



**USA Racquetball Board of Directors  
MINUTES  
September 29, 2025  
5:30 pm MT**

**Pre-reads**

1. Conflict of Interest Spreadsheet (updated)
2. BOD Minutes 082525
3. Social Media Report (August 2025)
4. Rules Committee
5. Financial Reports (August 2025)

**Welcome/Call to Order – Kristin Wattz 5:33 PM MT**

	Roll Call
Kristin Wattz (President)	x
*Karen Grisz (Vice President)	x
*Cheryl Kirk (Secretary)	x
Sandy Rios (Treasurer)	x
Jake Bredenbeck (Athlete Rep)	x
Ro-el Cordero	0
Tom Fuhrmann (Athlete Rep)	x
Glen Gitterman	x
Erika Manilla (Athlete Rep)	0
Janel Tisinger-Ledkins (Athlete Rep)	0
Cindy Tilbury	x
Charlie Pratt (Athlete Rep, Team USA AC Alternate/ex officio)	0

\* Office of the Executive Director

**In attendance:** National Rules Commissioner Joshua Jones

**Conflict of Interest Review/Reminder (P-1) – Cheryl Kirk**

Directors were reminded to abstain/recuse themselves on topics that constitute a conflict of interest. Each Board member has the duty to adhere to the USA Racquetball Conflict of Interest Policy as an Affiliated Person.

Individual letters were sent to each Board member on September 17 identifying their disclosures along with any Executive Committee advice or direction regarding C of I mitigations.

**Approval of 8/25/25 Minutes – Cheryl Kirk (P-2)**

**Motion by Sandy Rios to approve the USAR Board of Directors meeting minutes of 8/25/25.**

**Seconded by Karen Grisz**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Motion passed**

### **Executive Committee Update – Kristin Wattz**

Kristin provided an update on the US OPEN after speaking on September 23, 2025, with US OPEN Executive Director Jeff Collins.

USOPC Allocations – Financial support from the USOPC in 2026 will be 5% less than current year. Work will continue on the USAR 2026 budget now that the allocation has been confirmed.

Kristin and Cheryl gave a recap of the USOPC General Assembly they attended September 23-26, 2025, in Salt Lake City. Approximately 60 National Governing Bodies (NGBs) Board Chairs and CEOs; 54 Team USA Athletes' Commission representatives (including USAR's Erika Manilla); attended along with USOPC staff members, speakers, and invited guests. Best Practices sessions and NGB Council Assembly meetings were conducted on a variety of topics. Kristin is joining an NGB steering committee to explore solutions to mitigate loss of Elite Athlete Health Insurance (EAHI) support for athletes next year.

### **Office of the Executive Director Report – Karen Grisz (P-3) / Cheryl Kirk**

Karen Grisz provided a National Events 2026 update:

- USAR National Indoor Championships in Tempe (February)
- USAR High School Championships in St. Louis (February)
- USAR Intercollegiate Championships in Minneapolis (March)
- USAR Junior National Championships in Des Moines (June)

Aimee Roehler will update the USAR National Events infographic to reflect WOR Outdoor Championships as the dates are confirmed.

Karen has assumed leadership of the Junior Working Group and intends to heighten collaboration with the High School and Collegiate groups in building a multi-year national event schedule.

Cheryl Kirk updated the Board on the vendor migration from Players Health to Ankored that is currently in progress. Ankored offers a compliance tracking platform that will administrate completion of SafeSport training, background checks, conflict of interest disclosures, and code of conduct acceptance. All will be executed via E-sign and managed based on the various roles volunteers, employees, and contractors hold. Ankored and R2 Sports are working to create an integration so that Ankored's data transfers over to USAR members' profiles.

Cheryl communicated operational decisions dedicated toward creating better experiences for competing athletes at the USAR National Indoor Championships in February 2026, e.g., limit 3 divisions and using a method to reduce time conflicts. Suggestions included designating and communicating that certain divisions will not be scheduled to begin before Thursday.

### **Committee/Group Updates**

#### **Rules Committee – Joshua Jones (P-4)**

Joshua updated the Board on the committee's activity as follows and as covered in P-4: Pursuant to Rule E.1(a), the following rule proposals were made to the National Rules Commissioner on or before June 1, 2025. The Rules Committee convened on July 15, 2025, to discuss the proposed rule changes; reconvened on September 12, 2025, to further discuss the proposals and vote on two changes; and met a final time on September 22, 2025, and voted on four additional changes. ...

Motion by Sandy Rios to send Proposed Rule Change #1 (Name Change to Rule 9.1) forward in the Rules Committee's 2025-2026 process.

Seconded by Glen Gitterman

Discussion: A question was asked about quorum voting in the committee. Assurance was provided that quorums were met.

Vote: Motion passed

Motion by Sandy Rios to send Proposed Rule Change #2 (Name Change to Rules 8.1-8.4) forward in the Rules Committee's 2025-2026 process.

