle. At the end of Selection Camp 2, they will have a direct switch to select the boat.

The lightweight men all conceded that neither combination had the speed to qualify based on the WC2 results. As such, two new combinations will practice independently for several weeks and then convene at the end of selection camp to have an internal race off between the two lineups. The winning boat will represent the United States at the World Championship.

On the rest of the men's side, there will likely be a consecutive selection with the M4- being finalized first. There are two additional athletes who participated in Selection Camp 1 that need one further look in the prioritized boat. After that, the remainder will join a group for eights selection. All male athletes invited to camp that are not in the four will participate in eights selection with the exception of two scullers. As athletes are eliminated from the eight, they may have the opportunity to join selection for the men's quad. The only late addition to the men's selection camp would be a coxswain from Cal, Luka Vieira, who had expressed interest, but missed early communication.

Possible Staff for Selection Camp 2

With women's sweep selection being simplified, Jesse Foglia can focus on W8+ selection. Isabelle Jacobs will oversee the LW2x selection as Bill Manning moderates the LM2x race off. Bill will also assist Kris Korzeniowski with the M4x selection. Meanwhile, Casey Galvanek will finish up the M4- selection, and Steve Gladstone will work with his assistant Henri LaLiberte to complete the M8+ selection.

There being no other business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:05PM EST.