U.S. Association of Blind Athletes
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2026

Present:
Mark Ackermann, Chair
Skye Arthur-Banning, Vice Chair
Gary Remensnyder, Treasurer
Amy Wasson, Secretary
John Kusku, Team USA AC, Athlete Board Member
Ali Lawson, Team USA AC Alternate
Charles Catherine, Athlete Board Member
Matt Simpson, Athlete Board Member
Mindy Cook, Athlete Board Member
Cody Colchado, Board Member
David Cohen, Board Member
Brian Eaton, Board Member
Eve Wright-Taylor, Board Member
Michael Holmes, Interim Executive Director
Breann Scott, Staff
Marianna Williamson, Staff

Absent:
Zach Buhler, Athlete Board Member
Erika Petch, Nominating & Governance Committee Chair
Brian Darcy, Ethics & Judicial Committee Chair

The meeting took place via teleconference. The meeting was recorded.

Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by chair, Mark Ackermann at 4:00 p.m. MST. A quorum was confirmed.

Conflict of Interest

Mark Ackermann asked if any board members had a conflict of interest regarding any item on the agenda. No conflicts were declared. Board members were reminded to disclose any conflicts should they arise during the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Mark Ackermann called for approval of the February 24, 2026 board meeting minutes. The motion was made by Amy Wasson and seconded b7 Skye Arthur-Banning. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Board Highlights

Mark reminded board members to complete the USOPC board self-evaluation and any required SafeSport renewals.

The Breakfast with Champions and related activities are planned for October 2 and 3 in Colorado Springs. Events will include the dedication of the blind soccer pitch at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and a board meeting. Due to current budget constraints, board members who attend may be responsible for their own travel expenses. Staff will confirm which currently scheduled board meeting will be replaced by the October meeting.

Mark discussed the board's role in supporting USABA's fundraising efforts through annual giving, introductions, donor stewardship, and sharing the organization's work through personal and professional networks. Marianna Williamson reviewed the board engagement handout and discussed resources being developed to help board members communicate USABA's mission and athlete stories. The importance of achieving 100% board participation in annual giving was emphasized.

Mark also reported that an updated Athlete Safety Policy would be provided to the board for review.

Committee Updates and Reports
Nominating & Governance Committee

Michael Holmes presented the report on behalf of Erika Petach.

The committee continues to seek a replacement for Jennifer Demby. Athlete representation requirements are currently satisfied through Eliana Mason's service on the committee. Board members were encouraged to recommend potential committee candidates.

The committee is preparing for elections later in 2026, including a goalball athlete board representative, four open board seats, and Athlete Advisory Committee positions.

Ethics & Judicial Committee

Michael Holmes presented the report on behalf of Brian Darcy.

Jordan Gist joined the committee as its athlete representative, completing the committee's current membership. No open cases were reported. Conflict of interest disclosures from recently hired staff will be submitted to the committee for review.

Audit & Finance Committee

Gary Remensnyder presented the first-quarter financial report. The committee reviewed the organization's financial performance compared to the approved budget and an updated forecast for the remainder of the year.

The board discussed the importance of maintaining appropriate support for national team preparation while continuing investment in grassroots and sport development. The committee and staff will continue to monitor revenue, expenses, cash flow, and financial controls. Any request to use endowment funds will be brought to the board for approval.

Staff is obtaining proposals for the 2025 external audit. The Audit & Finance Committee will review the proposals and make a recommendation to the board.

Athlete Advisory Committee

John Kusku presented the Athlete Advisory Committee report. A written report was included in the board packet.

John and Ali Lawson continued participating in Team USA Athlete Commission meetings. The internal AAC's primary focus has been working with staff on the open goalball tryout scheduled for September.

Ethan Koons is expected to join the committee following completion of the conflict of interest review and any required appointment process. The committee expects to begin nominations later in the summer for four positions scheduled for election.

Interim Executive Director & Staff Report

Michael Holmes organized his report around high-performance goalball, high-performance blind soccer, and organizational updates.

For high-performance goalball, Michael reported that open tryouts will be held in September and that updated athlete selection procedures are in draft. He provided a recap of first-quarter team activities and noted that the World Championships were scheduled for June. Staff is also working to strengthen communication and relationships with domestic goalball tournament organizers.

For high-performance blind soccer, Michael announced the addition of assistant coaches Vito and Wilmer and a strength and conditioning coach. The team added an international competition in England to its schedule. Michael also reported on the recent Seattle competition and a potential international event involving France in October.

Organizationally, Michael reported that USABA is making better use of staff resources and working with partners to expand organizational capacity. He provided an update on the blind soccer pitch at the Colorado School for the Deaf and the Blind and related plans for its dedication.

The Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired opened a blind soccer pitch, and Cody Colchado attended the dedication ceremony on behalf of USABA. Staff is also working with Clemson on activation support and continuing partnerships related to communications, legal services, grants, and sponsorships.

Morgan began serving in the resident coach and high-performance role in April. Michael also reported that USABA had received additional grants and was finalizing a Capelli sponsorship covering the three national teams for 2026 and 2027.

In response to a question regarding the youth goalball championships, Michael reported that coaches were in place and scouting was underway. USABA will provide material support, while athletes and coaches will be primarily responsible for fundraising for the competition in Kazakhstan.

New Business

No additional new business was presented.

Executive Session

The meeting moved to executive session. Michael Holmes remained for the executive session, and the recording was discontinued.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 5:50 p.m. MST.