

USS Board of Directors 2/01/2025 Meeting Minutes

In attendance for the meeting on 2/01/2025 of the USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) were USS BOD President Mark Carleton, Vice President; Susan Sandvig-Shobe, Duncan White, Robert Woodbury, Jane Lute, Deb Wheelock, and William Gebauer. The listed members in attendance constitutes a quorum of the Board. USS Executive Director Ted Morris, Finance Director Michael Burdekin, High Performance Director Shane Domer, were also in attendance.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Alysha Rummler.

1) Welcome

Mr. Carleton called the meeting to order at 9:01am CT. Mr. Morris shared thoughts on the U.S. Figure Skating tragedy. Mr. Morris extended a welcome to William Gebauer, as the new USS Team USA Athlete Commission representative and new USS BOD member.

2) Approval of 12/07/2024 BOD Meeting Minutes

Ms. Sandvig-Shobe motioned for approval of the 12/07/2024 BOD meeting minutes with minor edits. Second by Ms. Wheelock; approved.

3) Declaration of any Conflicts with Agenda

Mr. Gebauer declared possible conflicts with the High-Performance and Marketing/Fundraising section of the agenda.

4) Financial Report

2024/25 budget forecast

Mr. Morris reported on the potential financial impact of the ISU’s cancellation of the ISU Short Track World Tour #2 and the Short Track Four Continents Events. The Board discussed possible scenarios and how USS can best manage.

Mr. Burdekin presented the 2024/25 budget forecast. Revenue continues in the right direction with excellent participation in the Podium Club Program and the success of the 91 and Counting Fundraiser. Mr. Burdekin reported on savings in Sports Development and Events that will help balance the budget. The Board discussed Milwaukee World Cup event cost.

Toyota has asked for their four vehicles to be returned. USS would like to purchase three of the vehicles. The BOD discussed and supported the idea of USS purchasing these vehicles.

2023/24 Financial Audit and USOPC Certification

Mr. Burdekin shared progress on the annual financial audit. Mr. Burdekin continues to manage the audit process which has taken longer than expected.

USS has been certified with conditions by the USOPC on the four-year certification. USS has responded to all the open questions with receipt of documents confirmed by the USOPC. USS should receive full certification at the next meeting of the oversight committee.

5) US Speedskating Foundation (USSF) report

The fund continues to perform well. The USSF Board will meet in the coming weeks.

6) AAC Update

Mr. Gebauer provided a brief report. The Team USA AC continues to have discussions on independence. The USS AAC is discussing ways to survey athletes to get a better understanding of available program opportunities and resources. The Board discussed ways to incentivize athlete feedback and engagement.

7) Membership / Club Report

USS is tracking for a slight increase in membership this year. Ms. Wheelock provided updates on club feedback including the lack of new officials getting involved in the sport. Ms. Wheelock discussed ways to recruit volunteers, encourage parent participation and ways to acknowledge and thank current volunteers. The Board discussed sending volunteers postcards from athletes to acknowledge their contributions.

8) SafeSport Report

Mr. Morris presented a brief status of ongoing safesport matters.

9) Hall of Fame (HOF) Report

Mr. Morris shared the HOF committee's progress on increasing HOF voting participation.

10) Executive Director Report

a. 2026 Olympics

USS received an allocation of requested tickets needed for the 2026 Olympic Games for Short Track and Speed Skating. USS continues to make positive progress on the USA Ice House. A location has been secured in Milan. USS is working closely with U.S. Figure Skating and USA Hockey on bringing the concept to fruition.

b. USOPC

USS continues to discuss with the USOPC a combined winter athlete summit ahead of the 2026 Olympics to build team cohesion.

c. ISU

The IOC is pushing international sport federations, including the ISU, to open the door for Russian athlete participation in the 2026 Olympic Games. The ISU has created a working group of ISU council members to look at how this could be done in a way that creates a fair playing field for all athletes.

Staff is working with the ISU on finalizing USS hosted events for the 2025-26 season. The current plan includes a Speed Skating Four Continents Event hosted the week before a Speed Skating World Cup in SLC. The Short Track World Tour will not be held in Salt Lake City due to the proximity to the Speed Skating events. USS is looking at one other location that could possibly host the Short Track World Tour Event in the U.S. Short Track Junior World Championships will be held in Salt Lake City the last weekend of January 2026.

The ISU Special Congress will be held on July 3rd, 2025. This Congress is to approve the new ISU Constitution. Members can participate on-line or in-person.

d. High Performance

Mr. Domer praised the Teams' performance so far this season and shared results. He also provided an update on athlete injuries. With many USS athletes training and going to college, the Board discussed opportunities to highlight the academic success stories with the membership. Mr. Domer discussed ways the High Performance Staff will support peak performance at the 2026 Olympic Games.

e. Marketing/Fundraising/Sponsorship

Mr. Morris provided updates on ongoing conversations with potential sponsors. An update on fundraising efforts and success was provided.

11) Legal Update

Nothing new to report.

12) New Business

The USS annual Congress will take place May 29-31 in Salt Lake City.

13) Conclusion and Executive Session

Mr. Carleton ended the meeting at 10:45am ET. The BOD then went into an Executive Session.