



## USA Racquetball Board of Directors MINUTES

March 31, 2025

7:30 pm ET

Via Zoom

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

Roll Call – Cheryl Kirk

	Roll Call
Stewart Solomon (President)	x
*Kristin Wattz (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
Glen Gitterman	x
*Karen Grisz	x
Erika Manilla (Athlete Rep)	0
Janel Tisinger-Ledkins (Athlete Rep)	x
Charlie Pratt (Athlete Rep, Team USA AC Alternate/ex officio)	0

*\*Office of the Executive Director*

Minutes Approval – Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Sandy Rios to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2025, Board of Directors meetings.

Seconded by Kristin Wattz

Discussion: None

## **Vote: Passed**

### **Conflicts of Interest Review/Reminder – Cheryl Kirk**

Directors are 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. The annual process of updating Board materials prior to the Annual Meeting will begin April 15 (Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, SafeSport, Background Check, Membership).

### **Executive Committee Update – Stewart Solomon**

US OPEN Update (Pre-read: US OPEN Press Release 03212025)

A press conference is tentatively scheduled for 6/10/25 at the intended host hotel in Springfield, Missouri.

On March 14, 2025, the Executive Committee approved, on behalf of the BOD (due to timing), the U.S. Team Committee's revised Pan American Racquetball Championships delegation recommendation. (More detail is provided below in the U.S. Team Committee report.)

After the National High Schools tournament, a letter was sent to the participating athletes to encourage them to stay in the sport and to educate them on what their racquetball future can look like.

### **National Indoor Championships Timeline (May 13-18, 2025)**

- Annual Board of Directors Mtg., Tuesday 5/13, at Bay Club Pleasanton
  - Agenda will include committee reports; facilitated discussions; Rafael Filippini, Jeff Collins, and Cliff Swain are invited to address the Board
- Ladies Night Out, Friday 5/15, 7:00 pm, in the DoubleTree Hotel lounge
- HOF Breakfast; Saturday, 5/17, 8:00 am, at the DoubleTree Hotel (set-up 7:00 am)
  - Annual Awards will be presented at HOF Breakfast

### **Office of the Executive Director Report – Kristin Wattz / Karen Grisz / Cheryl Kirk**

Kristin Wattz: Provided recaps of High School Championships (Multnomah and Cascade Clubs, Portland, Oregon, 2/26-3/2) and Intercollegiate Championships (NC State, Raleigh, North Carolina, 3/27-29). Kristin and Jonathan Greenberg were tournament directors at both.

Karen Grisz: RacquetX Recap, Miami, Florida, March 22-24. This was a racquet sport convention that included racquetball, squash, tennis, pickleball, and padel. Kristin and Karen attended and staffed a booth representing USA Racquetball. Both felt it was positive from a networking perspective that USA Racquetball had a presence there. If participating next year, upgraded materials will be developed.

Plans are moving forward with ASU for National Indoor Championships in early February 2026.

Working on agreement with IRT relative to streaming collaboration across platforms.

Cheryl Kirk: An agenda has been sent out from Cindy Tilbury for 2Q State Directors call on 4/8, 6:00 pm CT.

The OED and ExCom will develop a policy governing use of logos and marks as well photo usage and credits, use of photographer agreements at all National events, etc.

**Fundraising Update** – Stewart Solomon/Kristin Wattz

Although the budget couldn't bear the entire cost of sending the U.S. Team to the Pan American Racquetball Championships, Stewart began a grassroots "friends and family" fundraising appeal in March/early April that resulted in a number of benefactors stepping forward to financially support this competition and remove some financial pressure from the athletes. The initiative covered stipends and entry fees for the athletes as well as expenses to provide a physical therapist. A number of Board members contributed.

The concept of fundraising for specific expenses was discussed as potentially having more success than just one general operating category appeal. E.g., to help fund entry fees; to fund air travel; etc.

**Committee Updates**

**Finance Committee** – Sandy Rios

Sandy communicated the status of the 2024 internal audit (work in progress) and the banking transition.

**Membership Committee** – Ro-el Cordero

The committee intends to present an update at the April 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and a full report at the Annual Meeting in May.

**Hall of Fame Committee** – Stewart Solomon

Annual Awards: In addition to the list presented at this meeting, Board members asked to review the nominations made for each category winner before voting to approve. Secretary Cheryl Kirk was asked to forward the information asap.