Second: Karen Grisz

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion passed

Motion by Sandy Rios to send Proposed Rule Change #3 (Preamble to Rule 3.13) forward in the Rules Committee's 2025-2026 process.

Seconded by Cindy Tilbury

Discussion: A comment was raised about the practical impact of this change relative to the definition of when a rally begins.

Vote: Motion passed

Motion by Sandy Rios to send Proposed Rule Change #4 (Rule 3.8) forward in the Rules Committee's 2025-2026 process.

Seconded by Glen Gitterman

Discussion: A comment expressed whether this rule change could be easily explained.

Vote: Motion passed

Motion by Sandy Rios to send Proposed Rule Change #5 (Rule 3.15(a) Penalty Hinders for Failure to Move) forward in the Rules Committee's 2025-2026 process.

Seconded by Karen Grisz

Discussion: Some dialogue occurred about this age-old rule debate as it applies to players of different skill levels.

Vote: Motion passed

Motion by Sandy Rios to send Proposed Rule Change #6 (Court Hinder Rules) forward in the Rules Committee's 2025-2026 process.

Seconded by Karen Grisz

Discussion: Dialogue occurred regarding whether court hinders should be identified by the tournament director vs. allowing referees to determine whether court hinders have occurred.

Vote: Motion passed

### ***Next Steps in Rule Change Process***

Joshua updated the Board on next steps in the Rule Change Process as follows and as covered in P-4:

- Pursuant to Rule E.1(d), the Board "will review all proposals referred" by the Rules Committee. Selected proposals will be made publicly available as soon as possible after the Board's fall meeting for polling and comment by the general membership. See Rule E.1(e).

- After considering input from members—and any additional comments from the Rules Committee and National Rules Commissioner—final votes on the rule changes are done by the Board at its Annual Meeting. See Rule E.1(f).

Joshua will consult with Aimee Roehler on the best mode(s) with which to solicit member feedback.

Joshua also shared that beginning in October, Rules Rule! features will be provided in video format on social media (Facebook/YouTube/Instagram)

- Videos will address some of the simpler rules as well as some more complicated rules as well.
- Sixty-second videos will be shot by various racquetball players across the country.
- Outlines being provided to the contributors.
- A pre-announcement was made by Joshua on social media.

### **Finance Committee – Sandy Rios (P-5)**

#### 2025 Budget

Current position is \$13k of net income over budget.

Junior Team Coach expenses will be incurred in November and December.

#### 2026 Budget

Input to Sandy is due relative to 2026 projections.

Discussion took place regarding priorities and cost-cutting measures going into the new year.

### **Development Advisory Group – Kristin Wattz**

Meeting was rescheduled to the week of October 6.

Topics will be U.S. Junior Team fundraising and discussion of ideas from the USOPC General Assembly (see Executive Committee Update, above).

At the July meeting, a motion was passed to approve the implementation of a policy to allocate 10% of all incoming donations—both restricted and unrestricted—to cover the necessary administrative and indirect costs of operating the organization. This policy will take effect September 1, 2025.

*Action Item: Sandy to direct the accountants to create a separate account for these funds.*

### **Legislative Committee– Cheryl Kirk**

Cheryl updated the Board on the status of the USOPC Audit, i.e., a recommendation will be delivered by the USOPC Compliance Group to the USOPC Board of Directors in November or December.

Policy changes from the August meeting were implemented per the Board's direction.

The Board will receive notification 15 days before its October 27, 2025, meeting regarding several Bylaws revisions for consideration.

### **Election Committee – Cheryl Kirk**

Cheryl reported on the Election Committee's timeline toward providing an At-Large election slate for Board approval at the November 2025 meeting. Two seats will be available. The deadline for submissions of Statements of Interest is October 17, 2025.

**U.S. Team Committee – Cheryl Kirk**

Cheryl provided an update on preparations for the U.S. Junior Team's trip to compete at the IRF World Junior Championships in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, December 5-14, 2025. Present numbers reflect 34 athletes competing with 111 total in the delegation. We have 45 rooms reserved in the host hotel. Uniforms are being gifted by Joe Hall of Splathead at no charge to the competing athletes.

Board members are welcome to purchase uniform items using this link:

<https://www.splathead.com/collections/teamusa>

**New Business – All**

Board members were encouraged to attend the Q4 State President and Tournament Director Call on October 7, 2025, at 5:00 pm MT. Cindy Tilbury will provide the link.

Kristin recognized and thanked Karen Grisz for her contributions as a member of the Office of the Executive Director since January of this year and her service as Board Vice President since May. Kristin is stepping away from both roles as of September 30, 2025, and takes with her the gratitude of the Board. She will be contributing to USA Racquetball in other significant ways.

**Next Meeting:** October 27, 2025, 5:30 pm MT

**Motion by Sandy Rios to adjourn**

**Seconded by Cheryl Kirk**

**Adjourned at 7:24 pm MT**

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