



Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

USA Team Handball board meeting

Meeting minutes for the 6-Mar-2026 executive meeting

Board members in attendance

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

Board members excused

- Evan Gitomer

USATH Staff in attendance

- Michael King

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 12 pm MT by Julia Taylor, vice-chair. Ms. Taylor thanked board members for joining, and reminded them that the focus of the meeting was to discuss communication received by individual board members from community members, and how best to handle those instances.

-
- Ms. Taylor had circulated some context to all board members ahead of time, along with some suggestions regarding communication standards with community members. Those suggestions having been established by a sub-group of board members, the objective was to get perspective and alignment with the entire board, particularly the independent directors whose main advantage in this context was their limited exposure to the community.
 - In light of recent threats, Mr. Jalabert had sought the guidance of USOPC recommended counsel, and circulated the response to the board. Mr. Eldridge disclosed that the counsel in question, Stephen Hess, was currently offering counsel on a USA Fencing grievance that Mr. Eldridge was on the hearing panel for, and noted that this may be perceived as a conflict of interest.
 - Mr. Eldridge shared his perspective on the current conversations, leveraging his experience within the Olympic movement, and emphasized the ethical obligations of the board and its members. He also highlighted that it would be best practice to share the current discussions with David Patterson and the USOPC, rather than engaging directly with the individual community members.
 - As a general note, the majority of the board agreed that immediately convening meetings any time a member raised the tone of a conversation due to a disagreement was not a best practice and risked setting the precedent that the loudest voice would always be heeded, despite not having the full understanding or respect for the organization's responsibilities and priorities.
 - The board discussed its duty of care, including taking pro-active steps to address breaches of privilege which could undermine the organization's ability to fulfill its mission.

Action item

Mr. Jalabert was tasked with inviting Mr. Hess to join the next board meeting to offer guidance.

Action item

Mr. Jalabert, Ms. Taylor, and Mr. Eldridge were tasked with connecting with David Patterson for awareness and guidance.

Action item

Mr. Jalabert and Ms. Taylor were tasked with offering to meet with individual concerned members if they were interested in addressing specific issues, provided they submitted questions beforehand, and with the clear understanding that this did not include sharing privileged information.

Action item

Mr. King was tasked with formally announcing the creation of the Competition Committee once all volunteers had been identified and selected.

- The board aligned that the objective should always be to minimize division within the handball community, while acknowledging that no decision would ever be unanimous among a diverse group of passionate individuals.

The board meeting was adjourned at 1 pm MT.