AQUATIC SPORTS ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA

Minutes of Annual General Meeting
December 4, 2025
National Aquatic Centre, Kingston, Jamaica
6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by President, Mr. Lance Rochester, who welcomed and thanked all the members present.

2. Apologies

Mr. Malden Miller tendered apologies for the representatives from Aquamarine Swim Club.

There were no other apologies tendered.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes for the 2024 Annual General Meeting

There were no amendments to the minutes. The minutes were confirmed on a motion by Mr. Malden Miller and seconded by the Rory Alvaranga.

4. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

5. President's Report

<u>Strategic Overview</u>

Key Points

- Presented overview of ASAJ strategic direction.
- Explained need to modernize and streamline operations.
- Introduced four-year strategic plan.

Strategic Pillars Discussed

1. Expansion
2. High Performance
3. Operational Effectiveness

Community & Expansion Initiatives

Learn-to-Swim Programmes

- Community learn-to-swim initiative active at facility.
- Programme targets neighbouring communities.
- Volunteer initiatives expanded to include families.

Outreach Efforts

- Engagement with islandwide learn-to-swim organizations.
- Mentioned collaboration attempts with Swim Jamaica.
- Discussions held with G.C. Foster regarding aquatic facilities.
- Montego Bay development discussions ongoing.

Infrastructure Development

- Sea pool concept remains under consideration.
- Project plans and costings prepared.
- Government and tourism sector interest expressed.

High Performance Report

Performance Gap Analysis

- Identified need for scientific assessment of Jamaica's aquatics performance.
- Five performance pillars identified:
    1. Participation pipeline
    2. Coaching
    3. Performance capability
    4. Competition exposure
    5. Support systems

Coaching Development

- Coaches clinics facilitated.
- Increased communication regarding regional coaching opportunities.
- Emphasis placed on education and sports science.

Athlete and Coaches Development

- Alia Atkinson hosted a performance coaching session.
- Financial planning for coaches and athlete support sessions held.

High Performance Facility

- Partnership discussions with local gym operator.
- Plans for athlete training and fitness space.

Athlete Committee

- Athlete Committee formally established.
- Rachel Minto-Walker acknowledged as committee chair.
- Committee intended to improve athlete representation and communication.

Governance & Operations

Internal Reviews

- Administrative, operational, and financial reviews conducted.
- Job descriptions and committee terms of reference prepared for some roles.
- Financial observations noted requiring corrective measures.

Operational Improvements

- Cashless gate/payment system being developed.
- Communication systems and stakeholder updates improved.

Constitution Reform

- Consultation process initiated.
- Feedback requested from clubs and stakeholders.
- Governance committee was to receive submissions.

Fundraising & Partnerships

- Fundraising Committee reactivated.
- Corporate partnership strategies developed.
- Advertising opportunities at National Aquatic Centre explored.
- Revenue generation targeted for facility improvements.

Discipline Updates

Diving

- Sustainable local diving program now active.

- Over 20 participants were involved in Yona Knight-Wisdom's camp.
- Yona Knight-Wisdom and Anastasia Chin acknowledged for coaching support.
- International representation achieved.

Open Water Swimming

- Competition criteria ratified.
- Increased collaboration with triathlon organizations planned.

Masters Swimming

- Masters swimming participation increasing.
- More clubs now offering masters programs.
- Corporate opportunities identified.

Water Polo

- Water polo remains active despite challenges.
- School competitions and development efforts ongoing.
- Coach Adrian Sanchez acknowledged.

6. Treasurer's Report

In the absence of the Treasurer, the report was presented by the Secretary, Florence Grizzle-Williams. She asked that members review the documents which had been circulated and indicated that members forward any queries. Additionally, she indicated that she had two main highlights. The first was that the ASAJ took advantage of a tax amnesty and is now tax compliant, having paid off the taxes owing for the past several years. The total amount paid was $4.6 million. Secondly, Mrs. Grizzle-Williams reported that the audited financials for the past two years were completed in one year.

An attendee suggested that the financials should be made publicly available in the interest of transparency. This could include posting on the ASAJ's website.

7. Reports from Disciplines

(a) Swimming – Presented by the former VP of Swimming, Dr. Hilary Brown-Nixon

<u>Local Competitions</u>

Dr. Brown-Nixon outlined the various local competitions including the number of entrants and the format of the competitions.

