



USA Racquetball Board of Directors Meeting – MINUTES

Monday, October 7, 2024, 7:30 pm ET

Via Zoom

Welcome/Call to Order -- 7:33 pm ET -- Stewart Solomon

(A quorum was achieved; advance notice was given of the meeting)

Roll Call – Cheryl Kirk

	Roll Call
Stewart Solomon (President)	x
Tony Prater (Vice President)	x
Cheryl Kirk (Secretary)	x
Sandy Rios (Treasurer)	x
Jake Bredenbeck (Athlete Rep)	x
Ro-el Cordero	x
Steve Czarnecki	x
Tom Fuhrmann (Athlete Rep)	x
Erika Manilla (Athlete Rep)	X 8:21 pm
Janel Tisinger-Ledkins (Athlete Rep)	x
Slemo Warigon	x
Kristin Wattz	x
Mike Grisz (Executive Director/ex officio)	x
Michelle Key (Athlete Rep, Team USA AC Alternate/ex officio)	X COI Trng. only

Karen Grisz and Jonathan Greenberg attended the USOPC Conflicts of Interest Training Session.

Approval of Minutes – Cheryl Kirk

Minutes in draft were received by the Board in advance of the meeting

Motion by Sandy Rios to approve the USAR Racquetball Board of Directors meeting minutes of September 9, 2024

Seconded by Kristin Wattz

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

Conflicts of Interest Review/Reminder – Cheryl Kirk

****Directors were reminded to abstain/recuse themselves on topics that are a conflict of interest.**

Each Board member has the duty to adhere to the USA Racquetball Conflict of Interest Policy as an Affiliated Person.

USOPC Conflicts of Interest Training – 7:45 pm ET

Holly Shick, USOPC Chief Ethics & Compliance Officer / Heidi Roche, USOPC Sr. Compliance Investigator

Post-Meeting Action Item: Cheryl Kirk to send Conflicts of Interest Resource Guide to the BOD; Tony Prater to send the Guide to committee chairs.

Karen Grisz, Jonathan Greenberg, and Michelle Key exited the call after the conclusion of the Conflicts of Interest training session.

Executive Director Update – Mike Grisz

Mike provided information on the following:

- USOPC Audit in process (see Legislative Committee report below for specifics)
- A recent social media post regarding a potential US OPEN in 2026 (the Board has yet to weigh in and consequently no decisions have been made nor are there any agreements in place at present).

Executive Committee Update – Stewart Solomon

No actions were taken by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Board between the 9/9/24 and 10/7/24 Board of Directors meetings.

DE&I Action Plan Draft for Board Approval – Kristin Wattz

This draft document was received by the Board as a pre-read in advance of the meeting.

Kristin gave a high level overview of the relevance of the DE&I action plan and recognized Karen Grisz for her work.

A full day of training on this topic will take place on November 12 in Colorado Springs. Kristin Wattz will attend in person. Mike Grisz and Karen Grisz will participate by Zoom. This meeting will be available to attend on Zoom; Kristin will provide information for any Board members who wish to attend.

Motion by Cheryl Kirk to approve and submit the final draft of the DE&I Action Plan (2025-2028) to the USOPC on or before the deadline of November 15, 2024.

Seconded by Tony Prater

Discussion surrounded the intentions of the Board and Association to support the action plan objectives as presented. It was expressed that the timeline to realize some of the specific objectives may be more realistically attainable in 2026. A Board member/State director commented on the value of creating awareness on the State level. The Board recognized that Racquetball is already diverse by many definitions.

Vote: Passed

U.S. Team Fundraising Report – Kristin Wattz

- Kristin announced the launch of a \$50k initiative to raise funds up to and including Giving Tuesday (12/2/24) to support the Adult and Junior Teams in international competition, including funding a coaching staff for Team USA at World Juniors and sending Team USA adult athletes to The World Games in Chengdu, China, in August 2025.
- Give Direct will be the primary vehicle.
- Materials are being developed to encourage participation on the grassroots level and the initiative will be socialized to USA Racquetball members via Constant Contact, social media, and communication with state association leadership.
- Mike Grisz challenged each Board member to solicit \$2,500 of contributions via personal and business contacts with members and state associations.

Tewdilly (Jared Harding) Meeting Recap – Mike Grisz

Content Strategy and Growth Proposal – Board Discussion and Consideration, Part II

A session prior to this Board meeting took place with Jared Harding. Attending were Tom Fuhrmann, Steve Czarnecki, Kristin Wattz, and Ro-el Cordero.

Mike shared the details of a recommended standard agreement to commence October 15. Board members who attended the meeting offered positive feedback and endorsement.

Motion by Tom Fuhrmann to approve the recommended initial funding to engage Tewdilly (Jared Harding) for the purpose of generating revenue for USA Racquetball.

Seconded by Kristin Wattz

Discussion surrounding potential membership structure revisions in conjunction with this decision, to be proposed by the Membership Committee at the next Board of Directors meeting.

Vote: Passed

Committee Updates

Finance Committee – Sandy Rios

The committee is focused on creating the 2025 budget and will present it to the Board for approval in November. Present cash flow challenges will be alleviated upon receipt of some monies owed.

Slemo Warigon and Ro-el Cordero exited the call.

U.S. Team Committee – Cheryl Kirk

Assistant Junior Coach Approval – A sixth coach, previously approved, is no longer available as an assistant coach for the IRF World Juniors in Guatemala City (December). The committee recommends that Pablo Fajre join the official delegation coaching roster.

Motion by Jake Bredenbeck to approve the U.S. Team Committee’s recommendation that U.S. Team Head Coach Pablo Fajre fill the vacant coaching staff position for the IRF World Junior Championships.

Seconded by Sandy Rios

Discussion: questions surrounding Pablo’s multiple responsibilities at the tournament. Additional resources will be funded privately to ensure all areas will be covered satisfactorily.

Vote: Passed

On behalf of the Committee, Cheryl also offered:

- An update on the U.S. Team Committee’s focus on The World Games (TWG) selection criteria for Chengdu (August 2025)
- Team player vs. team player coaching approach (U.S. Adult and Junior Team Handbook revisions next spring)
- IRF World Junior Championships preparation for the U.S. Junior Team athletes and delegation (December 4-15, Guatemala City).

Legislative Committee – Tony Prater/Cheryl Kirk

A Committee Restructure draft proposal was received by the Board as a pre-read in advance of the meeting.

Motion by Sandy Rios to direct the Legislative Committee to draft a Board notification and related materials for amendments to the USA Racquetball Bylaws to reflect the recommended revisions in the Committee Restructure Proposal presented to the Board on October 7, 2024.

Seconded by Steve Czarnecki

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

Other topics covered:

- An Athlete Election for Team USA AC Representative and Alternate is in process with 10-year athlete statements of interest due by 10/29/24 to Election Chair Tony Prater.
- USOPC Audit Update -- 50% of 30 tasks have been submitted. Cheryl Kirk and Mike Grisz attended a positive and informative meeting on 10/2/24 with the USOPC auditor.

Next Meetings: 10/28/24 (strategic retreat); 11/18/24

Motion to Adjourn – Sandy Rios

Seconded by Tony Prater

Adjourned 10:12 pm ET

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