

USS Board of Directors 3/31/2025 Meeting Minutes

In attendance for the meeting on 3/31/2025 of the USS Board of Directors (“BOD”) were USS BOD Vice President; Susan Sandvig-Shobe, Brittany Bowe, Conor McDermott-Mostowy, Robert Woodbury, Jane Lute, Deb Wheelock, and William Gebauer. The listed members in attendance constitutes a quorum of the Board. USS Executive Director Ted Morris, and Finance Director Michael Burdekin were also in attendance.

Meeting minutes were recorded by Sara Bowles.

1) **Welcome**

Ms. Shobe called the meeting to order at 6:06pm MT.

Mr. Morris shared a brief recap congratulating our athletes on a great season.

2) **Approval of 2/01/2025 BOD Meeting Minutes**

Motion for approval by Mr. Woodbury. Second by Ms. Wheelock; approved.

3) **Declaration of any Conflicts with Meeting Agenda**

Ms. Bowe, Mr. McDermott-Mostowy, and Mr. Gebauer all declared potential conflicts with the High-Performance agenda item. Mr. Gebauer declared potential conflicts with the Marketing / fundraising / sponsorship sections of the agenda.

4) **Financial Report**

2024/25 budget forecast

Mr. Burdekin reported on the 2024/25 budget forecast. Despite starting the year with a significant deficit, staff was successful in closing the gap through cost savings efforts.

USS has reached an agreement with the ISU on settling the financial obligations related to the ISU’s cancellation of the Short Track World Tour and Short Track Four Continents Championships in 2024.

USS’ Cashflow has improved considerably since receiving two of six quarters of back payment from the IRS related to the COVID era Earned Retention Credit. Staff is optimistic that USS will receive revenue for the remaining four quarters in the coming months.

2023/24 Financial Audit and USOPC Certification

USS' 2023/24 draft audit is still in progress. With a new audit firm, the process has been painfully slow. There are not any major issues, but it's been difficult getting it across the finish line.

5) US Speedskating Foundation (USSF) report

No updates to share.

6) AAC Update

Ms. Bowe shared athlete feedback regarding hotel accommodations for athletes when competing at home international events. The BOD discussed the issue understanding the athlete's perspective while recognizing the negative impact this could have on travel budgets.

Ms. Bowe emphasized the importance of sending full teams to World Cups, especially in an Olympic Year.

Will Gebauer and Sarah Warren will be the new athlete point of contacts for safe sport reports.

Mr. Gebauer presented recommended changes to the USS Bylaws regarding the makeup of the USS Athletes' advisory Council. Staff will work on changes to be presented to the BOD at the next meeting. Additional bylaw drafting matters were discussed that will be made ahead of the next meeting.

7) Membership / Club Report

USS ended the year with 1972 members. This is an increase of 2% over last year. USS had a highly successful U.S Short Track Age Group Championships this past weekend in NJ, hosted by the Garden State Speedskating Club. The rink is interested in hosting future short track events.

8) SafeSport Report

Mr. Morris shared a brief update regarding current safe sport issues.

9) Hall of Fame (HOF) Report

Nick Pearson and Jeff Golz will be inducted into the HOF at the Congress in May. The BOD discussed nominees for other annual awards.

10) Executive Director Report

a. 2026 Olympic Games

Staff was in Milan for the final Short Track World Tour Event of the season. Part of the trip was evaluating venues, transportation and locations for USS guests at the Olympic Games and a home for the Ice House.

b. High Performance

Staff conducted season debrief meeting over the last week evaluating how departments did against planned goals and activities. Staff will now begin putting together season plans for the coming year.

c. ISU

The ISU conducted three member conferences over the last few weeks at the Short Track, Speed Skating and Figure Skating World Championships regarding the new constitution. A special congress will be held July 3rd to vote yes or no on approval of the new constitution.

There was a discussion around a recent ISU communication regarding Russian and Belarussian participation at the 2026 Olympic Games and relevant qualifying events.

d. USOPC

It's been a banner year for Team USA Winter Sport across the board. The overall medal count for 2026 looks very promising. The Winter NGB's will gather in Park City and Salt Lake City in July for a week of meetings focused on collective High Performance initiatives and best practices.

The USOPC announced a \$100 million grant by a foundation aimed at supporting Olympians post athletic career. Moving forward, all Olympians will receive \$200,000 in financial benefits.

e. Marketing/Fundraising/Sponsorship

Fundraising and sponsorship revenue hit targets this year setting a positive tone ahead of next season. BOD profiles will be shared in Member News leading up to Congress.

11) Legal Update

Nothing new to report.

12) New Business

No new business.

13) Conclusion

The meeting concluded at 7:47pm.