



Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

USA Team Handball board meeting

Minutes of the 11-Jul-2023 regular meeting teleconference

Board members in attendance

- Michael Wall – Chair
- Jennifer Fithian
- Patrick Jalabert – acting as secretary
- Camille Nichols
- Mark Ortega
- Ebiye Udo-Udoma

Board members excused

- Marianne Acker
- Tracy Deforge
- Sandra De La Riva Repede

USATH Staff in attendance

- Martin Branick – CEO

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm MT by Michael Wall, Chair. Mr. Wall thanked board members for joining, and reminded them that several topics would be discussed, as detailed in the shared agenda. Mr. Wall asked Mr. Jalabert to act as secretary, and take minutes for the meeting.

Non-agenda item

- Mr. Wall congratulated Mr. Branick on his nomination as CEO of the organization.
- Mr. Branick expressed his excitement about the opportunity, and his determination to meet and exceed expectations.

Agenda item #1 – CEO report

- Mr. Branick provided an update on membership, with 1,399 members (up 12% year-over-year) across 50 clubs.
- The staff was close to finalizing the setup for an LMS platform for coaching and referee education. Beta testing was on-going with some beach handball scorekeeping training.
- The San Diego Beach Handball Club was working to host the beach handball National championship in October. San Diego was the first beach handball only club in the country, making it a great fit to host a National tournament.
- Mr. Colins was working on hosting an intramural National championship. Dates and location had yet to be announced, but the objective was Spring 2024.
- Mr. Branick provided an update on National teams:
 - Following the cancellation of the ANOC World Beach games, some discussions were still on-going to determine the official reason, and secure reimbursement of expenses that were already incurred.
 - Both the men's and women's senior beach National teams had been invited to an event in Puerto Rico including NACHC teams, scheduled early September 7-11. The teams were also invited by the IHF to be involved in the Champions Cup in Portugal in early October (as a guest team). The beach teams' leadership was working on determining participation and tentative budgets for review by the board.
 - The job description and call for applicants had been posted for the women's senior beach National team head coach position. Some applications had already started to roll in.
 - The coaching staff of the women's indoor National team had a debrief of the Greenland tournament, aligning on some action items to pursue. A second chance tournament was scheduled to take place in the Dominican Republic in mid-September.
 - The junior men's National team had completed a successful campaign at the World Championships, including two (2) wins and a draw, but assessed the large margin with established European programs.
 - The youth men's National team was heading to Croatia for the World Championships for the first time in USATH's history.
- Mr. Branick noted that the Congressional Committee had requested more documentation, primarily focused on finances, licensing, and SafeSport. The next step was expected to be a public hearing in Washington, DC on 6-Sep-23. To date, no feedback had been provided to organizations that had supplied documentation as requested.
- The final report from the Center for SafeSport audit was received, with USATH considered as "fully implemented", in a major win for the staff.
- Mr. Branick noted that the financial audit was on-track with support from Ms. Nichols and the audit committee.

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- Mr. Branick shared that the USOPC was opening up an NGB marketplace, allowing Team USA athletes to be listed on a platform and be contacted by Team USA partners. More information was expected to be shared with the Athlete Advisory Committee (AAC) as it became available.
 - The staff was working with Play LA to prepare a partnership with the Los Angeles Parks and Recreation department, involving support from the IHF.
 - Mr. Branick and the board aligned on opening meetings to the membership, a practice that had been successful in previous years but had been dropped lately.
 - Mr. Branick shared his plan to schedule discussions with individual constituent groups (e.g. athletes, club leaders, referees, etc.) over the course of August and September.

Agenda item #2 - Minutes of Board Meetings

- Mr. Wall had circulated the meeting minutes ahead of time for review.
- No changes were requested.

Motion

A motion was made to approve the April 27, 2023 meeting minutes, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

Motion

A motion was made to approve the June 13, 2023 meeting minutes, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

Executive session

The board entered executive session at 2.35 pm MT.

- Mr. Branick was tasked with working on an official announcement of his role as CEO.
- The board reviewed the National Referee Committee (NRC) constitutional document update, with some extended discussions on specific points that were amended compared to the previously submitted version.

Action item

Mr. Jalabert was tasked with providing a red lined version of the updated draft, including proposing a selection protocol for committee members. The objective was to have a final draft ready to vote on before the next meeting.

- Mr. Branick was tasked with soliciting volunteers and making a recommendation for the NRC chair position.
- Mr. Jalabert was tasked with scheduling a follow-up call with the NRC's leadership to review the redlined document and align on any potential open items.

Mr. Branick left the meeting at this point.

- Mr. Wall reminded board members about the guidelines for confidentiality that were expected of them.
- The board discussed the CEO contract.

Action item

Mr. Wall was tasked with reviewing previous contracts and preparing a draft.

- The board agreed that an in-depth discussion of how to best support Mr. Branick would be needed, and aligned on having that discussion during the next meeting to assign tasks.

Motion

A motion to adjourn was made at 3.35 pm MT, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Patrick Jalabert served as Secretary.