

## USS Board of Directors 1/28/2024 Meeting Minutes

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Attendees for the 1/28/2024 USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) meeting included USS BOD President; Mark Carleton, Vice President; Susan Sandvig-Shobe, Treasurer; Andy Kelly, Secretary; Rusty Smith, Carlijn Schouten, Pat Maxwell, Jeff Castelaz, Tony Liu, Ryan Bedford, and Duncan White. The listed members in attendance constitutes a quorum of the Board. USS Executive Director Ted Morris, and Director of Finance Michael Burdekin were also in attendance.

Meeting minutes were recorded by USS Membership and Safe Sport Manager, Sara Bowles.

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### 1) **Welcome**

Meeting was called to order at 6:01pm MT by Mr. Carleton.

Mr. Morris shared a brief recap of the Speed Skating Four Continents Championship and the Speed Skating World Cup held in SLC.

### 2) **BOD Disclosures on possible agenda conflicts.** Mr. Morris asked for the Board to review the agenda and to disclose conflicts with any of the agenda items. No conflicts were disclosed.

### 3) **Approval of 12/16/2023 BOD Meeting Minutes**

Ms. Shobe motioned for approval. Second by Mr. Kelly; Approved.

### 4) **Financial Report**

Mr. Burdekin shared that the 2022/23 audit is now posted on the USS website after being reviewed by the Audit Committee.

Mr. Burdekin proceeded sharing the 2023-24 budget forecast. The forecast continues to trend in a positive direction. Revenues have come in as expected. USS is still awaiting a final decision from the IRS on the Earned Retention Credit (ERC). USS expects to hear a decision within 30 days. On the expense side, there have been savings in High Performance, Development, Events and Marketing Communications that are having a positive impact on the forecast.

The BOD discussed potential increased funding from the USOPC in the lead up to the 2026 Winter Olympic Games and potential around the Winter Olympic Games returning to SLC in 2034.

## 5) **US Speedskating Foundation (USSF) report**

Mr. Burdekin shared that Cook Street (USSF fund management group) rebalanced the portfolio to match the risk tolerance that the USSF BOD voted on at their last meeting. Mr. Morris shared that he met with Mr. Plant on plans to grow the USSF Board membership.

## 6) **AAC Update**

Ms. Schouten reported that the AAC is relatively quiet at this time as most athletes are focused on the competition season.

Mr. Morris reported on a revised method for electing athlete representatives to the USS BOD and to the USOPC Athlete Commission to be compliant with USOPC requirements. In the past, one election would determine all positions. Moving forward, the two elections will be held separately.

## 7) **USS Congress**

Mr. Morris reminded the Board that the USS Congress will be held May 16-18, 2024. Additional details will be discussed at the next meeting.

## 8) **BOD Elections**

Mr. Morris shared that the nomination period has ended, and staff had confirmed that all nominees are interested in running for election. A discussion ensued regarding the candidates and the relevant qualification criteria. The USS Nominating and Governance Committee will vet the candidates to determine if they meet all the requirements and are eligible to serve in their nominated categories.

## 9) **Executive Director Report**

### a. **USOPC**

Mr. Morris is working with USOPC Fundraising staff on a sport ambassador program which would identify a donor who would focus on Speed Skating. Support would be annual and significant. It could potentially open the door to other donors.

InBev has signed a TOP sponsorship deal with the IOC. This agreement will funnel significant dollars to LA28 and includes activation programs with USA Soccer and USA Basketball. LA28 has reported on additional new sponsors coming on board in the coming weeks.

### b. **ISU**

The ISU Congress will be in Las Vegas, June 9-14. Ms. Sandvig Shobe, Mr. Carleton, Ms. Lute and Mr. Morris will represent USS. Mr. Morris had a call with USFS on supporting the hosting of the Congress but no progress has been made in this regard. The ISU Speed Skating World Championships are coming up in Calgary in mid-February. Mr.

Morris will meet with the ISU President and new Secretary General during the event. USS continues to talk to venues / rinks in the U.S. about hosting international Short Track events.

**c. High Performance**

Mr. Morris shared the current World Cup medal count. USS sits in 2<sup>nd</sup> behind the Netherlands in overall medal count for Short Track and Long Track combined. Mr. Morris went on to share that Sean Shuai won gold in the 500m at the Youth Olympic Games.

Mr. Morris reviewed preliminary plans for Long Track and Short Track Olympic Qualification procedures for 2026. The BOD discussed the proposals and provided feedback. Staff will engage with athletes to get their input ahead of confirming procedures and events.

**10) Legal Update**

There was no new legal activity to report.

**11) Gender Policy**

There was no new information to discuss.

**12) Bylaw change**

Mr. Morris presented USS Bylaw changes to sections six related to the BOD Composition. The changes are related to the USS USOPC Athlete Commission Representative being a non-voting member of the BOD.

Motion by Ms. Shobe. Second by Mr. Kelly. Approved.

The BOD discussed another change in 7.1 regarding officer term limits. Staff will bring forward revised language ahead of the next meeting.

**13) New Business**

The BOD discussed looking for a new audit firm.

**14) Conclusion**

Mr. Carleton concluded the meeting at 7:35pm MT

**15) Executive Section**

The Board held an Executive session.