



## **U.S. Biathlon Board Meeting**

June 17, 2025

1:00pm ET

Attendees: Bob Hall, Hap Brakeley (until 3:45pm), Rachel Steer, Phyllis Jalbert, Jerry Baltzell, Chloe Levins, Justin Gold, Kelsey Dickinson, Russell Currier (from 2:00), Sarah Konrad (from 2:15)

Staff/Guests: Jack Gierhart, Sara Studebaker-Hall, Sara Donatello, Lowell Bailey, Bryce Wallentine, Anna French (USBA AAC member)

A quorum was established.

Bob Hall welcomed everyone, and noted the work going on as well as the significance of the Olympic year ahead. Rachel Steer provided her insight as an Olympian into the work and excitement ahead for the athletes.

Bob also noted the growth of the Foundation and the excitement of the Trustees for the Olympic trip.

Sara Studebaker-Hall asked for conflicts of interests to be disclosed (none were noted). Rachel Steer motioned that the minutes for the February meeting be approved, Bob Hall seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Jack Gierhart introduced new Controller, Bryce Wallentine. He noted the upcoming likelihood of changes to the Transgender Athlete Policies across the NGB landscape due to new guidelines from USOPC. Jack also gave an update on the culture of excellence project - with meetings with athletes at Lake Placid in the last camp, and Kelsey Dickinson echoed the success of the meeting and general support for the project. Jack also noted upcoming travel to Europe for meeting a with partners, the Frasinoro Biathlon Festival, and the OC meeting.

Rachel Steer provided an update from the Athlete Safety Task Force. She noted future membership outreach/update, and the future plans for involvement of the Safety Committee in the ongoing work of the task force.

Sara Studebaker-Hall gave an update on the SafeSport situation, noting 2 open cases with recent closure of 3 cases. She also noted turnover in the Center for SafeSport CEO and hopeful future engagement by NGBs.

Jack Gierhart gave a financial update, noting a budget surplus despite some fundraising shortfalls. IBU support has increased, helping offset the shortfall.

Jack presented a brief overview of the strategic priorities related to the 2030 Plan. Through these priorities, the FY 2026 budget was presented. On the recommendation of the finance



committee, Rachel Steer motioned to approve the budget, Bob Hall seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Lowell Bailey presented a high performance update. The work on the ammunition testing facility in Craftsbury was noted, as was the continued positive impact of the MSU project. Additionally, Lowell noted the positive impact of Annika Pasch, Athletic Trainer in partnership with University of Utah, has had on the team. Several other projects were noted in this important Olympic season.

Bob Hall moved to approve nominations for the National Team, National Development Group, and Junior National Teams. Jerry Baltzell seconded the motion, the motion was approved unanimously.

The athlete representatives presented an update. They noted new committee assignments, and the athlete survey, which was presented to the Board.

John Farra presented an update on development and X team. He noted the move by Brian Halligan to Soldier Hollow, Utah from Crosscut after the funding cut and the success of that program so far. Three new athletes have joined the X team, and two elite development camps are planned for the summer. Additionally, a successful coaches conference was held in Lake Placid.

Jack Gierhart and Sara Studebaker-Hall presented a brief office update, with Sara moving back to Utah, and the addition of Bryce to the Utah-based team. The new membership cycle (July 1-June 30) has been implemented, with a good start in early renewals.

Sara Donatello provided a logo/branding update, talking about the process of a new logo to be released this fall. She continued with a communications update, noting social media growth, and upcoming Two Circles audit.

Jack Gierhart gave a brief Salt Lake 2034 update, noting projects with trail mapping and future events.

Sara Studebaker-Hall gave an IBU update, noting progress with Lake Placid ahead of the Feb/Mar 2026 IBU Cup. She also gave an update on upcoming safety rule changes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 5-6 in Soldier Hollow, Utah. The meeting was adjourned to executive session at 3:55pm ET.