



Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

USA Team Handball board meeting

Minutes of the 8-August-2024

Board members in attendance

- Marianne Acker
- Camille Nichols
- Patrick Jalabert – interim chair
- Mark Ortega
- Lawrence Taylor
- Jennifer Fithian – acting as secretary

Board members excused

N/A

USATH Staff in attendance

- Martin Branick

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11am 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 – External Contract Dispute

- The board discussed the current position USATH is with an external party claiming overdue payment.
- Ms. Nichols approved of the suggested use of the budget and requested that we need to show where the money is coming from and to the need to approve the adjustment needed.
- Board is assuming there could be a negotiation but is comfortable with our current offer
- Mr. Branick shared that the decrease in insurance costs should help to offset the agreement cost.
 - Insurance changed from 52K to 28K this year due to the significant change in membership numbers.
- Mr. Taylor added that external party should understand that this will happen over time

Action item

Mr. Jalabert is tasked to follow up with an offer.

Agenda item #2 – Board Composition

- An election was expected to be held this week to name a temporary beach athlete representative to close out Mr. Udo Udoma's term.
- However, this is being delayed by a case that is before our Judicial Committee regarding Mr. Udo-Udoma's eligibility to run again for the same seat.
 - There are two areas of concern:
 - Did Mr. Udo-Udoma receive notification prior to the USATH AAC meeting
 - Colorado Law states that you can only be voted off by the same body that elects an individual
 - Mr. Ortega shared that the USATH AAC follows a set of bylaws and have discussed this situation with the USOPC Reps and is confident that the AAC has followed their steps correctly.
- In parallel, Dave Buckman has started working with the new members of the N&G committee to find new independent representatives. However, as we know from previous discussions, a part of our potential adoption of the US Handball Union includes a recommendation of bringing in some of their board members, so Mr. Buckman is not being pushed very hard until we can give him more direction on that topic.

Action item

Mr. Jalabert to follow up with Lisa Neuroitti and request an answer prior to September.

Agenda item #3 – US Handball Union

- Mr. Taylor believes this is more beneficial to the union than USATH.
- Mr. Branick reminded the board a year ago that the board agreed that there was a desire to take a load off of the NGB by allowing the Union to take over the club market.
- Mr. Jalabert shared with this step forward there is promise of shared workload, a strong network and the possibility of sponsors and donors.
- Ms. Nichols highlighted that it would be imperative for the handball community to understand that the Union has dissolved, not merged, and therefore moving forward under the new strategy plan under USATH.
- Mr. Taylor inquired if it was necessary to even engage with the Union, asking if we want to take a different path.
- Ms. Fithian and Ms. Nichols provided a brief background of all that has happened in the past couple of years and the importance of the club system and the college pipeline which has stalled. Both agreed that we need athletes to grow national teams.
- Ms. Nichols has urged the board to consult with a lawyer.
- Mr. Taylor has shared there is a feeling of being blackmailed in these discussions.
- Ms. Acker shared her interest in returning the club system back under the umbrella of USATH to continue to grow the sport. She has shared the disappointment in the lack of movement over the past year.

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- Mr. Taylor asked the board why would we want Mr. King as our leader now if we didn't vote for him in the first place.
 - Ms. Nichols urged the board to take action, and reminded the board that we are in a fragile position, and that we should not wait for upcoming changes in the board.

Action item

Mr. Jalabert will contact Mr. King with a proposal from the Board.

Action item

Mr. Branick to provide the board with Staff job description to better understand what his role is at the moment.

Motion

A motion was made to move forward on the following items, and was duly seconded. Passing 5-1.

VOTE TO:

1. Take action that would push the dissolution of Union
2. Submit two (2) proposed board members
3. Discuss letter of employment with Mike King to join the USATH staff, subject to board approval
 - a. Mr. King' role to be negotiated and completed with a formal vote of the board
 - b. Offer of employment subject to board of directors