



## USA Racquetball Board of Directors MINUTES

February 24, 2025

7:30 pm ET

Via Zoom

Welcome/Call to Order – 7:36 pm ET -- Stewart Solomon

Roll Call – Cheryl Kirk

	Roll Call
Stewart Solomon (President)	x
*Kristin Wattz (Vice President)	x
*Cheryl Kirk (Secretary)	x
Sandy Rios (Treasurer)	x
Jake Bredenbeck (Athlete Rep)	0
Ro-el Cordero	0
Steve Czarnecki	x
Tom Fuhrmann (Athlete Rep)	x
Glen Gitterman	x
*Karen Grisz	x
Erika Manilla (Athlete Rep)	x
Janel Tisinger-Ledkins (Athlete Rep)	x
Charlie Pratt (Athlete Rep, Team USA AC Alternate/ex officio)	0

*\*Office of the Executive Director*

Board Minutes Approval – Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Glen Gitterman to approve the previously provided minutes of the January 27, 2025; January 31, 2025; and February 10, 2025, Board of Directors meetings.

Seconded by Sandy Rios

Discussion on 1/27/25 minutes: None

Discussion on 1/31/25 minutes: None

Discussion on 2/10/25 minutes: None

Vote: Passes

Conflicts of Interest Review/Reminder – Cheryl Kirk

Directors are reminded to abstain/recuse themselves on topics that are a conflict of interest. Each Board member has the duty to adhere to the USA Racquetball Conflict of Interest Policy as an Affiliated Person.

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

Discussion took place regarding the date/location/agenda topics for the upcoming Board of Directors Annual Meeting, May 13, 2025, 10:00 am-3:00 pm, at the USA Racquetball National Indoor Championships in Pleasanton, California. The HOF and Awards Breakfast will be held on Saturday, May 17, at the DoubleTree by Hilton.

US OPEN 2026 Update: Agreement draft received from the attorney Steve Czarnecki engaged on our behalf. The Executive Committee will analyze and provide input on the document and will work on behalf of the Board with periodic updates provided.

Transgender Policy: The USOPC is taking a wait and see approach. Team USA AC published a position document. State laws should be reviewed closely as future action might be contemplated. At present, the Legislative Committee will not be meeting in special session specific to this topic.

### **ExCom Motion/Vote 02142025**

**Motion and second to continue to allow non-citizen U.S. Residents to participate at the USA Racquetball Junior Festival.**

**Discussion surrounding various scenarios under which non-citizen players could play.**

**Vote: Passed**

The February issue of *Serving Up the News* was published earlier today with articles included from President Stewart Solomon and from the Office of the Executive Director.

### **Office of the Executive Director Report – Karen Grisz/Cheryl Kirk/Kristin Wattz**

- The USA Racquetball National High School Championships will begin later this week in Portland, Oregon.
- 2026 Events: The USA Racquetball National Indoor Championships slated for early February 2026 will take place at ASU Tempe. They will still have a sufficient number of courts to accommodate the tournament. People who are in charge at ASU are excited to have the event return to Tempe.
- RacquetX – March 22-24, 2025 at the Miami Beach Convention Center. Karen and Kristin will represent USA Racquetball there, and Rafael Filippini of Gearbox will be speaking at RacquetX and will partner with us in covering some of the expenses to attend.
- Manilla Athletics has provided an excellent report describing early success with the junior program they have spearheaded.
- USOPC Audit – waiting for final recap from auditor and a meeting to be scheduled to review findings.

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Finance Committee – Sandy Rios**

- Financial reports were provided to the Board prior to this meeting. Discussion was had in the last committee meeting about adjusting the budget on a quarterly basis. Sandy continues to work on the complicated challenge of effecting consolidation of banking processes.
- Athlete Development Program (ADP) funds are depleted with the end of the program year approaching (June). Without an allocation of additional funds beyond Peters Family support in the past, the program may have to be discontinued.

#### **Membership Committee Update – Ro-el Cordero**

Deferred to the 3/31/25 Board meeting.

### **U.S. Team Committee – Cheryl Kirk**

- The Head Coach agreement renewal with Pablo Fajre has been executed.
- The U.S. Team Policies, Procedures & Protocols Handbook/Contract is undergoing review and updating by committee members. Input outside the committee was welcomed with a deadline of 2/19/25. The document will be presented by the U.S. Team Committee to the Board for approval at the 3/31/25 meeting with the goal of having it ready to send to athletes at least two weeks before the National Indoor Championships, May 14-18, 2025.
- A letter regarding team selection and other details regarding The World Games (August 2025) to be held in Chengdu, China, was sent from U.S. Team Committee Chairperson Larry Haemmerle to the current U.S. Team athletes on February 12, 2025.

### **PARC Update and Approval of Delegation**

**Motion by Sandy Rios to approve the U.S. Team Committee's recommendation to the USA Racquetball Board of Directors to accept Head Coach Pablo Fajre's recommendation for six athletes to comprise the U.S. Team roster (along with assigned divisions) to represent USA Racquetball and the United States of America at the Pan American Racquetball Championships in Guatemala City, April 2025.**

**Recognizing that USA Racquetball cannot fund the team's participation (with the exception of customary stipends and international travel insurance), the team members named have all agreed to fund their own participation.**

### **Women's Team**

**Singles: Kelani Lawrence, Michelle Key**

**Doubles: Hollie Scott, Kelani Lawrence**

### **Men's Team**

**Singles: Daniel De La Rosa, Jake Bredenbeck**

**Doubles: Jake Bredenbeck, Sam Bredenbeck**

### **Mixed Doubles**

**Hollie Scott, Daniel De La Rosa**

### **Seconded by Kristin Wattz**

**Discussion reflected positive feedback from the Board.**

**Vote: Passed**

*Note: The committee is working to identify and fund an athletic trainer to accompany the team.*

### **Legislative Committee Update**

Revised Bylaws and Policies documents are current on the USA Racquetball website following approval of the Legislative Committee's recommendations on 1/27/2025. Board minutes are up to date on the website.

**New Business** – Discussion took place to brainstorm ways for our activities and initiatives to become more visible to our members and potential members. Ideas included quarterly updates on state of the sport; providing forums for members to ask questions, e.g., periodic Zoom town hall meeting offerings; approaches to let people know how they can become involved; post the newsletter over to other social media pages in addition to USA Racquetball's pages...anywhere there are people interested in racquetball.

*Erika Manilla exited the meeting at 8:38 pm.*  
*Kristin Wattz exited the meeting at 8:43 pm*

**Next Meeting:** March 31, 2025, 7:30 pm ET

**Motion by Karen Grisz to adjourn**  
**Seconded by Sandy Rios**

**Adjourned 8:51 pm ET**

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