



Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

USA Team Handball board meeting

Meeting minutes for the 27-Jan-2025 meeting

Board members in attendance

- Olga Chaikouskaya
- Julia Taylor
- Jason Borchik
- Chris Brase
- Andre Carter
- Patrick Jalabert – interim chair, acting as secretary

Board members excused

- Andrew Donlin

USATH Staff in attendance

- Michael King

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 the focus for the meeting would be broad strokes strategy and preparation for the upcoming meeting with the IHF.

- Mr. Jalabert noted that the critical objective for the day was to align the leadership team on the general direction that the board wanted to drive the organization, in order to present a vision to the IHF that they could feel confident in supporting.
- Both Mr. Jalabert and Mr. King emphasized that the expectation would be that the IHF would be expecting specific activities to support, with strong accountability on the part of the USATH leadership team.
- The board discussed how the notion of grassroots development was inextricably linked to other priorities, and that listing “grassroots development” as a high-level objective did not preclude a short term focus on such activities as supporting the growth of domestic clubs, developing a network of facilities, etc.



Board of Directors *Meeting minutes*

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- The board discussed better ways to involve the current pool of National team coaches to ensure sustainability at the National team level, and establishing a clear pathway for collegiate athletes to strive to beyond graduation.
 - The board also discussed the need for exposure and “general education” to increase the sport’s exposure in the United States.
 - The board discussed emphasizing the beach handball side of our strategic plan, including an exhibition around the LA 2028 games, and a Global Beach Tour event in the US.
 - A similar conversation was had regarding wheelchair handball, and USATH’s drive to be a key contributor in that sport’s expansion in the IHF’s framework.
 - In closing, the board re-emphasized its commitment to keeping gender equality front of mind when discussing development and support with the IHF.

The board meeting was adjourned at 12.15pm MT.