



Member, United States  
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

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## USA Team Handball board meeting

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Meeting minutes for the 12-Mar-2025 executive meeting

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### **Board members in attendance**

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

### **Board members excused**

- N/A

### **USATH Staff in attendance**

- Michael King

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 am 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. It was also noted that the next meeting would include a public session, with the intent to have every other board meeting include a public portion.

### **Independent board members**

- The Nominating and Governance Committee (NGC) had circulated four (4) candidate profiles for consideration by the board to fill the two (2) remaining independent positions. The NGC had also provided a ranking of their recommended candidates, with the stated intent to provide guidance to the board in its decision.
- Ms. Allegra Collins had requested, shortly before the meeting, to be withdrawn from consideration, citing a potential other opportunity to get involved in the handball community that would create a conflict with the definition of an “independent” board seat.

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- The board discussed the remaining three (3) candidates and aligned on following the NGC's proposed ranking to determine which two (2) to on-board.
  - The board also discussed which director to appoint to which seat. It was noted that seat #8 would be completing an existing term with less than two (2) years remaining, and therefore not be considered toward the maximum count of two (2) consecutive terms that a director could serve.

***Motion***

*A motion was made to appoint David Eldridge to independent seat #8, with a term expiration of 31-Dec-2025, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.*

***Motion***

*A motion was made to appoint Evan Gitomer to independent seat #7, with a term expiration of 31-Dec-2028, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.*

***Action item***

*Mr. Jalabert was tasked with contacting both appointees and supporting them through the on-boarding process, with the intent to have them join the next board meeting.*

**Agenda item #1 – CEO updates**

- Mr. King noted that the USOPC had announced the timeline for the compliance audit, with a formal kick-off set for the following Friday. He noted that he would share the full scope of work once available. The board would support as needed, in order to limit the amount of time that was pulled from other areas of need for the organization such as fundraising.
- The DEI score card was due to the USOPC by the end of the week, and was on track to being completed.
- The IHF had submitted a request for additional details pertaining to the plan that the organization had submitted in mid February.
- The working manual for Collegiate Nationals was set to be sent out to teams that day. The working manual for Open Nationals was expected shortly after, having received confirmation from the IHF regarding expectations of teams bidding to compete in the Club World Championships.
- The USOPC had formally notified USA Team Handball that the concerns raised in their letter in October 2024 had all been addressed in a satisfactory manner.
- Mr. King noted that several positive conversations were underway with potential sponsors. This pivoted the conversation to how the board could support that activity, leveraging their existing networks.

***Action item***

*Mr. King was tasked with providing a high level slide deck that board members could use for introductory conversations, prior to bringing him in for the full pitch.*

- The board aligned on keeping a list of active leads to avoid potential overlap in geographies, program types, etc.

**Agenda item #2 – Approval of Meeting minutes**

- Meeting minutes for February 12, 2025 and February 27, 2025 had been circulated ahead of time for review.
- No changes were requested.

***Motion***

*A motion was made to approve both sets of meeting minutes, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.*

***Action item***

*Mr. King was tasked with publishing approved meeting minutes to the USA Team Handball website.*

**Non-agenda items**

- Ms. Taylor noted that the Athlete Advisory Council (THAAC) was working on appointing athletes to replace representatives who were no longer able to serve in their roles, having taken on new responsibilities within the organization that presented a conflict of interest.
- The board discussed the leadership of the National Referee Committee (NRC). It was noted that the newly elected referee representatives had already begun discussing roles and responsibilities, with an eye on being as efficient as possible quickly.

***Motion***

*A motion was made to appoint Vafa Ahmadiyah as chair of the NRC, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.*

*The board meeting was adjourned at 12.10 pm MT.*