



## USATT Board Meeting Minutes September 17, 2024

Board Chair **Richard Char** called the Board Teleconference to order at **6:04 pm** US Mountain time.

Board Members in attendance: **Tara Profitt, Dr. Tuan Le, Niraj Oak, Kagin Lee, Thomas Hu, Will Shortz, Nikhil Kumar, Arjun Chowdri, Kelly Watson, Tahl Leibovitz** and Board Chair **Char**

Board Member not in attendance: **Lily Zhang**

USATT Staff: **Virginia Sung** (CEO), **Mark Thompson** (COO/General Secretary to the Board), **Vlad Farcas** (Events Coordinator), and **Jasna Rather** (Para High Performance Director)

USATT Outside Counsel: **Brian Moran, Esq.** and **Olivier Souleres, Esq.**

USOPC Staff: **David Patterson** (USOPC Senior Governance Advisor)

Financial Auditors: **Tyler Callahan** and **Bridget Hartnett** (CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP)

Other Persons Present: **Pam Fontaine**

### **Board Chair Call for Conflicts**

Board Chair Char called for actual, anticipated or perceived conflicts. None were identified.

### **Approval of Minutes of May 6, 2024**

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved unanimously:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on May 6, 2024, are approved and formally entered into the record.

### **Financial Report**

Tyler Callahan and Bridget Hartnett of CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP presented the 2023 Financial Statement for USATT. The auditors recognized the effort and cooperation of the USATT management team and audit committee in the compilation of the organization's financial information. The auditors acknowledged certain highlights of the financial position of USATT and indicated that there were no findings that required comment in the Management Representation Letter or Internal Control Letter.

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved unanimously:

**RESOLVED:** That the Financial Statements presented by auditor CliftonLarsonAllen, LLP are approved and formally accepted.



### **Report of the Chief Executive Officer**

USATT Chief Executive Officer Virginia Sung provided a report on the highlights of the Paris Olympics and Paralympics. Ms. Sung recounted a number of statistics regarding the performance of Team USA athletes at the Paris Games. Ms. Sung stated the Paris Olympic Games were extremely successful with respect to fan involvement, led by the sellout exuberant crowds at the Paris Arena where the table tennis events were held. The Paris Olympics were also the most productive in Team USA history with respect to the medal count, which was the highest ever in an Olympics held outside of the United States.

With respect to table tennis at the Paris Olympics, Ms. Sung noted that Lily Zhang and Kanak Jha made it all the way to the Round of 16, marking the first time in US history that a male and female player have simultaneously accomplished that feat at the same Olympic Games. US athlete Amy Wang made it to the Round of 32 in the Women's Singles event, and the US Women's table tennis team was eliminated by Germany in the Round of 16.

With respect to the Paralympics, Ms. Sung reported that the USA Table Tennis Team once again brought home a medal, as Ian Seidenfeld took the Bronze in Class 6, while Jenson Van Emburgh lost in the quarterfinals – one step away from being guaranteed a medal and seven-time Paralympian Tahl Leibovitz advanced to the Round of 16 in his class before being eliminated. Overall, the US Paralympic Team came in third in the medal count behind only China and Great Britain.

During Ms. Sung's report, a number of other persons present at the Board Meeting, including Board Chair Richard Char, Board Members Kelly Watson and Arjun Chowdri, and staff member Mark Thompson recounted their experiences at the Paris Games, which everyone agreed had all the indicia of a rousing success. The consensus was that the US Olympic and Paralympic Committee will have to step up to the challenge to ensure that the 2028 Los Angeles Games attain this same level of excellence.

Ms. Sung completed her report by noting that the 2024 US Open Table Tennis Championships, which will be held from December 16 – 21, 2024, at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, already has some 1000 registrants entered into events, which is believed to portend a record amount of participation this December for a USATT sanctioned major event. Ms. Sung noted that all phases of the event preparation, including logistics, tournament management, and media engagement, are already well under way.

### **Athlete Protection Officer's Report**

Mark Thompson, USATT's Chief Operating Officer, Athlete Protection Officer, and General Secretary to the Board updated the Board Members on the most recent developments in the area of athlete safety for USATT. Mr. Thompson noted that USATT underwent an Event Audit conducted by the US Center for SafeSport at the 2024 Southeast Regional Championships held at the Broward County Table Tennis Center in Davie, Florida, on May 17 - 19 and that USATT was found to be fully implemented in all areas of review conducted by the USSCS audit team. In response to the Audit, USATT did make certain changes to the organization's Athlete Safety Protocols involving Compliance (Training and Screening), Communication of Policy for Events, and Quality Control, all of which have now been implemented as a part of USATT's Safe Sport Policy.

Mr. Thompson noted that USATT has submitted what is believed to be the organization's final version of the revised 2025 Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy (MAAPP) to the US Center for SafeSport's review. The 2025 version of



the MAAPP implemented several changes from the prior version of the policy but these changes were primarily designed to refine and clarify the existing provisions and terms within those provisions, but overall the MAAPP remains substantively intact and is expected to be fully rolled out as USATT’s official policy on January 1, 2025.

### **Amendment to the Bylaws**

With the upcoming appointments and elections for the USATT Board pending before the conclusion of 2024, Board Chair Richard Char led a discussion on certain amendments that will be required to the USATT Bylaws in order to properly fill all required Board positions with staggered terms so that in future elections, all twelve Board terms will not come up for selection or election in the same year. There was considerable discussion on the most effective strategy to accomplish this outcome, and it was agreed that Board Chair Char should work with interested Board members on the changes (including the Chair of the Athlete Advisory Council, Tara Profitt) and prepare an action by written consent so that Bylaw 7.9 could be amended and the selection and election processes could begin.

In this regard, Board Member Tara Profitt also circulated the Athlete’s Advisory Council Election Toolkit, which provides guidance for conducting the elections necessary to fill the Athlete Positions on the USATT Board.

### **Upcoming Board Meeting and General Assembly at US Open**

Board Chair Char led a discussion on the logistics of holding a Board Meeting and general assembly during the 2024 US Open in Las Vegas, Nevada. The discussion included determining the availability of the Board Members during this time period, and it was agreed that Board Chair Char would circulate a survey to Board members to determine their availability, either in person or by teleconference.

### **Executive Session**

Upon a motion properly presented, seconded and approved, the Board excused the General Membership and moved into Executive Session.

The Board discussed a potential strategic alliance.

Board Chair Char led a discussion regarding matters contained in a letter from the Umpires and Referees Committee (the “URC”) to the Board. Following discussion and the reaching of consensus among the Board, it was agreed the Chief Executive Officer Sung and Chair Char would meet with the Chair of URC on Thursday, September 19, 2024, to discuss such letter and to share the views of the Board.

Chief Executive Officer Sung reported on the status of discussions with the Saudi Arabian Table Tennis Federation regarding a possible joint para-athlete program, following the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding between USATT and the Saudi Arabian Table Tennis Federation.



**Adjournment**

It was properly moved, seconded and approved that the Board return to General Session and adjourn the Board Meeting at 8:47 pm US Mountain time.

Respectfully submitted.

Mark Thompson,  
USATT Chief Operating Officer / General Secretary to the Board

**End. 24 10-11a**