



USA Racquetball Board of Directors Meeting – MINUTES

Monday, December 16, 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
Stewart Solomon (President)	x
Kristin Wattz (Vice President)	x
Cheryl Kirk (Secretary)	x
Sandy Rios (Treasurer)	0
Jake Bredenbeck (Athlete Rep)	x
Ro-el Cordero	x
Steve Czarnecki	x
Tom Fuhrmann (Athlete Rep)	X left 8:30
Glen Gitterman	x
Erika Manilla (Athlete Rep)	X arr 6:52 pm
Janel Tisinger-Ledkins (Athlete Rep)	X left 8:20 pm
Mike Grisz (Executive Director/ex officio)	x
Michelle Key (Athlete Rep, Team USA AC Alternate/ex officio)	0
Guest – Karen Grisz	x

Roll Call

Approval of November 18, 2024, meeting minutes – Cheryl Kirk

Postponed to next regular meeting.

Cheryl provided recap of passed motions from the 11/18 meeting.

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.

Update: Boardspan training is 100% complete for the Board and Staff.

Welcome/Intro – Stewart Solomon

Stewart welcomed Glen Gitterman to the Board.

Karen Grisz will take her Board seat effective January 1, 2025.

Executive Committee Update – Stewart Solomon

US OPEN future considerations (see discussion below)

Ball contract update (see ED report)

U.S. Team Selection Process for China – U.S. Team Committee will meet before the end of the year.

Executive Director Report – Mike Grisz

Mike Grisz reported on the final days of his 2+ year role as volunteer Executive Director as well as the transition to the Office of the Executive Director.

The 2025 Ball sponsorship and proposed US OPEN consideration were two key topics of discussion.

Ball Contract – Mike Grisz

Penn has opted out of its longstanding position as Official Ball of USA Racquetball.

As of July 1, 2025, the Official Ball of USA Racquetball will be Gearbox.

In the meantime, national events for the first half of 2025 will use various colors of Penn and Gearbox balls due to the individual nature and circumstances of the events.

Both manufacturers intend to offer the purchase of balls at cost to events below the national level.

US OPEN 2026 – Stewart Solomon

Motion by Cheryl Kirk to move forward with Racquetball Revolution LLC as license holder for the US OPEN pending approval of a commonly agreed-upon contract.

Seconded by Stewart Solomon

Discussion: Pros and cons of offering a US OPEN in 2026 were discussed relative to financials, logistics, feasibility, etc.

Vote: Passes

World Juniors Recap – Cheryl Kirk

Results were not reported in this meeting for the sake of time. The update appears below these minutes.

Fundraising Drive Update – Kristin Wattz

Even with a push at the Golden State Open, membership drive results have been below expectations.

Working on Hubspot setup to assist with management and tracking of donation/sponsors.

Committee Updates

Finance Committee – Mike Grisz

Although contracting Josh Gross and hosting the IRF World Championships resulted in deepening the P&L loss for 2024, these were and are both significant investments in the sport.

USA Racquetball's 2025 annual financial audit will begin in March. The association has arranged to continue the business with both Bestow and the independent auditor.

Membership Committee – Ro-el Cordero

(Ro-el had to exit the meeting early but sent an email to the Board with a link to a PowerPoint deck (Membership Plan Proposal) for Board members to review and send feedback.

This topic will be on the agenda for consideration at the January 27, 2025, Board meeting.

Hall of Fame Committee – Stewart Solomon

The committee's recommendation of two individuals for induction into Hall of Fame Class of 2025 will be considered via electronic vote before January 1st. (See subsequent recording of the motion and vote appearing below these minutes.)

Next Meeting: January 27, 2025

The Board said farewell to Executive Director Mike Grisz and thanked him for his 2+ year volunteer service and many contributions to USA Racquetball.

Adjourn

Kristin Wattz moved to adjourn

Seconded by Cheryl Kirk

Adjourned 10:03 pm ET

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IRF WORLD JUNIORS RECAP

Blogs 1-10 provided coverage of the event along with photos on the website and social media. Blog #10 started began with a donation/fundraising appeal. Newsletter recap article coming out next week (12/23).

USA Racquetball 2024 IRF World Juniors -- U.S. Team Individual Medalists

GOLD (1)

SILVER (7)

BRONZE (21)

USA Racquetball 2024 IRF World Juniors -- U.S. Team Medalists

Esprit Cup (14/12/10):

BOYS 1. Bolivia, 2. Mexico, 3. Costa Rica, 4. USA

GIRLS 1. Bolivia, 2. Mexico, 3. USA, 4. Ecuador

COMBINED 1. Bolivia, 2. Mexico, 3. USA, 4. Ecuador

World Cup (21/18/16):

BOYS 1. Mexico, 2. Bolivia, 3. USA, 4. Costa Rica

GIRLS 1. Mexico, 2. Bolivia, 3. USA, 4. Guatemala

COMBINED 1. Mexico, 2. Bolivia, 3. USA, 4. Guatemala

Social Media Report

Instagram:

Near-daily publishing, short/punchy captions, tagging/collabs:

- 183% engagement increase
- 127K+ views (separate IG analytics screenshot)
- 36% of post reach to non-followers (separate screenshot)

Facebook:

Adjusted style/voice, diversified and incremental content:

- 144% increase in post volume
- 34% increase in impressions

- 29% increase in daily new likes

X:

Account reactivated after 8 months of dormancy:

- 20+ posts
- Nearly 5,000 post impressions

Objective of being the source for all things racquetball in the U.S.

December 19-21, 2024

Hall of Fame – Decision via electronic vote, administrated by President Stewart Solomon

Process dictates that the Board of Directors is **asked to ratify the following two candidates who were: nominated by the Hall of Fame Committee;** moved forward to the Hall of Fame Voting Group; and received more than the 75% of votes necessary to have the committee's recommendation taken to the Board for ratification.

Attached are nomination documents and background information for Christie Huczek and Dave Negrete. The Board is asked to approve each for induction into the USA Racquetball Hall of Fame.

Motion by Sandy Rios to approve Christie Huczek for induction into the USAR Hall of Fame.

Seconded by Erika Manilla

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

Motion by Sandy Rios to approve Dave Negrete for induction into the USAR Hall of Fame.

Seconded by Kristin Wattz

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

Voting began at 6 pm ET Friday, December 20, 2025, and concluded at 6:00 pm ET Saturday, December 21, 2025.

Next steps: Stewart Solomon to inform the Hall of Fame Committee Chair that both motions passed.