



**USA Racquetball Board of Directors
Annual Meeting – MINUTES
May 15, 2026 10:30 am MT
Via Zoom**

Pre-Reads

- [PR1 – BOD Minutes Approval 4/27/26](#)
- [PR2 – Rule Changes](#)
- [PR3/PR3a – Committee Reports](#)
- [PR4 – U.S. Junior Team Handbook](#)
- [PR5 – Financials 5a Q1 5b-g docs 5h 990](#)
- [PR6 – Manilla Athletics](#)
- [PR7 – Board Members and Officers – Roles & Responsibilities](#)

10:31 Welcome/Call to Order – Kristin Wattz

10:35 Roll Call – Cheryl Kirk

	Roll Call
Kristin Wattz (President)	x
Jerry Lis (Vice President)	x
*Cheryl Kirk (Secretary)	x
Sandy Rios (Treasurer)	x
Jake Bredenbeck (Athlete Rep)	x
Ro-el Cordero	x
Tom Fuhrmann (Athlete Rep)	x
Glen Gitterman	x
Charlie Pratt (Athlete Rep/Team USA AC)	x
Janel Ledkins (Athlete Rep)	x
Cindy Tilbury	x

* Office of the Executive Director

Attending Guests

Jonathan Greenberg (Staff Member; National Events Director)

Juan Canals and Alexxander Purcell – Voice but no vote during regular meeting; will officially become seated Board members in special session at the conclusion of the regular meeting.

Attending Presenters

Joshua Jones, Chad Thompson, Erik Ladewig, Adam Manilla, Jeff Collins, Cliff Swain, Shreya Chandel

10:40 MT Board Governance – Cheryl Kirk

- Conflicts of Interest Review/Reminder: Directors were reminded to abstain/recuse themselves on topics that constitute a conflict of interest. Each Board member has the duty to adhere to the USA Racquetball Conflict of Interest Policy as an Affiliated Person.
- Board member requirements: Compliance requirements 100% completed for all Board members, present and future.

Approval of 4/27/26 Minutes (PR1) – Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Jerry Lis to approve the USAR Board of Directors meeting minutes of 4/27/2026.

Seconded by Cindy Tilbury

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

Approval of Annual Meeting Agenda – Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Sandy Rlos to approve the USAR Board of Directors Annual Meeting agenda of 5/15/2026.

Seconded by Charlie Pratt

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

Joshua Jones joined the meeting.

10:55 MT National Rules Commissioner (PR2) – Joshua Jones

Joshua answered questions/provided clarification relative to the Rule Changes pre-read.

Joshua exited the meeting.

Votes to accept rule change recommendations (see pp. 6-11 in this document).

11:22 MT Committee Reports (PR3) – Kristin Wattz / Jerry Lis

- Jerry Lis discussed future direction of committees/working groups/advisory groups
- Marketing/Membership Committee: Jerry Lis, Cindy Tilbury, and Ro-el Cordero. Examples of forward movement and framework of the vital work of this committee.

11:50 MT Ranking/Seeding Process for Junior, High School, and Intercollegiate

Championships – Jonathan Greenberg

- Jonathan socialized the work of the Ranking and Seeding Group: Jonathan Greenberg, Dan Whitley, Pablo Fajre, Cheryl Kirk, Michelle Andersen, Larry Haemmerle (Sandy Long will join for Juniors)
- This group will support the Ranking/Seeding process for the upcoming Junior Nationals as needed
- The document introduced replaces Seeding Criteria for National Events. Pathway: located under Events & Results on USA Racquetball website / Host an Event / National Event Seeding Criteria
- National Indoor (Singles and Doubles) process is work in progress

Chad Thompson (USA Sports Benefits) joined the meeting.

12:00 MT USA Sports Benefits – Chad Thompson

Chad attended to answer Board member questions about this member benefit— Insurance Solutions for Athletes, Coaches, & Families—that will launch before the end of May.

Chad Thompson exited the meeting.

