



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**USA National Karate-do Federation Board of Directors Meeting**  
**July 9, 2024, 3pm Central time via Zoom**

**Board Members in Attendance**

Elisa Au  
Sasha Gerritson  
Pat Hickey  
Brian Hilliard  
Angel Johnson (joined at 3:08pm)  
Tom Scott  
Senthil Thiyagarajan

**Staff**

Michael Cain  
Brody Burns

**Call to Order** – Elisa Au called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm Central Time (CT).

**Declaration of Conflicts of Interest**

1. Pat Hickey declared a conflict since he is the Chair of the USA Karate Federation, which could be considered a competing organization to USANKF. Mr. Hickey stated that the USA Karate Federation has no interest in becoming the National Governing Body (NGB) for Karate in the US.

**Closed Session**

2. Board and International Updates
  - a. Elisa Au updated the board on International updates since the last Board meeting. USA placed first in the medal count at the recent PKF Sr Pan American Championships. USA also qualified men's and women's team kumite to the upcoming WKF World Cup.
  - b. Ms. Au signed the MOU with Guardian Girls. Now, USA Karate may engage with Guardian Girls to provide workshops and seminars in the U.S.
  - c. USA now has members on the PKF Referee, Para and Technical commissions, as well as the WKF Rules & Ranking, Athletes and Referee Commission.
  - d. 10 out of the 12 PKF referees passed their exam in Punte del Este
  - e. 1 out of 2 WKF referees passed their exam in A Coruña
  - f. On 6/21/24, a meeting was held with all chairs of USANKF committees to update the CEO and Board Chair on their activities.
  - g. Currently, there are open positions on USA Karate's Technical, Selection and Judicial committees.
3. CEO and Organizational Updates – Michael Cain
  - a. Michael Cain reported that the USA Open was a successful event for our organization. He also stated that we are financially stable.
  - b. Mr. Cain reported that we are tracking nearly the same registration numbers for the 2024 National Championship as last year.
  - c. Mr. Cain stated that everything is ready to open the registration for the 2024 All-American.





- d. Mr. Cain is going with Brody Burns to Orlando later in July to look at potential venues for future international events that USA Karate would host.
  - e. Board members asked various questions regarding the status of future Signature events in 2025-2027.
  - f. USANKF memberships are even with last year at approximately 2300.
  - g. The Sanctioning program is ready to go except for clearance from our insurance company. September 1<sup>st</sup> is the planned rollout date.
  - h. Brody Burns presented an update on the expansion and increased activities of the Coaches program.
  - i. Senthil Thiagarajan asked about sponsorship opportunities for our national teams. Mr. Cain said that we are interested, but there are no substantial leads at the moment. Mr. Thiagarajan asked if there is a cash amount that we are looking for. Mr. Cain said that cash + value in kind is mostly likely attractive for potential sponsors and partners.
4. Fundraising Update
    - a. Sasha Gerritson updated the Board on the upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration party.
    - b. Ms. Gerritson stated that we plan to do an end-of-year donation ask. Because of last year's match drive, we were able to supplement all warm-ups and apparel for the 2024 Jr National Team.
  5. Bylaw review
    - a. The current bylaw changes are currently posted on the website. The Board can vote to approve these changes after July 27, but we would prefer to have the AAC Charter in place to approve them at once.
  6. Dan Certification and Masters Caucus
    - a. The Board discussed the next steps for the USANKF Dan Certification program.
    - b. Pat Hickey motioned to move forward with the report proposed by the Masters Caucus, seconded by Tom Scott.
      - i. Motion not approved: Votes in favor = 1; Opposed = 1; Abstained = 4
    - c. The Board continued to discuss practical next steps.
    - d. Elisa Au motioned to instruct our staff to restart homologation and to ask the Masters Caucus to come up with Dan certificate standards for the USANKF Dan ranking (as opposed to homologation), seconded by Sasha Gerritson.
      - i. Motion not approved: Votes in favor = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 1
  7. Affiliates Members
    - a. The board instructed Michael Cain to reach out to all existing affiliate organizations and give them a deadline of 9/1/24 to pay their 2024 dues to remain in good standing with USANKF. They must also meet the requirements per our bylaws. The Board asked if there is a way to set up autopay for these affiliate organizations.
  8. End-of-Year Board Elections
    - a. The board instructed Michael Cain to manage the upcoming board and AAC elections through YesElections and with the support of the Nominating and Governance committee.
  9. The Board decided to hold the next in-person Board meeting in Chicago on September 13-14, 2024.
  10. Sasha Gerritson motioned to approve the minutes from the May 15, 2024, Board Meeting, seconded by Pat Hickey.
    - a. Motion approved: Votes in favor = 5; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 1
  11. Elisa Au motioned to move into Executive Session, seconded by Angel Johnson
    - a. Motion approved: Votes in favor = 6; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0





12. Michael Cain and Brody Burns left the meeting at approximately 4:18pm CT.

**Executive Session**

13. The Board agreed to reserve time in Executive session to discuss staff.

14. Elisa Au motioned to adjourn, seconded by Patrick Hickey.

a. Motion approved: Votes in favor = 6; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 0

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:45pm CT.