



**USA Racquetball Board of Directors  
MINUTES  
January 26, 2026  
5:30 pm MT**

- Pre-reads**
1. BOD Minutes 12292025
  2. Insurance Support Materials
  3. Financial Reports (2026 Budget)
  4. High Performance Structure/Training Plan
  5. Scholarship Working Group materials

**Welcome/Call to Order – Kristin Wattz 5:41 pm MT**

**Roll Call – Cheryl Kirk**

	<b>Roll Call</b>
<b>Kristin Wattz (President)</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>*Cheryl Kirk (Secretary)</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Sandy Rios (Treasurer)</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Jake Bredenbeck (Athlete Rep)</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Ro-el Cordero</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Tom Fuhrmann (Athlete Rep)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Glen Gitterman</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Jerry Lis</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Charlie Pratt (Athlete Rep/Team USA AC)</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Janel Tisinger-Ledkins (Athlete Rep)</b>	<b>x</b>
<b>Cindy Tilbury</b>	<b>x</b>

\* Office of the Executive Director

**Conflict 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.

**Approval of 12/29/25 Minutes – Cheryl Kirk (P-1)**

**Motion by Sandy Rios to approve the USAR Board of Directors meeting minutes of 12/29/25.**

**Seconded by Glen Gitterman**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Passed**

**Executive Committee Update – Kristin Wattz**

- Kristin announced Board makeup changes. Erika Manilla resigned in January as a Board Athlete representative and Team USA AC representative. Charlie Pratt, Team USA AC alternate, accepted the move to Team USA AC representative and joins the USAR Executive Committee

and Board of Directors as a full voting member. An election for Team USA AC alternate will be initiated after the National Indoor Championships.

- Kristin asked the Board for their plans to attend and assist at the four coming national events in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarters of the year.
- Kristin shared fundraising initiatives (silent auction and USAR towels) to be held at National Indoor, February 11-15.

#### **Office of the Executive Director Report – Cheryl Kirk**

- Operations Director Jonathan Greenberg’s performance review process was complete as of January 7, 2026.
- The Second Quarter State Call will be April 7<sup>th</sup> and Board members are invited and encouraged to attend.
- The March 1-31 Board Election was announced via email blast. A newsletter article will be published in late February.
- Social media/marketing reconfiguration mtg with Aimee took place in January. Aimee is creating an internship position description to assist Board members and others in a search for interns for social media support and video production/editing.
- Rally for Racquetball Junior Program Overview – following Junior Team Member Nyasa Gupta’s program proposal in late December, she has submitted a plan to move forward. Cheryl will meet with her in early February to review next steps.

#### **Financial Reports / 2026 Budget – Sandy Rios (P-3) Budget approved late November**

- Preliminary budgets are being created for each of the four national tournaments.
- Adjustments need to be made in the 2026 budget for international competition destinations farther than originally thought (e.g., Temuco, Chile, for IRF World Championships).
- Cheryl will post the 2026 budget on the USOPC portal on or before the due date of January 30.
- At the direction of the Board, Sandy is facilitating bank account signature card revisions to reflect current leadership.

#### **Athlete/Membership Insurance Support (USA Sports Benefits) – Kristin Wattz (P-2)**

With the USOPC’s discontinuation of Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) for Pan American sports that takes effect this year, the Executive Committee proposes entering into an agreement with USA Sports Benefits that will not offer insurance benefits to athletes but will help any USA Racquetball member with navigation of the ACA marketplace. This service will have a dedicated phone number that will walk people through insurance procurement processes, i.e. finding the best coverage for the most economical cost. US Equestrian has experienced positive results with the company.

**Motion by Cheryl Kirk to enter into the USA Sports Benefits Participation Agreement as presented to the Board of Directors on 1/26/26 between USA Sports Benefits (dba Thompson Benefits & Enrollment Group, LLC) and the United States Racquetball Association (dba USA Racquetball).**

**Seconded by Jerry Lis**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Passed**

### **Scholarship Working Group – Kristin Wattz/Ro-el Cordero (P-5)**

The Scholarship Working Group brought five candidates to the Board as their recommendation for this year's scholarships.

