Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

USA Team Handball board meeting

Meeting minutes for the 26-May-2026 regular meeting teleconference

Board members in attendance

- Jason Borchik
- Chris Brase
- Andre Carter
- Olga Chaikouskaya
- Andrew Donlin
- David Eldridge
- Evan Gitomer
- Patrick Jalabert – chair, acting as secretary

Board members excused

- Julia Taylor – vice-chair

USATH Staff in attendance

- Michael King

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 am MT by Patrick Jalabert, chair. Mr. Jalabert thanked board members for joining, and reminded them that several topics would be discussed, as detailed in the shared agenda.

Agenda item #1 – Conflicts disclosure

In conformance with recommended best practices, board members were asked to disclose any potential conflicts of interest arising from the contents of the agenda:

- Mr. Eldridge disclosed that his spouse was employed by Verizon, a sponsor of USA Team Handball, though she was not involved in the decision making process that impacted sponsorship or philanthropic initiatives.
- No other conflicts were raised.

Agenda item #2 – Board chair opening remarks

- Mr. Jalabert highlighted some of the successes of the recently completed 2025-2026 season, including the largest Collegiate National Championships, and the men's senior National team securing their place in the 2027 World Championships on home soil.
- Mr. Jalabert reinforced the vision of success for USA Team Handball being driven by longevity beyond the LA 2028 Olympic Games. The role of the board in the coming months was expected to be heavily focused on engaging with members of the community that were eager to join the movement and contribute their talent to multiple aspects of a successful NGB.

Agenda item #3 – Audit & Compensation Committee update

- Mr. Jalabert had circulated draft reports, previously reviewed by the committee, with the meeting agenda.
- Ms. Chaikouskaya presented strong financial results, improved reporting, and ahead of USA Team Handball's typical schedule for audit. She also emphasized a positive relationship with our accounting firm, driving a positive trend in execution and compliance.
- Ms. Chaikouskaya shared the Q1-2026 results, asking for feedback on the content and the way it was presented. The general takeaway was that the organization was in a much stronger position than it was in early 2025, including a significant reduction in liabilities and a reinforced cash position.
- The Audit and Compensation Committee noted a point for continuous improvement would be to break down the budget by quarter or month for future budgets to enable easier YTD reporting.
- At Mr. Donlin's request, it was clarified that membership income was realized over the course of the membership year, as opposed to lump sumps when people register, in compliance with recommended best practices.
- It was noted that the Verizon sponsorship had pivoted from a January payment to an October payment, leading to two (2) payments received in 2025, but none to-date in 2026. The goal was to simplify the timeline for execution of contract renewals and avoid aligning with larger sponsored organizations' (such as the NFL, NHL, NBA) busy seasons.

Agenda item #4 – CEO updates

- Mr. King noted that the Collegiate National Championships had included 21 teams from 16 schools, an increase since 2022 both in number of teams (13) and diversity of schools attending (6). He also noted that the event had outgrown the original model given its size. The Competition Committee and some collegiate club leaders would be empowered to review the optimal version for future events, with the primary challenge being to ensure minimal financial burden on the clubs, with a vision to grow the pipeline and reach a regional model that could mimic other successful sports.
- The US Open Nationals had had a successful turnout, with the largest documented number of women's teams (14) participating, and 24 total teams across 28 cities represented. The next challenge would be to keep clubs growing and increase collaboration for mutual growth at the local level. The feedback from attendees had overall been very positive, including from board members in attendance, related to the quality of the event and professionalism displayed.
- Mr. King shared that the men's and women's beach National teams had gone undefeated at the NACHC level, and were moving on to the World Championships in Croatia in June. This drove a challenge to turn around logistics fast, and accountability to push the NACHC to host events on the IHF timelines. Mr. King highlighted the great work of the coaching staffs to meet the challenge presented by this tight timing.
- The men's indoor NACHC qualifier had overall been successful, with some feedback for continuous improvement from Per Morten Sodal (IHF PRC Chairman) as he was on site to audit the event. The men's team would be going to the World Championships in Germany in 2027.

- The NACHC had announced a U16 women's championship in Mexico City (a day before the board meeting) to be hosted in June. This was expected to present a significant expense, with low number of matches (only 3 committed teams). Mr. King highlighted the need for continued collaboration with the NACHC to drive improvement both in timing of event announcement, and awareness of financial burden on teams.
- The women's junior National team would be in China for the World Championships from June 24-July 3, and was working through visa documentations and logistics.
- The NACHC club championships were to be hosted July 5-12 in Mexico. Los Angeles THC was qualified, and an additional team may get a wild card. This event did not require financial commitment from USATH.
- ProHandball USA had announced that they were pivoting the location of the first event to Denmark, primarily due to logistical challenges. As that organization had initially committed to covering the costs of hosting the US-Canada Pan American qualifier matches for men and women in Las Vegas, this announcement required USA Team Handball to pivot the USA-Canada match to a domestic location as the IHF did not want the event to be hosted outside of the continent. The women's National team would be competing in Quebec during the October international week, while the men's National team would be competing in the US in August.
- Looking further ahead, Mr. King noted that an IHF Trophy for youth and junior men's teams was expected in Q4-2026.

- Mr. King noted that the renewal of the organization’s insurance policies was in-process, ahead of the deadline of 1-Jun to have a fully established policy. He was leveraging other NGBs’ advice and experience to improve the workflow and offered coverage.
- Mr. King shared that several partnership conversations were on-going, based on feedback from the board, starting with expanding the reach and monetization of USA Team Handball’s digital content, including improvements to production.
- The board discussed the establishment of an advisory board, with a focus on contributors that were willing to buy in monetarily. Mr. King highlighted the board’s opportunity to contribute to this effort by leveraging existing relationships.
- Following the recent event in Iowa, Mr. King was challenging the staffing model to be most impactful to the growth of the organization.
- Briarcliff University (Sioux City, IA) was the first school to fully commit to scholarship handball starting in 2027-2028. Mr. King was working on expanding to other local NAIA schools. This was noted as a major delivery on a commitment that USA Team Handball had made over five years previously. The board discussed the opportunity of leveraging this partnership for continuous impact and long term growth. A full announcement was expected once all details were ready to publish.
- The Competition Committee was now fully staffed, having added a female athlete representative. Its first meeting was set for May 26th, with a formal announcement expected shortly after. Mr. Jalabert emphasized the need for centralized communication for community engagement in order for the committee to be as impactful as possible.
- Mr. Jalabert recommended surveying different constituent groups for feedback, and committed to leading that effort.

The board meeting was adjourned at 12.45 pm MT.