U.S. Association of Blind Athletes
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – August 27, 2025

Present:
Mark Ackermann, Chair
Skye Arthur-Banning, Vice Chair
Amy Wasson, Secretary
Gary Remensnyder, Treasurer
John Kusku, Team USA AC, Athlete Board Member
Ali Lawson, Team USA AC Alternate
Charles Catherine, Athlete Board Member
Mindy Cook, Athlete Board Member
Zach Buhler, Athlete Board Member
David Cohen, Board Member
Cody Colchado, Board Member
Brian Eaton, Board Member
Eve Wright-Taylor, Board Member
Erika Petch, Nominating & Governance Committee Chair
Brian Darcy, Ethics & Judicial Committee Chair
Molly Quinn, CEO
Breann Scott, Staff
Karen Zabel, Staff, partial attendance
Kelly Fox, Staff, partial attendance
Catherine Raney-Norman, Staff, partial attendance

Absent:
Matt Simpson, Athlete Board Member

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.

Conflict of Interest
Mark asked if any board members had a conflict of interest. No such conflicts were declared. The board members were reminded to declare if a conflict arises during the meeting.

Approval of Minutes
Mark asked for approval of the May 21, 2025 meeting minutes. The motion was made by David Cohen and seconded by Skye Arthur-Banning. Motion passed unanimously.

U.S. ASSOCIATION OF BLIND ATHLETES

Chair Board Highlights

The Men's & Women's Goalball Team were recognized for earning Bronze in the 2025 IBSA Goalball Americas Championship.

Karen Zabel, Women's Goalball Development Coordinator, took the floor with her request for the board to support the 2026 IBSA Goalball Youth World Championships bid for July 2026. A local university in Indiana will facilitate the bid to bring the championship to USA. Motion to endorse this effort as called, Amy Wasson motioned and Skye Arthur-Banning seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mark Ackermann as board chair announced his attendance with CEO, Molly Quinn, and Team USA AC and Alternate John Kusku and Ali Lawson at the 2025 USOPC General Assembly in Salt Lake City, UT in September.

The grant manager position has shifted from a part-time contractor role to a full-time staff position. The board thanks Catherine Raney-Norman for her service to USABA as a grant manager and advisor within the movement.

An update was provided on the NGB Recertification process. The organization has been classified as renewal with conditions at this time. As expected, there are a few items that need to be implemented to finalize the full recertification.

The revised Athlete Safety Policy was presented to the board with the mandatory language from the USOPC that brings all NGBs into compliance with Executive Order 14168 (January 20, 2025). A call for motion to accept the revised Athlete Safety Policy was made with Cody Colchado motioning and Gary Remensnyder seconding. Prior to a vote, the floor was opened for questions and comments. There was a request to revise the policy further should it be found to be invalid or unenforceable. The motion was amended with Mr. Colchado and Mr. Remensnyder motioning again. Three board members abstained from voting with the remainder in favor of the policy change.

Staff will reach out to the board regarding Sport80 if any compliance deadlines are approaching for you to renew your items like SafeSport Certification or background check.

CEO & Staff Report

The coaches and team captains were asked to complete an After-Action Report after the 2025 IBSA Goalball Americas Championship to further communication and accountability with the Goalball Program.

Goalball Nationals was hosted in Colorado Springs for the first time in over a decade. The event was held at the Colorado School for the Deaf and Blind (CSDB) where nearly 100 participants competed. Additionally, we had about 100 volunteers from organizations like Lion's Club, Delta Gamma, CSDB, our local bank, and the USOPC support our organization.

The USA Men's Blind Soccer team is heading to the Azteca Blind Soccer Cup in Mexico. This will be their first international travel prior to the 2025 IBSA Blind Football American Division 2 Tournament in December 2025.

The vacancy for the Grants Manager position was discussed and announced that Marianna Williamson was hired to fill the role to start mid-September.

A blind soccer pitch dedication is occurring in Los Angeles, CA on November 14, 2025. The LA Galaxy purchased a pitch, and this initial event will bring our partners at LA Galaxy, PlayLA, Anthem, LA28, and Los Angeles Unified School District together to experience blind soccer.

Marketing Discussion
A board discussion was held regarding two initiatives in preparation for 2026. The first is the 50th Anniversary of USABA in 2026. The floor was opened for board members to share their experience with company anniversaries or components they would like to see.

The second initiative is sports rebranding. The logos for USABA, Goalball and Blind Soccer are different. The floor was opened to discuss the opportunities to strengthen the sports properties prior to LA 2028 Games and whether the two sports should have a shared identity.

Committee Updates and Reports
Erika Petach presented the Nominating & Governance Committee report. The committee has been meeting, and the priority is to get a 3rd committee member and currently have two potential candidates to serve as the athlete representative.

Gary Remensnyder presented the Audit & Finance Committee report. The 2nd quarter of 2025 report was compared to the budget with a note that the staff monitor the monthly forecast. An update was also provided on the 2024 Financial Audit. Mark Ackermann called for a motion to accept and approve the committee's 2nd Quarter Financial Statements, Cody Colchado made the motion, and Amy Wasson seconded. The vote was called and was unanimously approved.

John Kusku presented the Athlete Advisory Committee report. The election for committee members for the internal USABA Athlete Advisory Committee (AAC) is in process as we complete the conflict of interest (COI) process with the goal to have the committee seated by quarter end. John also provided an update from Team USA AC meetings held today and called out the commission's initiative to have NGBs include athletes within the selection criteria process during every step. It was also reported a blind and visually impaired athlete, Brad Snyder, is running for a spot with the IPC and we as an NGB are asked to support him in any way we can.

Brian Darcy presented the Ethics & Judicial Committee report. Since the last board meeting, there have been zero complaints filled. The committee has reviewed eight (8) COI forms and understands that there is more coming their way. Of those eight forms, one item was reported and found to not be a conflict.

The meeting was moved to executive session at 6:00 pm MST. The board reviewed several personnel and confidential matters in executive session, then on a motion duly made and seconded, adjourned at 6:21pm.