Regional Competitions

Dr. Brown-Nixon gave an overview of the regional competitions including the swimmers and management teams that represented Jamaica

Key Highlights

- CARIFTA Swimming Championships (April 17 – 24, 2025 in Trinidad and Tobago)
    - The team placed second with 795.5 points and secured 56 medals including 21 Gold, 19 Silver and 16 Bronze
    - The team broke 12 National Age Group/CARIFTA records
    - Skyelar Richards and Noland Barrett were awarded trophies for the highest World Aquatics points and high point in their age group.
- Goodwill Swimming Championships (August 15-17, 2025 in Barbados)
    - The team placed second with 1230 points and secured 101 medals including 48 Gold, 26 Silver and 27 Bronze
    - The team broke 12 meet records and 35 National Age Group records
    - Notable performances came from Dominick Whitelock (8 & under boy), Anna-Lyssa Cooke (11-12 girl) and Renae Chung (15-17 girl) who won the high point trophies in their respective age groups
- Jnr PanAm Championships (August 9 – 21, 2025 in Paraguay)
    - The team won 3 silver and 5 bronze medals
    - Sabrina Lyn won silver in the 100m breaststroke
    - Colin McKenzie won bronze in the 100m breaststroke in a national record time of 1:01.53
    - The team placed 11th overall

International Competitions

- World Juniors Swimming Championships (August 19-24, 2025 in Romania)
    - Many personal bests were achieved
- World Swimming Championships (Singapore)

ASCA Coaching Certification

There were 44 participants who obtained certification in Levels 1, 2 and 3

ASAJ Awards Ceremony

Held March 1, 2026 at the Terra Nova All Suite Hotel at 5:00 p.m.
Event generated approximately J$1 million profit.

Other Achievements & Challenges

- Other Achievements
    - Improved funding for National Teams with fund raising efforts by some parents
    - Increased Social Media Presence for Competitive Swimming
    - Coach development
    - Ongoing National Squad Development
- Challenges
    - Lack of volunteers for execution of ASAJ tasks and projects including the key portfolio of fundraising
    - Resistance to change in ”swimming culture” and receptiveness to “try new things”

Athlete Development

- National Squad Training started
- Lead Coaches (Wendy Lee, Gillian Milwood, Kafia Rapley)
- Admin (Annelies Denny)
- Asst Coaches who volunteered (Alex Beckford, Sage Sinclair, Lemone Lowe, David Bromfield, Annelies Denny)
- Friday evenings (All Squad Members)
- Monday Mornings (15 & overs)
- Program now on hold due to nonalignment of methodology between council and senior squad coaches re proposed Athlete Code of Conduct (plans for internal dialogue and review at January 2026 Council meeting)

Scholarships & Athlete Development

- Leanna Wainwright acknowledged as a scholarship recipient studying in Hungary.
- National squad program ongoing.

Challenges

- Need for more volunteers emphasized.

(b) Artistic Swimming Report

Participation Growth

- Artistic swimming participation increased to 74 athletes.
- 19 new athletes added.
- Adult category introduced.

Competitions

- Jamaica earned 43 gold medals at Coral Springs.
- Jamaica won High Point Trophy.
- Athletes participated internationally.

Technical Development

- Technical committee re-established.
- Judge certification expanded.
- Joint club training implemented.

Summer Camp Initiatives

- Ballet, gymnastics, choreography, nutrition, and strength training integrated.

Challenges

- Hurricane impacts affected pool access.
- Limited facilities remain a challenge.
- Need for more officials and coaches highlighted.

Future Plans

- Outreach expansion outside Kingston.
- Planned participation in CARIFTA and Pan Am events.
- Continued governance improvements.

8. Elections & Governance Proceedings

- The administration was dissolved
- Delegates list reviewed by the Director of Elections, Mr. Christopher Samuda and the voting roll call was read by Mrs. Florence Grizzle-Williams

- Election procedures were explained to all those present by Mr. Samuda
- A challenge to the voters list was presented where there were two parties claiming authority over the Blue Fin Swim Club. After hearing presentations from those present, The Director of Elections determined that Sasha Jones would be treated as the authorised representative.
- Voting process conducted publicly.

Election Outcome

- Lance Rochester elected President.
    - Final tally:
        - Rochester: 34 votes
        - Nixon: 25 votes
- Kristina Chuck-Smith elected Treasurer
    - Florence Grizzle-Williams withdrew her nomination
- Carolene Brown-Thomas elected as Vice President for Artistic Swimming as the sole candidate
- Thea-Nicole Davis elected as Vice President for Swimming as the sole candidate
- Alrick Brown elected as Vice President for Water Polo as the sole candidate
- Euvine Hall elected as Secretary as the sole candidate
- Florence Grizzle-Williams elected as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer as the sole candidate

9. Any Other Business

No further matters were raised.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Prepared by:

E Hall
Euvine Hall
Honorary Secretary (incoming)

Approved by:



Mr. Lance Rochester
President/Chair