Janel Ledkins joined the meeting at 12:20 pm MT

12:20 MT Junior Nationals Update – Jonathan Greenberg

Jonathan reported on hospitality fundraising, sponsors/contributors, current entry number, and volunteers attending;

12:25 MT U.S. Team Committee (PR4) – Cheryl Kirk

Recommendations from the U.S. Team Committee were delivered by attending members Cheryl Kirk and Charlie Pratt on behalf of Committee Chair Larry Haemmerle:

- Approval of U.S. Junior Team Handbook
- Appointment of Coach Director

Motion by Sandy Rios to accept the recommendation of the U.S. Team Committee to approve the 2026-2027 U.S. Junior Racquetball Team Procedures & Protocols Handbook and Agreement beginning June 24, 2026, through the first day of the qualifying event in 2027.

Seconded by Glen Gitterman

Discussion: Straightforward

Vote: Passed unanimously

Motion by Sandy Rios to accept the recommendation of the U.S. Team Committee to approve the appointment of Jen Meyer to the position of Junior Team Coach Director effective June 1, 2026.

Seconded by Cindy Tilbury

Discussion: Great choice. Q: who makes the final call on an onsite situation. A: Collaborative among leadership staff on hand. Contact U.S. Team Committee Chair if situation dictates.

Vote: Passed unanimously

12:38 MT BREAK

Erik Ladewig (Auditor, Mountain West Advisors, LLC) joined the meeting.

12:53 MT Financial Review (PR5a) – Sandy Rios

Sandy Rios presented and commented on the 1st quarter report; budget vs. actual; and that tournament financial breakdowns are available for review.

Audit findings (PR5b-g) / 990 finalization (PR5h) – Erik Ladewig

Erik advised that sponsorships and grants are critical and recommended engaging a grant writer.

Erik Ladewig exited the meeting.

Motion by Sandy Rios to accept the audit findings as provided in the pre-read documents prior to this May 15, 2026, Annual Meeting.

Seconded by Jerry Lis

Discussion: Concerns were discussed. Find a way forward as Erik highlighted. Grant writing.

Recommendation to form a grant writing group with information and resources to be provided by a Board member.

Vote: Passed

Motion by Sandy Rios to approve the 990 (Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax) as provided for Board of Directors review prior to this May 15, 2026, meeting, with one addition on p. 8 to add the name of a Board member inadvertently omitted.

Seconded by Jerry Lis

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

Adam Manilla joined the meeting.

1:35 MT Manilla Athletics Update (PR 6) – Adam Manilla

Adam presented a Racquetball Growth Map proposal (National Racquetball Growth Initiative) for the Board's consideration.

Adam Manilla exited the meeting.

1:35 MT Fundraising – Kristin Wattz

- Kristin facilitated a Board discussion on fundraising and revenue generation.
- With USOPC funding cuts having taken place and expected to continue into the future, Board involvement will be more critical than ever.
- Concepts discussed: specific quantifiable Board member responsibility; grant writing group; providing value to members and benefactors.

1:50 MT Membership, Marketing, and Social Media – Cheryl Kirk

- Continuing the discussion in the previous topic, the Board continued to brainstorm on the subject of the value of USA Racquetball membership.
- Impacting the long held cultural mindset from competitive license toward instead supporting the sport through what the National Governing Body provides (value infographic p. 12).
- Leverage learnings from other sports.
- Tabled for longer discussion at next meeting to incorporate marketing and social media synergy with membership growth.

Jeff Collins and Cliff Swain joined the meeting.

2:20-2:32 MT US OPEN – Jeff Collins / Cliff Swain

Jeff and Cliff provided an update on US OPEN planning.

Jeff Collins and Cliff Swain exited the meeting.

2:45 MT Women's Racquetball Day – Cindy Tilbury

Cindy shared PowerPoint slides describing a Women's Racquetball Day proposal and the reasons for asking the Board to support the initiative.

Motion by Cheryl Kirk to approve the proposal presented to the USA Racquetball Board of Directors on May 15, 2026, to declare the first Saturday of February each year as Women's Racquetball Day in the United States and to empower the Women's Advisory Group to provide oversight and support to create plans and initiatives.

Seconded by Sandy Rios

Discussion: Excited to see it. Q: Why the February date? A: February has synergy with the timing of a prominent Women and Girls in Sports event (first week); National Racquetball Month; and Valentine's Day.

Vote: Passed

2:55 MT Break

3:10 MT CLOSING MESSAGE – Kristin Wattz

Kristin thanked the Board for their engagement on each agenda item throughout the course of the day. One of the biggest takeaways is how intertwined each of the discussion topics are in identifying the important work ahead. Our mission is to do all we can to ensure the health of racquetball for future generations.

