



**USA Racquetball Board of Directors Meeting – MINUTES**

**Monday, September 9, 2024, 5:30 pm MT**

**Via Zoom**

**Welcome/Call to Order -- Stewart Solomon – 5:33 pm MT**

(A quorum was achieved and advance notice was given of the meeting.)

Stewart recognized the September 8, 2024 passing of Dr. Bud Muehleisen, Father of Racquetball.

Stewart welcomed Kristin Wattz to her first Board of Directors Meeting.

**Roll Call – Cheryl Kirk**

	Roll Call
<b>Stewart Solomon (President)</b>	x
<b>Tony Prater (Vice President)</b>	x
<b>Cheryl Kirk (Secretary)</b>	x
<b>Sandy Rios (Treasurer)</b>	x
<b>Jake Bredenbeck (Athlete Rep)</b>	x
<b>Ro-el Cordero</b>	x
<b>Steve Czarnecki (Ind. Perspective)</b>	x
<b>Tom Fuhrmann (Athlete Rep)</b>	x
<b>Erika Manilla (Athlete Rep)</b>	x
<b>Janel Tisinger-Ledkins (Athlete Rep)</b>	x
<b>Slomo Warigon</b>	0
<b>Kristin Wattz (Ind. Perspective)</b>	x
<b>Mike Grisz (Executive Director/ex officio)</b>	x
<b>Michelle Key (Athlete Rep, Team USA AC Alternate/ex officio)</b>	0

**Approval of Minutes 8/5/24 – Cheryl Kirk**

*Minutes in draft were received by the Board in advance of the meeting.*

**Motion by Sandy Rios to approve the August 5, 2024, Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**Seconded by Ro-el Cordero**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Motion passes**

**Conflicts of Interest Review/Reminder – Cheryl Kirk**

Directors were reminded to abstain/recuse themselves on topics that constitute conflicts of interest.

Each Board member has the duty to adhere to the USA Racquetball Conflict of Interest Policy as an

Affiliated Person. The Board will be formally trained on this topic by the USOPC at our Board meeting on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The meeting requires 100% attendance.

#### **Executive Committee Update – Stewart Solomon**

A conversation with a potential Executive Director candidate took place recently. Scheduling an Executive Committee panel is the next step.

An individual with extensive event management experience is exploring early steps with USA Racquetball to direct a US OPEN in 2026.

#### **Executive Director Update – Mike Grisz**

XXII IRF World Racquetball Championships - Thanks to Sandy Rios and Cheryl Kirk for their LOC work in organizing and running the tournament. There were a record number of participants, countries, and continents. Sudsy Monchik and Leo Vasquez raised \$10,400 via the Centurion Doubles event. Key people in the Racquetball world attended and experienced an IRF event for the first time. IRF Worlds was great for Racquetball, both internationally and domestically. While it was a significant expense for USA Racquetball, it was a valuable investment in the sport.

Conversation took place in San Antonio with the Handball Director from Texas A&M regarding future concurrent tournaments with Racquetball and Handball.

A September 25 meeting is scheduled with the 20x40 group (USA Racquetball/U.S. Handball).

Hall of Fame Committee - Jim Easterling reported to Mike Grisz that HOF nominations are due by the end of September.

An inaugural USOPC Audit meeting will take place Thursday, September 12.

Events: Jonathan Greenberg will assist at the KWM Gutterman 2024 3WallBall World Championships in Las Vegas the week of September 23. The R2 site for the 2025 High School Nationals is live. For the 2025 Indoor Nationals, another club will be needed near Pleasanton.

Mike is working on a proposal for awarding USA Racquetball coaching grants next year.

Kristin Wattz and Karen Grisz will attend RacquetX next spring. USA Racquetball will have a booth at the Miami event, March 22-24, 2025. <https://theracquetx.com>

USA Racquetball is part of the Capstone program – a Business Strategy Group at Portland State. Mike will teach a 10-week class.

Karen Grisz and T. J. Baumbaugh are leading the Growing the Sport group. Two 30-second videos will be produced before 3WallBall by María Paz Riquelme. The group is planning to offer a contest: Produce a “How To Play Racquetball” Video.

#### **Discussion and Consideration: Tewdilly Content Strategy and Growth Proposal – Mike Grisz and Stewart Solomon**

A detailed and productive discussion engaged all Board members in attendance. Topics included costs, operating procedures, Board and Staff oversight, accountability, metrics, social media platform execution, work examples, and professional contacts/resources. The next step is a follow-up meeting involving

a smaller subset of the Board. All Board members will be reminded by the end of the week to send a list of questions and concerns to that group.

#### **Finance Update – Sandy Rios**

The P&L for the IRF World Racquetball Championships is in process of being reconciled. A final statement will be available by the end of September. A Board member mentioned that a detailed list should capture all expenses, reimbursed or not (donations), for legacy, i.e., “what it took to do it.”

Overall, YTD revenues are in line with the budget, but expenses have exceeded projections.

#### **Legislative Update (USOPC Audit) – Cheryl Kirk**

Cheryl had no news to share on the USOPC Audit process or timeline. In light of the Legislative Committee’s and the Board’s considerable work this year on the Bylaws and policies, we do anticipate a positive overall audit process, even with some tasks yet to be completed.

#### **IRF World Racquetball Championships Update – Cheryl Kirk/Sandy Rios**

Tabled due to lack of time.

#### **New Business – All**

A Board member wondered if, in the interest of court preservation, it would be worth exploring some sort of iteration of pickleball that could be played on a racquetball court. This topic will be discussed in the 20x40 meeting with U.S. Handball on September 25.

**Next Meetings - 10/7/24; 10/28/24; 11/25/28**

**Sandy Rios moved to adjourn  
Seconded by Cheryl Kirk**

**Adjourned 7:37 pm ET**

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