



USA Racquetball Board of Directors -- MINUTES

April 28, 2025

7:30 pm ET

Via Zoom

Welcome/Call to Order – Stewart Solomon 7:35 pm ET

Roll Call – Cheryl Kirk

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

Conflicts of Interest Review/Reminder – Cheryl Kirk

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

The annual process of updating Board materials prior to the Annual Meeting will began April 21 (Conflict of Interest, Confidentiality, SafeSport, Background Check, Membership). Compliance documents are due 5/5/25.

Approval of 3/31/25 Minutes – Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Glen Gitterman to approve the 3/31/25 USA Racquetball Board of Directors meeting minutes.

Seconded by Sandy Rios

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

HOF Committee Chairperson and Hall of Fame Member Jim Easterling joined the meeting to present the Hall of Fame/Awards Committee's requests for approval of process revisions (see below) and to share several fundraising ideas. Steve Czarnecki thanked Jim for all the time and energy he has devoted in service to USA Racquetball over many years.

Executive Committee Update – Stewart Solomon

The Executive Committee met on April 18, 2025. Topics discussed:

- Scorecard – Stewart re-socialized this as a tool to guide and track strategic planning initiatives.
- Karen Grisz and Cheryl Kirk sent a letter to Debra Peters on 4/15/25 to update the Peters Family on the Manilla Athletics collaboration and kickoff of the Racquetball Coordinator Program.

US OPEN oversight – a new event logo was presented to the Board.

National Indoor Discussion – Stewart Solomon/OED

Stewart Solomon and Steve Czarnecki will vacate their Board seats at the adjournment of the May Annual Board meeting regular session since each have served six consecutive years on the Board.

Officer Elections – The President and Treasurer elections will take place at the reconvened meeting of the new Board after the regular session has adjourned.

A Board Roles & Responsibilities pre-read document was presented that included the process by which the elections will be administrated.

Office of the Executive Director Report – Karen Grisz/Kristin Wattz/Cheryl Kirk

Karen Grisz

- USOPC/SafeSport compliance deadlines were met (before April 30) that included reports on Equal Pay for Athletes and State Reporting.
- IRT/USAR Streaming Agreement was executed by both parties.
- A SafeSport audit was conducted in St. Louis in April at the 2025 Missouri State Singles & Doubles Championships and seemed to go well. Results are pending.

Kristin Wattz

- Committee Updates from Chairpersons due date is May 1.
- Kristin attends several meetings per month hosted by USOPC or the ACES group.
- USOPC updates have been provided, including:
 - Transgender athlete inclusion
 - Consulting offered free of charge on a USOPC medical program
 - Colorado Springs office space survey
 - Potential policy shift in Elite Athlete Health Insurance access currently provided to athletes in Pan-Am Only Sports

Cheryl Kirk

- APS Apparel Agreement has been signed by Stewart Solomon and now needs to be signed by APS to finalize for 2025-2029.

- The OED and the U.S. Handball Association met on April 17. Topics discussed included the Manilla Athletics Racquetball Program Coordinator initiative; U.S. Handball National Center in Hazelwood, MO, with multiple courts (grand opening 5/27/25); etc.
- State Director Outreach Letter (Cindy Tilbury, Jonathan Greenberg, Cheryl Kirk); working on updating the distribution list; letter going out week of 4/28.

Fundraising Update – Stewart Solomon/Kristin Wattz

- PARC fundraising campaign provided support for sending a physical therapist to PARC as well as providing athlete entry fees and athlete stipends.
- Stewart shared an “ala carte” fundraising page approach for TWG China (August 2025).

Committee Updates

Finance Committee – Sandy Rios

- The USAR National High School Championships achieved a significant net income.
- Legal costs associated with creating the US OPEN License Agreement were covered with the Board.
- USAR’s annual internal audit resulted in a positive report from the auditor that will be provided to the USOPC Audit/Compliance group before the May 1 deadline.

Membership Committee

- Report not available

U.S. Team Committee – Cheryl Kirk

Junior Team Head Coach Recommendation

Motion by Sandy Rios to approve the recommendation of the U.S. Team Committee to name Robert Collins to the position of U.S. Junior Racquetball Team Head Coach effective June 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, with stipulations that the Head Coach will not be able to privately coach athletes competing in Junior Team Qualifying divisions and that the Head Coach will participate in and support USA Racquetball's U.S. Junior Team fundraising strategy.

