



Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

USA Team Handball board meeting

Meeting minutes for the 26-Mar-2025 regular meeting

Board members in attendance

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

Board members excused

- N/A

USATH Staff in attendance

- Michael King

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 am MT by Patrick Jalabert, interim 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 – Opening statements

- The board welcomed David Eldridge and Evan Gitomer, both newly appointed to independent seats.
- Both new board members provided a short summary of their experience and emphasized their commitment to moving the organization forward.

Agenda item #2 – CEO updates

- Mr. King noted that the US Center for SafeSport audit was scheduled to take place at Collegiate Nationals on the weekend of April 4-6. Initial document submission and logistics coordination was under way.
- The next audit on the schedule was the USOPC quadrennial audit, with initial document submission due by mid April. It was noted that the recent need to mitigate past missed milestones had provided an opportunity to gather a lot of the information that would be required. Mr. King noted that he would share action items with the board and request support on specific tasks.
- The board discussed recent and upcoming National team activity:
 - The Junior Women's National team was scheduled to attend the Pan American Games qualifier, while the Senior Women's National team would be competing in a World Championship qualifier shortly thereafter.
 - The Junior and Youth Men's National teams had recently completed the intercontinental phase of the IHF Trophy, taking first and third place respectively. The Junior team's win meant that the IHF would fund travel expenses for that team to compete in the Junior World Championships.
 - The Men's Senior National team, with a roster of players under the age of 23, had competed in the Emerging Nations tournament, taking third place.
- Mr. King noted that the USATH annual assembly was to be scheduled during the US Open Nationals. Board members would be asked to participate to the best of their ability.
- In closing, Mr. King shared the news that Rod O'Shita, former National team athlete and fierce advocate of the sport, had passed away earlier that week. Mr. King and several board members offered their condolences to his family and friends, and highlighted how sorely he would be missed by the handball community.

Agenda item #3 – Voice of the Athletes

- Ms. Taylor noted a new cycle had begun in early March for the Team Handball Athlete Advisory Council (THAAC).
- The THAAC had recently elected Cedar Bellows as its new chair, and Drew Bradley as its new vice-chair.
- The THAAC had appointed Mackenzie Johnson to serve on the Audit and Compensation Committee in place of Sarah Gascon, who had recently been appointed as Women's National team head coach.
- The THAAC had appointed Bryan Cook to serve on the National Referee Committee in place of Drew Bradley, who had been elected as THAAC vice-chair.

The board moved to executive session at 11.50am MT, ending the webinar.

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- The board discussed the strategic plan for the organization, and aligned on upcoming milestones and division of responsibilities in drafting an updated version.
 - Mr. Carter debriefed a recent call with Positive Athlete, and shared the potential value that a partnership with that organization could bring to USATH. The board aligned on scheduling a follow up meeting to discuss specific steps.
 - The board discussed leadership, now that all seats had been filled, with an objective to formally name a permanent chair and vice-chair shortly.
 - The board discussed the on-going actions to mitigate the lapse in elite athlete health coverage, and aligned on next short-term steps.
 - At the board's request, Mr. King provided an overview of signed partnership agreements that the organization was beholden to, and the value those partnerships provided.

The board meeting was adjourned at 1 pm MT.