



## USATT Board Meeting Minutes May 6, 2024

Board Chair **Richard Char** called the Board Teleconference to order at **6:04 pm** US Mountain time.

Board Members in attendance: **Tara Profitt, Dr. Tuan Le, Niraj Oak, Kagin Lee, Thomas Hu, Will Shortz, and Board Chair Char**

Board Member not in attendance: **Arjun Chowdri, Kelly Watson, Tahl Leibovitz, Nikhil Kumar, and Lily Zhang**

USATT Staff: **Virginia Sung** (CEO), **Mark Thompson** (COO/General Secretary to the Board)

USATT Outside Counsel: **Brian Moran, Esq.**

Other Persons Present: **Willy Leparulo, Michael McFarland**

### **Board Chair Call for Conflicts**

Board Chair Char called for actual, anticipated or perceived conflicts. None were identified.

### **Approval of Minutes of February 5, 2023**

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved with Board Member Kagin Lee abstaining:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on February 5, 2024, are approved and formally entered into the record.

### **Report of the Chief Executive Officer**

USATT Chief Executive Officer Virginia Sung presented the Quarter 1 – 2024 CEO Report. On the financial front, Ms. Sung stated that the revenue in Q1 exceeded expectations, with roughly a 50% increase compared to the same period last year. The growth in revenue is attributed to membership growth and the 6 events we hosted in the quarter. As for the revenue composition, 40% of our revenue comes from grants and sponsorship, mainly from USOPC and USPC to support high-performance programs and operations, 44% from events, 13% from membership, and 2% from other sources.

On the expense side, operating expenses remained flat compared to the same period last year. However, expenses for High Performance (HP) and Events increased significantly due to new activities and competitions in the quarter. The main composition of the expenses is 43% for Events & Programs, 28% for operations, 24% for HP, and 3% for other categories. The cost of Events and Programs constitutes the most significant portion of our expenses, and the ability to break even or make a profit in our events is crucial to the financial sustainability of the organization.



Ms. Sung's Report also presented data that was amassed through an approved survey managed by students at the George Washington University School of Business. The survey, which was sent to all USATT Members, accumulated data from 408 participants, who addressed a variety of questions, including the reasons as to why would someone purchase a USATT Membership, as well as the costs and value of such a Membership. The survey results reflected an overall satisfaction with the USATT Membership system, but the survey also identified a few key areas of potential improvement for USATT, including (i) enhancing the website accessibility; (ii) providing a more balanced focus on amateur players rather than professional, elite level players; (iii) improving the current rating system; (iv) expanding local tournaments; and (v) providing more attentive communication with the membership.

Ms. Sung set out the current event schedule for the organization, highlighting events at the Club Level such as the USATT State and Regional Championships, as well as the 2023 National Club Team Championships. With respect to tournaments and events run by USATT, Ms. Sung highlighted the upcoming 2024 US Nationals in Huntsville, Alabama; and the recently completed Olympic Team Trials and Round One of the Junior National Team Trials held in West Monroe, Louisiana, in February; and the upcoming adult National Team Trials and Round Two of the National Junior Team Trials in Burlingame, California, as well as the 2024 US Open scheduled for December. USATT has also been pleased to serve as the host for a number successful International Events so far this year, including the 2024 Pan Am Cup and the 2024 ITTF Para US Open, and a WTT Feeder Series Event in Corpus Christi, Texas; and organization is looking forward to the upcoming WTT Youth Contender Events in San Francisco and West Chester, New York.

Ms. Sung noted that the third year of the USATT Regional Championship Events has shown considerable promise, with the recently completed Pacific Regional Championships jumping from 80 participants last year to 276 this year at the Orange County (CA) Table Tennis Club. The other four Regional Championship Events will be held over the next month or so – and USATT is hopeful that each of these events will experience growth in what is becoming an important nationwide series of events.

Ms. Sung reported that USATT continues to refine several elements that have been developed on the event front for the organization including the Club Leaderboard, which shows the relative activity and performance of some of the best table tennis clubs in the United States. The current Sanctioned Event Calendar on the USATT website reflects a robust amount of activity in table tennis at USATT Affiliated Member Clubs in this Olympic Year.

In that regard, Ms. Sung congratulated the members of the United States Olympic and Paralympic teams, including the US Women's Team qualifiers Lily Zhang, Amy Wang, and Rachel Sung; and Paralympic Qualifiers Jenson Van Emburgh, Tahl Leibovitz, and Ian Seidenfeld. Ms. Sung noted that Kanak Jha and Nikhil Kumar will be headed to the Pan American Olympic Qualifying Event in Lima, Peru, which presents an opportunity for both of those athletes to qualify for and compete at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris.

Finally, Ms. Sung reported on the progress that USATT has made with respect to the organization's Strategic Priorities, noting that the organization is seeking to reach Objective 1 (Medal at the 2028 Olympic Games) with a variety of programs, including a nation-wide elite level training program; joint training programs with international elite athletes; elite level coach development programs; and selection procedures and athlete health and safety programs designed to give US athletes the best competitive environment possible. With respect to Objective 2 (Growing Membership to 40,000), Ms. Sung cited ongoing efforts for Member Club Support and Growth, while



converting club members to USATT Members. USATT is seeking to attain Objective 3 (Hold Over 500 Sanctioned Events) by simplifying the sanctioning process, growing the number tournament directors, increasing resources for clubs to run tournaments, and continue the efforts to grow the base of umpires and referees.

**Athlete Protection Officer’s Annual Report for 2023)**

Mark Thompson, USATT’s Chief Operating Officer, Athlete Protection Officer, and General Secretary to the Board reported on the current status of Athlete Safety and the USATT Safe Sport Policy. Mr. Thompson noted that the organization has now implemented revisions to the Safe Sport Policy as directed by the US Center for SafeSport from the audit conducted at the 2023 US Open in Ontario, California. Mr. Thompson noted that updated policy measures will undergo a review in an Event Audit to be conducted by the USCSS at the 2024 USATT Southeast Regional Championships next week in Broward County, Florida. Finally, Mr. Thompson stated that USATT has submitted to the USCSS the organization’s latest update of the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policy, which is intended to meet the 2025 revisions to the MAAPP required by the Center.

**Upcoming Board Meetings**

Board Chair Char stated that the next USATT Board meeting will be held on:

Monday, November 4, 2024, at 6:00 pm US Mountain Time

**Executive Session**

Upon a motion properly presented, seconded and approved, the Board excused the General Membership and moved into Executive Session.

A discussion was held regarding a previously circulated Memorandum of Understanding proposed between USATT and the Saudi Arabian Table Tennis Federation.

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved unanimously:

**RESOLVED:** USATT’s Chief Executive Officer is hereby authorized to sign the previously circulated Memorandum of Understanding between USATT and the Saudi Arabian Table Tennis Federation, and to take such further actions as she may deem necessary or desirable to effectuate this MOU.

**Adjournment**

It was properly moved, seconded and approved that the Board return to General Session and adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:11 pm US Mountain time .

Respectfully submitted.

Mark Thompson,  
USATT Chief Executive Officer / General Secretary to the Board

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