



Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

USA Team Handball board meeting

Minutes of the 8-Aug-2023 regular meeting teleconference

Board members in attendance

- Michael Wall – Chair
- Marianne Acker
- Sandra De La Riva Repede
- Tracy Deforge
- Jennifer Fithian
- Patrick Jalabert – acting as secretary
- Camille Nichols
- Mark Ortega
- Ebiye Udo-Udoma

Board members excused

- N/A.

USATH Staff in attendance

- Martin Branick – CEO

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2 pm MT by Michael Wall, Chair. Mr. Wall thanked board members for joining, and reminded them that several topics would be discussed, as detailed in the shared agenda. Mr. Wall asked Mr. Jalabert to act as secretary, and take minutes for the meeting.

This meeting was opened to the USATH community as a webinar, excluding the executive session.

Agenda item #1 – CEO report

- Mr. Branick was attending from Croatia, where the youth men's National team had secured a historic first win. It was noted that capturing learnings from the event would be essential to ensure the continued growth of the National team programs.
- Mr. Branick provided an update on membership, with 1,400 members. This number would reset on 1-Sep, with the start of the new season.
- Mr. Branick provided an update on National teams:
 - Applications were under review for the women's beach head coach vacancy, but the job posting was still open to applicants.
 - The women's indoor National team was heading to the Dominican Republic for a second chance tournament to qualify for the Pan American games from August 25th to 27th.
 - Both beach senior teams were scheduled to attend a tournament in Puerto Rico in September.
 - The men's indoor selection committee had started to work on the roster for the Pan American games.
 - Communication had started relative to the IHF trophy, but no confirmation of location or dates had been finalized.
 - Overall, Mr. Branick noted a a lot of positive improvements for National teams over the past year, with multiple first time participations and first wins.
 - National team coach evaluations were on-going, starting with one-on-one conversations with individual coaches.
- Mr. Branick noted that, due to permitting constraints, the Beach Nationals would not take place this fall, but the staff was already working towards a 2024 beach events calendar, including a National championship.
- Mr. Branick noted that community talks had been kicked off to engage with sub-groups of the community. Invitations had been issued for all 10 sessions, with the objective being be to put together a list of deliverables and plan accordingly. It was noted that board participation in those events would be valuable and appreciated.
- The NACHC congress was scheduled for 26-Aug-2023 in the Dominican Republic (aligned with the second chance tournament).
 - For reference, the IHF congress was scheduled for 1-Nov-2023 as a virtual event, though no elections were scheduled.
 - A motion to extend all currently elected positions by two (2) years was expected, to align with continental elections with other areas of the world. Mr. Branick noted that, although the USA was not represented in those positions, voting to oppose that motion would be unlikely to have much impact.
 - A review of upcoming continental competitions hosts was also on the agenda for the congress.
 - Mr. Branick recommended that USATH make a push for IHF funding for a paid position as the NACHC was fully operated by volunteers. This volunteer-centric system routinely lead to delays in organization and incurred high costs for event participants as a result.
 - Mr. Branick mentioned that it would be valuable to use the international relations grant from the USOPC (\$15,000) to bring in members of the NACHC to work on by-laws, documents, schedules, etc. It was noted that the grant could only be used towards international cooperation,

and this topic was desperately needed for the continental governing body. The board supported Mr. Branick proposing this idea during the congress, with a target timeframe of November or December.

Non-agenda item - Minutes of Board Meetings

- Mr. Jalabert had circulated the meeting minutes ahead of time for review.
- No changes were requested.

Motion

A motion was made to approve the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

Executive session

The board entered executive session at 2.35 pm MT, ending the webinar.

- Ms. Nichols noted that the board should be expecting a survey shortly, as all contact information had been provided to Mr. Patterson at the USOPC.
- The board discussed required amendments by the NRC, and noted that the task had been set for the NRC to provide supporting documentation.
- Mr. Branick noted that, per conversations with members of the USOPC, requiring representatives of the US to be citizens or permanent residents would be acceptable. It was noted that there is no existing IHF regulation preventing non-citizens from being representatives, aside from a requirement for disclosure.

Action item

Mr. Branick was tasked with following up with Mr. Anusic on providing supporting documentation, with a target of the end of August.

- The board briefly discussed the Texas project, with an emphasis on making sure that an independent project did not claim to be National team representatives without being a sanctioned part of USATH.

Action item

Mr. Branick was tasked with establishing the intent of the program through conversations with both the Texas project leadership, and women's NT head coach.

- Mr. Branick shared the information packet regarding Paris 2024 apparel, which needed to be ordered by the following Friday. This was primarily for information.

Action item

Mr. Branick was asked to provide the list of USATH representatives that were traveling with all teams to upcoming events.

Motion

A motion to adjourn was made at 3 pm MT, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Patrick Jalabert served as Secretary.