

## USA Taekwondo Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

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July 21, 2026  
2:00 p.m. ET

### Attendance:

P = Present; L = Late Attendance; A = Absent

|   |                                                                  |   |                                            |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------------|
| P | Carol Lewis, Chair & Independent Director                        | P | Ron Southwick, Vice Chair & Coach Director |
| P | John Holloway, Referee Director                                  | P | Alex Lee, AAC Rep                          |
| A | Bongseok Kim, Board Secretary & Affiliated Organization Director | P | Ara White, AAC Chair                       |
| P | David Turgeon, AAC Athlete Rep                                   | A | Daniel Chun, Independent                   |
| P | Claudette Groenendaal, Independent                               | P | Kathy Do, AAC Rep                          |
| P | Tom Nwachuku, Independent                                        | P | Stephanie Alger, Independent               |
| P | Hannah Keck, AAC Rep Alternate                                   |   |                                            |

### Agenda

#### 1. Call to Order

The meeting began with the Board Chair, Carol Lewis, calling the meeting to order and. The board welcomed new independent director Claudette Groenendaal, who introduced herself as an experienced track and field athlete with international competition background, including NCAA championships and World Championships involvement. Carol noted that Claudette's appointment would help maintain board continuity following the departure of Mitch Sprengelmeyer due to his increased work responsibilities.

No conflict of interest was identified by board members.

#### 2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – May 2026

The Board approved the May 2026 meeting minutes.

#### 3. Chief Executive Officer's Report – Steve McNally

- o Organizational Update
- o 2026 National Championships Reflection

Mr. McNally provided updates on several key topics during the meeting. He reported on the successful USOPC road to LA event in LA, expressing increased confidence in the LA Olympics preparations. He also highlighted the success of Nationals in Charlotte, which had over 4,000 participants and 5,000 spectators, running smoothly without late finishes. He announced that Dae Hoon Lee, the new National Team Coach, received his visa approval and is expected to arrive early August. Finally, he mentioned plans for a G1 event in Daytona Beach in October, which will host the first-ever Pan American Club Championships.

- USOPC Audit Update & October In-Person Board Meeting

The Board discussed two main topics: an upcoming in-person meeting and the USOPC quadrennial audit results. The Chair proposed holding the next board in person meeting during a World Taekwondo competition in Daytona Beach from October 22-25, 2026.

Mr. McNally reported that the organization achieved excellent results in the USOPC audit, with 18 out of 27 standard categories fully compliant, including in international federation relationships, financial capability, and board management.

The Board agreed to address two audit findings: adding AAC Alternate Hannah Keck to the Ethics Committee to meet the 10-year athlete requirement and resolving the similar issue with the Nominating Committee by designating AAC Representative Alex Lee as the 10-year athlete representative.

The meeting focused on addressing compliance issues with the Athlete Advisory Committee (AAC) composition and Bylaws. The Board approved adding Alex Lee to the nominating committee and Hannah Keck to the Ethics Committee to ensure proper athlete representation, with a unanimous vote in favor. Mr. McNally identified that while the AAC meets current requirements, the Bylaws need revision to permanently ensure 80% tenure athlete representation and appropriate Paralympic athlete representation. The Board agreed to have Stephen Hess work with the AAC to revise the bylaws, with a goal to complete this by Friday, July 24, 2026, to submit responses to the USOPC.

- Bylaw Amendments and Compliance Updates

Mr. McNally reported that USOPC background checks are required for National Team members and noted some deficiencies in Ethics Committee processes, including timely notification and hearing timelines, which have been addressed through new systems.

#### 4. Bylaw & Policy Update – Stephen Hess

Stephen Hess presented required bylaw amendments based on USOPC compliance standards, explaining that five policies need updates including the Code of Ethics, Sanctioning Manual, and the Complaint & Hearing Procedures. The Board agreed to review and approve the proposed bylaw amendments, with

Mr. Hess committing to circulate the details via email by Friday lunchtime for board approval.