The Board thanked outgoing Board member Ro-el Cordero for his service, May 2024-May 2026.

Shreya Chandel joined the meeting (last on the agenda due to school schedule).

3:25 MT Junior Referee Education Project – Shreya Chandel

Shreya presented her project plan entitled Referee Confidence and Youth Development in Competitive Racquetball (*A Research and Resource Development Initiative*).

Excerpt: “This proposal requests USA Racquetball’s approval and support for a student research project that investigates the gap between what junior racquetball referees are taught and what the role actually demands — and produces a practical educational resource coaches can use in response.”

Motion by Cheryl Kirk to approve the Referee project presented by U.S. Junior National Team Athlete Shreya Chandel at the USA Racquetball Board of Directors Annual Meeting on May 15, 2026.

Seconded by Sandy Rios

Discussion: Assistance was offered by multiple Board members in coordinating interviews. Suggestion to consider creation of a quick rules clinic on video? Q: is the objective to conduct research and report back to help with juniors? A: It’s both research and to produce a Junior Referee Guide targeted to provide coaches with a tool to consistently educate and train junior athletes across the country. It will bring attention to the entire issue of how important it is for referees of any age and skill level to be trained.

Vote: Passed

Shreya Chandel exited the meeting.

Next Meeting – June 29, 2026

Motion by Sandy Rios to adjourn regular meeting

Seconded by Jerry Lis

Regular meeting adjourned 3:53 MT

Motion by Cheryl Kirk to move to closed session

Seconded by Sandy Rios

Move to closed session at 3:54 MT

3:54 MT Special Meeting (Reconvened session): Officer Election

The minutes of the reconvened special session are on file with the association’s president and secretary.

Special meeting (Reconvened session) adjourned 4:22 MT

###

Proposed Rule Changes – Motions/Votes

Rule Change Proposal	Motion/Second/Discussion/Vote
Change #1: Name Change to Rule 9.1 <u>Current Name:</u> “Hearing Impaired Racquetball” <u>New Name:</u> “Deaf/Hard of Hearing Racquetball” <u>Reasoning:</u> This change reflects updated terminology used by many national associations—including the National Association of the Deaf—and avoids unnecessarily and inappropriately characterizing people as “impaired.” <u>Result of Rules Committee Vote:</u> Approved by Rules Committee on September 12, 2025, by a vote of 6-0	Motion by Sandy Rios Ratify Name Change to Rule 9.1 as presented by the USA Racquetball Rules Committee on May 15, 2026. Seconded by Jerry Lis Discussion None Vote Passed
Change #2: Name Change to Rules 8.1-8.4 <u>Current Name:</u> “Visually Impaired Racquetball” <u>New Name:</u> “Low Vision Racquetball” <u>Reasoning:</u> Like Change #1, this change reflects the current preferred terminology <u>Result of Rules Committee Vote:</u> Approved by Rules Committee on September 12, 2025, by a vote of 6-0	Motion by Sandy Rios Ratify Name Change to Rules 8.1-8.4 as presented by the USA Racquetball Rules Committee on May 15, 2026. Seconded by Jerry Lis Discussion None Vote Passed
Change #3: Preamble to Rule 3.13 <u>Current Rule:</u> All play that occurs after the successful return of serve to the front wall is called the rally. Play thereafter shall be conducted according to the following rules: <u>Proposed Revision:</u> All play that occurs after a legal serve and subject to all provisions defined in 3.11 is called the rally. Play thereafter shall be conducted according to the following rules: <u>Reasoning:</u> This new rule helps clarify when a rally begins. <u>Result of Rules Committee Vote:</u> Approved by Rules Committee on September 22, 2025, by a vote of 5-0, with one abstention.	Motion by Sandy Rios Ratify Preamble to Rule 3.13 changes as presented by the USA Racquetball Rules Committee on May 15, 2026. Seconded by Jerry Lis Discussion None Vote Passed

Change #4: Rule 3.8Current Rule:

Dead-ball serves do not cancel any previous fault serve. The following are dead-ball serves:

- (a) **Court Hinders.** A serve that takes an irregular bounce because it hit a wet spot or an irregular surface on the court is a dead-ball serve. In addition, any serve that hits any surface designated by local rules as an obstruction rather than being out-of-play.
- (b) **Broken Ball.** If the ball is determined to have broken on the serve, a new ball shall be substituted and that serve shall be replayed, but not canceling any prior fault serve.
- I **Out-of-Court Serve.** A served ball that first hits the front wall and, after striking the floor, either goes out of the court or hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play for a valid reason (See Rule 2.1(a)).

