



USA Team Handball board meeting

Meeting minutes for the 19-Aug-2026 executive meeting teleconference

Board members in attendance

- Jason Borchik
- Chris Brase
- Andre Carter
- Olga Chaikouskaya
- Evan Gitomer
- Patrick Jalabert – chair, acting as secretary
- Julia Taylor – vice-chair

Board members excused

- Andrew Donlin

USATH Staff in attendance

- Michael King

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 am 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. The meeting was conducted in executive session.

Mr. Jalabert noted that David Eldridge had elected to resign his position on the board, effective August 17th, 2026. Mr. Eldridge had cited the excessive amount of engagement expected of the board by members of the community, which turned the board's attention away from its role of establishing and driving strategy, as the reason for his decision. Mr. Jalabert noted that, while the loss of Mr. Eldridge was a significant disappointment, efforts would begin rapidly to find a suitable replacement.

Agenda item #1 – Conflicts disclosure

In conformance with recommended best practices, board members were asked to disclose any potential conflicts of interest arising from the contents of the agenda. None were raised.

Agenda item #2 – Acknowledgment of actions out meeting

Since its last meeting, the board had taken one (1) action without a meeting, in accordance with section 6.24 of the bylaws: approval of the July 1st, 2026 meeting minutes.

The board had also been consulted on the appointment of an independent member of the Judicial Committee. While formal nomination of committee members was the responsibility of the chair, as listed in section 8.2.1 of the bylaws, and the nominees considered had been vetted by the Nominating and Governance Committee (NGC), consulting the board had been considered a courteous best practice.

Agenda item #3 – Board chair opening remarks

- Mr. Jalabert acknowledged the increased amount of communication received by the board in recent weeks, and thanked board members for their patience and diligence in engaging through the appropriate channels. The board reiterated the focus on the well-being of the organization, and setting a culture that would allow the sport to grow and develop.
- In spite of the negative tone in the most vocal feedback received, Mr. Jalabert noted that a lot of positive progress was being made, and emphasized that the board still had the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the sport of handball.

Agenda item #4 – Audit & Compensation Committee update

- Ms. Chaikouskaya shared that the 2025 financial audit was moving forward, with a few minor items outstanding for submission to the auditor.
- The Audit and Compensation Committee had reviewed year-to-date finances (through Q2), and noted that income and expenses were following a typical pattern for USA Team Handball, with the first half of the year seeing higher expenses. This drove additional caution with managing cashflow, but the organization was not at risk at this time.
- The main discrepancy compared to the budget was the senior men's National team NACHC qualifier incurring higher expenses than anticipated for USA Team Handball, after the event had been reclassified as a non-IHF-trophy event.
- Mr. Jalabert had circulated the financial policies of the organization for board awareness. These policies were in line with what board members had seen in other business ventures, but the board aligned on requesting the financial auditor review and offer any necessary amendments.

Agenda item #5 – Voice of the Athletes

- Ms. Taylor provided some feedback after visiting the training center in Florida, and noted that the feedback received was overwhelmingly positive. The program was proving particularly impactful for the women's National team program, with 20-25 athletes participating regularly. The opportunity to have access to a dedicated space with low cost of operation was already starting to bear fruit and provide the women's National team with a competitive advantage as it prepared for the upcoming Pan American qualifier matches against Canada.
- Ms. Taylor noted that the organization's focus should turn to providing dedicated medical staff on site, beyond the volunteer on-campus staff, in order to minimize performance impacts for the players. Mr. King noted that USA Team Handball's Chief Medical Officer was actively driving opportunities for on-site medical staff.
- Ms. Taylor also raised awareness to a need for improved air conditioning on site, which the board discussed and tasked Mr. King with investigating further.
- It was noted that, to date, USA Team Handball had been able to leverage local sponsorships and had not spent any of its own funds to sustain the program in Florida.

Agenda item #6 – CEO updates

- In line with established best practices, notes had been circulated to the board ahead of time to allow for review and preparation of questions.
- The board discussed athlete disciplinary matters, noting that all National team athletes were expected to abide by a code of conduct set by program leadership.
- The USOPC had released funds for USA Team Handball to hire a brand manager, as discussed in the previous meeting, and the search was under way.
- Mr. King provided an update on the wheelchair World championships, including the relationship with athletes, the IHF, and other stakeholders. The situation was being managed with the appropriate urgency, including setting the clear expectation with all members of the pool that involvement and consideration required active engagement, not simply the lack of formal abstention. Mr. Gitomer highlighted the need for the organization to clearly establish rules of engagement for all programs moving forward, in order to continue setting the culture of the organization.
- The Global Beach Tour event had been awarded to Oman, but USA Team Handball remained committed to establishing partnerships with domestic groups to continue bidding on future events.
- The first cadet ID camp was being hosted in Los Angeles, under the leadership of the newly appointed program leader, Mohsen Babasafari. Many other cadet, junior, and youth events were coming up in Q4, most of them expected to be covered by IHF Trophy funding.

The board meeting was adjourned at 1 pm MT.