Mr. Hess discussed proposed changes to documents, including the need to align committee names with the Bylaws, which will be addressed in an email resolution. The Board agreed to proceed with voting on the changes via email rather than scheduling a meeting, with no objections raised. Mr. McNally also mentioned the need to tighten Board compliance with SafeSport training, and the USOPC Background checks, and noted that an onboarding checklist would be distributed, with Claudette serving as a test case for the new process.

## 5. Operations Report – Jay Warwick

### ○ Q2 Financial Updates, Partnerships & Audit Committee

Mr. Warwick covered financial updates and upcoming initiatives. He reported that second-quarter financial statements are strong and aligned with budgeted numbers, with significant cash reserves. A new partnership with Kukkiwon was announced, replacing the previous Kukkiwon franchise, with plans to launch a new Hangmadang series next year aimed at attracting a broader audience beyond competitive sport taekwondo practitioners. The Board also addressed questions about the Kukkiwon partnership, with Mr. Warwick indicating they are working toward becoming exclusive administrators of programming while still discussing certification processes.

Alex Lee inquired about joining the Audit Committee, and Steve confirmed he would receive an invitation from Mr. Warwick, with the meeting scheduled for next Tuesday, July 28th at 9 AM Mountain Time.

## 6. Events Report – Christine Strong-Simmons, Managing Director of Operations

|                                              |                                                              |                                                                 |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>+13%</b><br>Membership Growth vs.<br>2025 | <b>4,000+</b><br>2026 National<br>Championships Participants | <b>5,000+</b><br>2026 National<br>Championships Tickets<br>Sold |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

## Membership Services

Current membership increased 13% over 2025. This continued growth reflects sustained engagement across the organization's programs and reinforces the strength of USA Taekwondo's member base heading into 2027.

- Year-over-year growth: +13% compared to 2025
- Total Clubs are below projected growth

## **2026 U.S. National Championships — Charlotte, NC**

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The 2026 U.S. National Championships, held in Charlotte, were a great success and set new participation records for the event.

- Participation exceeded 4,000 athletes & coaches
- Over 5,000 spectator tickets were sold
- An increase in Demonstration Team participation helped push past the 2025 Nationals record setting numbers

## **All-Academic Recognition & Scholarships**

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USA Taekwondo named its 2026 All-Academic Teams, recognizing athletes who have excelled in the classroom.

In addition, two \$5,000 scholarships were awarded to Tristan Tsou and Sammie Cho at the 2026 U.S. National Championships, continuing USA Taekwondo & Tusah's commitment to supporting members' academic and personal development alongside their athletic achievements.

## **Upcoming Events & Planning**

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The Events Team is currently focused on planning the remainder of the 2026 event calendar while laying the groundwork for the 2027 season.

- Final event logistics for Finals
- Preparing for the October Pan American Club Championships
- Setting up 2027 events in Sport80
- Updating various documents in preparation for the 2027 season

Mr. McNally discussed plans for growing demo team participation, including partnerships with Korean American organizations and the team's upcoming performance at the LA 2028 FanFest.

### **7. New Business**

Mr. McNally introduced Ms. Sharon Jewell to the Board and mentioned her Safeguarding position with USA Taekwondo.

She discussed her role as a Vice President for the U.S. Olympic Paralympic Association and discussed her efforts to establish the first sport-based USOPA chapter in Taekwondo.

She raised questions about background check requirements for participants, noting that while national team members undergo checks, this isn't mandatory for

all competitors due to legal constraints under the Ted Stevens Act. Mr. McNally acknowledged the limitations in expanding background checks and praised Sharon's proactive approach to athlete safety and integrity. The conversation ended with updates about administrative changes, including a new process for handling meeting minutes.

8. Other Business

No other business was brought forward by the Board.

9. Adjournment

Ms. Lewis mentioned that the next meeting will be on September 22, 2026, at 2:00 pm Eastern Time. She also reiterated the in-person Board Meeting will be held October 22-25, 2026, in Daytona Beach, FL in conjunction with the 2026 Pan American Club Championships.

She moved to adjourn the meeting which was seconded and approved.