Seconded by Karen Grisz

Discussion: An athlete representative shared how another country selects their coaches by the number of players they work with. Question posed: Did we open any applications (i.e., was there a post for the position)? Answer: Not enough time to take applications with a number of other priorities facing the committee. ExCom discussed setting a timeline next year for when applications could be solicited.

Vote: Passed

World Games 2025 – Chengdu, China

USA Racquetball was compelled with a tight turnaround to submit a great deal of information from athletes (including passport scans and photos) in order to be able to include their names on the Late Athlete Replacement Period list (National Indoor results determines final decision). Most athletes were more than gracious and submitted their information quickly. The original athlete list was 24: 12 men/12 women. The final number submitted to the IRF Monday, April 21, was 8 men/8 women plus Head Coach Pablo Fajre.

PARC Update

Details of the event appear on p. 6 of this minutes document.

Legislative Committee – Cheryl Kirk

- USOPC Audit Update: May 1 Deadlines will be met under the categories of Board Development and Accounting Practices.
- Each of the remaining four categories have deadlines of July 25, 2025, under the categories of Anti-Doping Policy Language; Conflict of Interest Policy; USOPC Athlete Safety Requirements; and Event Sanctioning

Hall of Fame Committee – Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Karen Grisz for the USAR Board of Directors to approve the submitted Hall of Fame/Awards Committee requests for approval of process revisions* on the USA Racquetball website.

Seconded by Steve Czarnecki

Discussion: The revisions are recommended to create consistency and to avoid confusion.

Vote: Passed

**Details of the revisions appear on p. 5 of this minutes document.*

Election Committee (NRC) – Cheryl Kirk

- The committee is acting as the National Rules Commissioner Interview Panel.
- Interviews will be taking place this week.
- Objective is to have a recommendation for the Board's approval at the Annual Meeting on 5/13/25

New Business – A Board member offered that they saw a post on social media that a nine-court facility at Eastern Washington University could have potential as a future tournament site.

Next Meeting: May 13, 2025 – Annual Meeting, Pleasanton, California

Adjourn

Motion by Karen Grisz to adjourn

Seconded by Sandy Rios

Adjourned 9:42 pm ET

Pre-reads

- BOD 3/31/25 meeting minutes for approval
- Board Officer Roles & Responsibilities
- HOF Committee Revision Proposals

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**REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF WORDING FOR PROCEDURAL CHANGES
OR CLARIFICATION OF HOF AND ANNUAL AWARDS PROCESSES**

Submitted by Jim Easterling, Chairperson

1. As of now, on the web site under HOF Nomination Procedures states:

October	HOF Committee advises USA Racquetball Board of Directors of Nominees
January 15	Voting Group votes on and presents up to three Nominees to the USAR Board

The USAR Board of Directors approves individual inductees.

It seems as though the Committee and the BOD are dealing with the names twice. I thought that it might save some time if we only sent the names to you once for your approval. We would like to eliminate the October line or the January 15 line.

2. We would also like to do the same for the Annual Award names and make the corrections on the web site.

3. On the website it states:

“A minimum 80% ballot return will constitute a valid vote”

It also states on the website:

"Nominee induction requires 75% of a valid vote"

For consistency, the Committee proposes amending it to read:

“A minimum 75% ballot return will constitute a valid vote”

**US Team Trip to XXXVI Pan American Racquetball Championships
Guatemala City, Guatemala
April 10-20, 2025**

Athletes/Divisions

Jake Bredenbeck (Minnesota): Men's Singles

Thomas Carter (Illinois): Men's Singles

Jake Bredenbeck / Sam Bredenbeck (Minnesota): Men's Doubles

Michelle Key (Arizona): Women's Singles

Lexi York (Minnesota): Women's Singles

Michelle Key / Lexi York: Women's Doubles

Michelle Key / Sam Bredenbeck: Mixed Doubles

Staff

Pablo Fajre (California): Head Coach

Dr. Sarah Leong-Lopes (California): Physical Therapist

Santiago Villamil (Florida): Physical Therapist

PARC Overall Results – Individual Awards

Women's Singles Individual

Lexi York (USA) Bronze

Women's Doubles Individual

Lexi York/Michelle Key (USA) Bronze

Men's Doubles Individual

Sam Bredenbeck/Jake Bredenbeck (USA) Bronze

PARC Team Competition Awards

Women's Team – 4th

1. Mexico
2. Argentina
3. Canada
- 4. USA**

Men's Team

1. Bolivia
- 2. USA**
3. Costa Rica
4. Mexico

Combined Team

1. Mexico
- 2. USA**
3. Argentina
4. Costa Rica