

# Alyssa Clement

## Candidate Statement

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Since starting my handball career in 2024, in both beach and indoor disciplines, I have quickly fallen in love with the sport. Recognizing the appeal of how this fast-paced, unique sport combines grit, stamina, creativity, heart, commitment, and teamwork illustrates why people all over the world gravitate towards handball versus other sports and build on their career as more than an athlete as opportunities arise. I saw the opportunity to apply for a Board Member position at USA Team Handball and realized that I can use my skillset and talents to contribute to the sport in a different way than I could as a player. Being a player exposed me to the sport and helped me to fall in love with handball foundationally; as I continue gaining experience in the sport through volunteer and leadership opportunities, I see that is how change is made. I am excited for this opportunity to serve the athletes, officials, coaches, volunteers, delegates and everyone involved in the organization as this representative. With the right people at the helm, we can grow the sport domestically and collaborate with sponsors to ease the financial burden on players. Handball is not as well known in the United States compared to other sports, but I often hear from players coming from various athletic backgrounds how much fun they have playing handball and their desire and dedication to improve and continue playing in tournaments and with their local clubs. Playing handball in the US requires time away from work and families, and a significant financial investment, as everything is self-funded. Players who are able to navigate their lives and juggle personal and professional commitments while pursuing this sport deserve recognition and praise. By serving on the Board, it is my hope to help ease the delicate balancing act required by all involved by continuing to grow the sport, expose handball to those who can help, gain sponsorships, and operate transparently.