**Scholarship Committee** – Kristin Wattz

**Motion by Stewart Solomon to approve the slate of recommendations of the Scholarship Committee for the following recipients, each to receive a \$1,000 scholarship.**

- **Ryan George**
- **Gerardo Gomez-Garcia**
- **Jack Strobach**
- **John Vonder Bruegge**
- **Ellen Williams**

**Seconded by Sandy Rios**

**Discussion: Ask the committee to explore an adjusted timeline to allow for announcements of any high school-age recipients to take place at the National High School Championships in late February.**

**Vote: Passed**

**U.S. Team Committee** – Cheryl Kirk

**ExCom 3/14/25 – PARC Delegation Approval**

Motion by Kristin Wattz for the ExCom (on behalf of the Board of Directors) to approve the U.S. Team Committee's [amended] recommendation for the PARC Delegation to Guatemala City in April:

Head Coach Pablo Fajre

Athletes Jake Bredenbeck, Sam Bredenbeck, Michelle Key, Lexi York, Thomas Carter  
Physical Therapists Sarah Leong-Lopes and Santiago Villamil

Seconded by Sandy Rios

Motion passed

**U.S. Team Handbook/Contract Approval** – Cheryl Kirk

(Pre-read: U.S. National Racquetball Team Policies, Procedures & Protocols Handbook/Contract, effective June 1, 2025)

Motion by Sandy Rios that the USA Racquetball Board of Directors approve the recommendation of the U.S. Team Committee dated 3/24/05 to ratify the U.S. National Racquetball Team Policies, Procedures & Protocols Handbook/Contract, effective June 1, 2025.

Seconded by Kristin Wattz

Discussion: A Board member asked if any of the athlete representatives had questions or concerns. None were expressed.

Vote: Passed

**Approval of TWG submission**

**Deadline: March 31, 2025**

Motion by Sandy Rios to accept the recommendations of the U.S. Team Committee for submission of information for the Team USA tentative delegation with a deadline of 3/31/25, to satisfy the requirements of the IRF TWG letter received 1/25/25:

Names and information for 11 males and 11 females as “potential replacement athletes,” per the list below, to be submitted to the IRF and the IWGA to meet the notification requirement of March 31, 2025, for potential replacement athletes.

Names and information, one male and one female, must be designated as well by March 31, 2025. The U.S. Team Committee recommends these names be Daniel De La Rosa and Hollie Scott.

Name of U.S. Team Head Coach Pablo Fajre be submitted to IWGA as Coach and Delegate for the U.S. Team to begin the credentialing process for TWG. No other officials or delegates are recommended for this delegation.

Seconded by: Karen Grisz

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

Next step: Secretary Cheryl Kirk to send the above information to the IRF before midnight tonight.

**Legislative Committee** – Cheryl Kirk

(Pre-read: USOPC Audit Update)

The update was displayed on the screen to give a brief report of work-in-progress toward completion of all requirements by the July 25, 2025, deadline.

**Election Committee** – Cheryl Kirk

Update: National Rules Commissioner

Work in progress; the position will be posted this week, interviews scheduled last half April, and a recommendation made to the Board at the Annual Meeting on May 13, 2025.

**New Business** – Stewart Solomon

**Motion by Sandy Rios to approve President Stewart Solomon's recommendation to name Cindy Tilbury to the Executive Appointed Board member position being vacated by Steve Czarnecki on May 13, 2025. The term is 3 years, expiring at the 2028 Annual Board Meeting of the Board of Directors to be held prior to May 31, 2028.**

**Seconded by Ro-el Cordero**

**Discussion: Language of motion amended to insert details of term -- approved by Sandy and Ro-el. A Board member offered specifics in support of the recommendation.**

**Vote: Passes**

**Next Meeting:** April 28, 2025 7:30 pm ET

**Adjourn**

**Motion by Sandy Rios to adjourn**

**Seconded by Cheryl Kirk**

**Adjourned 9:53 pm ET**

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**Pre-reads**

- BOD meeting minutes for approval 2/24/25
- US OPEN press release
- U.S. Team Policies, Procedures & Protocols Handbook/Contract for approval
- USOPC Audit Update

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