**Motion by Sandy Rios to approve the five scholarship recipients as presented by the USAR Scholarship Working Group to the USAR Board of Directors on 1/26/26.**

**Seconded by Glen Gitterman**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Passed**

### **U.S. Team Committee – Larry Haemmerle/Pablo Fajre (P-4)**

***Pan American Racquetball Championships in Guatemala City, Guatemala, March 27-April 4, 2026.***

Larry and Pablo described the process for communication (work in progress) with the 2025-2026 U.S. Team members to gauge interest in competing at PARC with the necessity of covering a significant amount of their own travel costs. USA Racquetball will cover coach and athletic trainer expenses, international travel insurance, uniforms, entry fees, and a \$500 stipend per athlete

***U.S. Team Committee Presentation and Vote to Approve High Performance Plan work moving forward***

Pablo and Larry presented via PPT deck a proposed plan to develop a nationally scalable training system delivering a junior-to-adult pathway to international performance excellence. The U.S. Team Committee vetted the plan and sends it on to the Board for approval.

**Motion by Sandy Rios that the USAR Board of Directors approve the U.S. Team Committee's recommendation to:**

- 1. Approve consolidation of U.S. Adult and Junior Team development under the heading of a High Performance Coordination Commission.**
- 2. Approve creation of a Performance Coordination structure under the U.S. Team Committee to include the categories of Athlete Development, Rules & Regulations, and Qualification Criteria.**
- 3. Approve and provide direction to implement the proposed USA Racquetball Standardized Training System, delivering a junior-to-adult pathway to international performance excellence.**

**Seconded by Jerry Lis**

**Discussion: An statement from an athlete representative reinforced the need for USA Racquetball to develop a high performance training program. A question was asked about additional resources that could be used to supplement Pablo's efforts. Pablo shared that the plan would be to develop materials and then engage the USOPC for support and ask coaches across the country to aid in implementation.**

**Vote: Passed**

***Vote to approve Adult and Junior Handbook language additions re USA vs USA matches:***

Historically it has nearly always been the understood but not written practice that when an unfortunate USA vs. USA occurrence takes place in international competition, no one coaches either player or team, whether it be the head coach, assistant coach, or fellow team athletes. There was enough consternation prior to Santo Domingo that the committee undertook and unanimously passed a motion recommending additions to the 2026-2027 U.S. Adult and Junior Handbooks as follows to memorialize this long-standing practice:

**Motion by Glen Gitterman to approve the U.S. Team Committee’s recommendation, regarding USA vs. USA match coaching at international championship events, that the 2026-2027 Adult and Junior Team Handbooks incorporate policy language as follows:**

**ADULT HANDBOOK**

**F. Competitive Rules/Policies, p. 5**

**7. In the event of a USA vs. USA match, in the spirit of team morale and camaraderie, neither U.S. Team coaches nor U.S. Team fellow athletes will coach one athlete against another.**

**JUNIOR HANDBOOK**

**D. Competitive Rules/Policies, p. 7**

**6. In the event of a USA vs. USA match, in the spirit of team morale and camaraderie, neither U.S. Junior Team coaches nor U.S. Junior Team fellow athletes will coach one athlete against another. When this occurs, a parent or a private coach may support the athlete courtside.**

**Seconded by Jake Bredenbeck**

**Discussion: A question was asked about existing guidelines on what a private coach or parent coach can and cannot say or do. The Junior Handbook (pp. 14-18) contains a Parent/Private Coach Code of Conduct as well as Parent Coaching Agreement and a Private Coaching Agreement.**

**Vote: Passed**

**New Business** – A Women’s Racquetball Day concept is being discussed with a date undetermined at the present time.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, February 23, 2026

**Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn by Sandy Rios**

**Seconded by Glen Gitterman**

**Adjourned 7:52 pm MT**

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