



USA Team Handball board meeting

Meeting minutes for the 25-Apr-2025 regular meeting

Board members in attendance

- Olga Chaikouskaya
- Julia Taylor
- Jason Borchik
- Andre Carter
- Andrew Donlin
- David Eldridge
- Evan Gitomer
- Patrick Jalabert – chair, acting as secretary

Board members excused

- Chris Brase

USATH Staff in attendance

- Michael King

Call to order

Technical difficulties delayed the start of the meeting. The meeting was called to order at 1.25 pm MT by Patrick Jalabert, chair. Mr. Jalabert thanked board members for joining, and reminded them that several topics would be discussed, as detailed in the shared agenda.

Agenda item #2 – Voice of the athletes

- The Women's indoor coaching staff was discussed. It was noted the Junior staff would remain as interim until the upcoming events (IHF Trophy in mid-July and Junior Pan American qualifiers shortly after) had passed.
- A statement was expected from the IHF regarding competitions that the Senior team would be competing in for the remainder of 2025. Once that timeline was confirmed, the staff was expected to pursue the recruitment of a full-time “at-will” coaching staff.

- Mr. Borchik provided a brief update on the Women's beach coach search, noting that the initial round of review had not yielded any candidates that the search committee felt they could pursue. The application deadline had been extended to seek additional applicants.

Agenda item #1 – CEO updates

- Mr. King provided a brief update on follow-up communication for the SafeSport audit, following the on-site evaluation at the Collegiate National Championships. Recommendations were expected in the coming weeks.
- Multiple documents had been submitted to the USOPC on April 14, as the required first step in the quadrennial audit. Review and feedback was expected to come six (6) weeks after that date.
- Several submissions were due by April 30, including the Equal Pay for Team USA and the Athlete Safety Response and Resolution Reporting. Mr. King noted that all submissions were on track to be submitted on time.
- Selection procedures were in-process for the Women's Junior IHF Trophy (July 15-21), Junior Pan American qualifier (August 9-15), and Youth IHF Trophy (July 18-22).
- The NACHC Men's Cadet qualifier had been cancelled due to a lack of teams registered. USATH had been awarded a direct bid to the Men's Cadet World Championships, scheduled for October in Morocco, as a result.
- The World Beach Tour event, for which selection procedures had been underway, had been cancelled. Selection procedures for the next event were expected to be scheduled on the appropriate timeline.
- Mr. King provided a brief update on recent National team results, including the Women's Senior team's first win in several years during the NACHC qualifier event.
- The Collegiate National Championships had concluded successfully, with Army West Point winning the men's D1, University of Kentucky (a first year program) winning the men's D2, and University of North Carolina winning the women's division.
- The US Open Nationals had 26 teams registered, with the deadline approaching. This was expected to be the opportunity to host the annual community Town Hall. Mr. Jalabert encouraged board members to attend if possible.
- Mr. King issued an open call to the community for their involvement in potentially hosting two events in 2026: a men's Senior National team event in the spring, and a World Beach Tour event in the fall.

The board moved to executive session at 1.40pm MT, ending the webinar.

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- The board discussed health insurance coverage needs for athletes, and the potential mitigation plan to cover the lack of coverage from the Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) policy for 2025. Beyond ensuring that all required submission deadlines were met to attempt to recover EAHI coverage in 2026, work was also on-going to develop a support network for the entire athlete pool.
 - The board discussed the organization's media presence, and what immediate steps were needed to better leverage those opportunities.
 - The Audit and Compensation Committee (ACC) was working on scheduling time to wrap up the 2024 financials, and review the Q1-2025 financials in the coming weeks. Mr. King provided a cash flow status update, and highlighted a cultural challenge with some staff members not holding themselves accountable to booking the cheapest options for travel, costing the organization tens of thousands of dollars in recent years. Ms. Chaikouskaya volunteered to help with ideas for setting clear guidelines. Mr. Donlin stepped up to help with the workload as an athlete representative.

The board meeting was adjourned at 2.20 pm MT.