



Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

USA Team Handball board meeting

Minutes of the 2-Jul-2024 extraordinary meeting teleconference

Board members in attendance

- Marianne Acker
- Jennifer Fithian
- Camille Nichols
- Patrick Jalabert – interim chair and acting as secretary
- Mark Ortega
- Lawrence Taylor

Board members excused

N/A

USATH Staff in attendance

- Martin Branick – CEO

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.

Agenda item #1 – Audit and Compensation Committee

- The board thanked Ms. Nichols for her service as interim chair of the committee since Ms. De La Riva Repede's resignation.

Motion

A motion was made to appoint Mr. Taylor to the role of chair of the Audit and Compensation Committee, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

- The board discussed Party's payment request, and the background information related to that request. The Audit and Compensation Committee, along with Mr. Branick, were handling the review and follow-up on that topic.
- Mr. Taylor noted that some administrative follow-up was needed to ensure that all financial statements up to and including FY2022 were made public on the website.

Action item

Mr. Branick was tasked with facilitating a meeting between Mr. Taylor and the external auditor.

Agenda item #2 – Interim board - 30/60/90-day priorities

- Mr. Jalabert provided an update on the Nominating and Governance Committee (NGC). The two (2) athlete representatives had been nominated by the Athlete Advisory Committee (AAC) and had accepted their position. In parallel, Mr. Jalabert had circulated the profile of David Evangelista, who had been recommended by the USOPC to serve as an independent member of the NGC.

Motion

A motion was made to appoint Mr. Evangelista to the role of independent member of the Nominating and Governance Committee, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

Action item

Mr. Jalabert was tasked with informing Mr. Evangelista of the nomination, and facilitating the completion of required training and background check in order to on-board him on to that committee.

- The board revisited the topic of the National Referee Committee (NRC) chair, which had open action items from a previous meeting. It was noted for context that the NACHC referee chair had stepped down and that David Portillo had stepped into the interim role for the remainder of the term. In line with feedback from the community, the board agreed to emphasize the need for diversity with the NRC once the chair was seated.

Action item

Mr. Branick was tasked with sending his written assessment to the board, following the multiple conversations he had with members of the referee community.

Motion

A motion was made to appoint Tugomir Anusic to the role of NRC chair, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

Action item

Mr. Branick was tasked with informing Mr. Anusic of the nomination, and clearly relaying the expectations of the organization related to conduct and inclusivity.

Action item

The AAC was tasked with appointing two (2) athlete representatives to the NRC.

Action item

Mr. Branick was tasked with coordinating an election for the two (2) representatives of the referee community to sit on the NRC.

- The board agreed to revisit the topic of filling the board representative on the NRC during the next meeting.
- At Mr. Taylor's request, the board clarified the status of all current held seats, and the upcoming turnover in leadership.
- The board discussed the US Handball Union (USHU) and potential paths forward. Given recent changes in board leadership, the background and evolution of the competitive structure over the past year was discussed at length.
- Members of the board productively challenged each other on potential solutions to the situation, including three (3) primary paths for consideration: no partnership between organizations, a joint venture between organizations, or combining organizations.
- The board agreed that, in the event of combining organizations, the USOPC should be consulted for their expertise and knowledge of precedence within the Olympic movement.
- In the immediate term, the board wished to meet with Michael King on behalf of the USHU, for an update on their current governance and vision.

Action item

Mr. Jalabert was tasked with facilitating a meeting between the USHU and USATH leadership.

- Mr. Jalabert asked that board members all take some time to review the current strategic plan and bring their comments and ideas at the next board meeting on 16-Jul-2024.

Action item

Mr. Branick was tasked with sending a copy of the current strategic plan to all board members to ensure everyone was working on the same document.

Agenda item #4 – Meeting minutes

- Mr. Jalabert had circulated the meeting minutes for the June 15, 2024 meeting ahead of time for review.
- No changes were requested.

Motion

A motion was made to approve the June 15, 2024 meeting minutes, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

- Ms. Fithian agreed to serve as secretary moving forward, to allow for separation between the interim chair role and the taking of meeting minutes.

Agenda item #3 – CEO report

- Mr. Branick provided a brief update on National teams. He was expecting to conduct a debrief session shortly with the staff of each team that competed.

Action item

The AAC was tasked with sending out a post-event survey to all athletes to leverage their feedback in debrief sessions.

- Mr. Branick noted that the wheelchair handball National team would be hosting its first recruitment event in Auburn in the upcoming week, in preparation for the world championships in September.
- Mr. Branick provided an update on the TRY HANDBALL initiative and showed the website in its current form.
- Mr. Branick and the board discussed the plan for Mr. Branick's upcoming paternity leave, specifically as it pertained to topics that were time sensitive and could not be delayed in his absence.

Action item

Mr. Branick was tasked with circulating a copy of the plan to board members for reference.

Motion

A motion to adjourn was made at 12.20 pm MT, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Patrick Jalabert served as Secretary.