Proposed Revision:

Dead-ball serves do not cancel any previous fault serve. The following are dead-ball serves:

- (a) **Court Hinders.** A serve that takes an irregular bounce because it hit a wet spot or an irregular surface on the court is a dead-ball serve. In addition, any serve that hits any surface designated by local rules as an obstruction rather than being out-of-play.
- (b) **Broken Ball.** If the ball is determined to have broken on the serve, a new ball shall be substituted and that serve shall be replayed, but not canceling any prior fault serve.
- I **Out-of-Court Serve.** A served ball that first hits the front wall and, after striking the floor, either goes out of the court or hits a surface above the normal playing area of the court that has been declared as out-of-play for a valid reason. See Rule 2.1(a).
- (d) **Safety Hold-Up:** Any served ball that cannot be returned due to a Safety Hold Up or hitting the server in a non-Penalty situation. See Rules 3.14(a)6 and Rule 3.14(a)(2).

Reasoning:

To ensure fairness to the receiver. If the receiver holds up for Safety reasons they shouldn't be penalized for that action while rewarding the server with two new serves, effectively giving the server four chances to put the ball in play. Calls should always go in the offensive player's favor (receiver), and the current rule does just the opposite. The current rule also encourages the server to play closer on second serve hoping to

Motion by Sandy Rios

Ratify Rule 3.8 changes (add d. Safety Hold-Up) as presented by the USA Racquetball Rules Committee on May 15, 2026.

Seconded by Jerry Lis

Discussion: None

Vote Passed

get a replay where they can then try to execute a much better first serve and get a weak return from the receiver. <u>Result of Rules Committee Vote:</u> Approved by Rules Committee on September 22, 2025, by a vote of 5-1.	
Change #5: Rule 3.15(a) (Penalty Hinders for Failure to Move) <u>Current Rule:</u> (a) Failure to Move. A player does not move sufficiently to allow an opponent a shot straight to the front wall as well as a cross-court shot which is a shot directly to the front wall at such an angle that would cause the ball to rebound directly to the rear corner farthest from the player hitting the ball. In addition, when a player moves in such a direction that it prevents an opponent from taking either of these shots. Any type of shot that has the speed and direction to reach the front wall has the potential of being called a penalty hinder if the ball would have traveled along a path directly to the front wall. The referee must continue to visualize the projected path of the ball to determine this. Jumping is a popular maneuver to clear the path of the ball; however, the defensive player jumping does not negate a potential penalty hinder call; it all depends on if the ball had a direct path to the front wall. In the event the defensive player is struck with the ball while jumping, play stops, but the referee must continue to visualize the projected path of the ball to determine if the ball would have traveled along a path direct to the front wall and would have made it to the front wall. <u>Proposed Revision:</u> (A) Failure to Move. A penalty hinder occurs when a player deprives an opponent either a direct shot to the front wall or a cross-court shot (which is a shot directly to the front wall at an angle that would cause the ball to rebound to the far rear corner). This rule applies only when the opponent is deprived an offensive opportunity—meaning the opponent is set up for an offensive shot that, in the referee’s judgment, has a high likelihood of ending the rally. In addition, a penalty hinder occurs when a player moves in such a direction that it prevents an opponent from taking either a direct shot to the front wall or a cross-court shot. Any type of shot that has the speed and direction to reach the front wall has the potential of being called a penalty hinder if the ball	Motion by Sandy Rios Ratify Rule 3.15(a) (Penalty Hinders for Failure to Move) changes as presented by the USA Racquetball Rules Committee on May 15, 2026. Seconded by Jerry Lis Discussion: Technical discussion took place among Board members with extensive rules and refereeing experience. Main points included subjectivity, gray area, varying skill levels, likelihood of ending the rally nets more argument from players, scenario-dependent interpretation. Vote – Did not pass. <i>Next Step: Goes back to committee for possible further deliberation in next rule change cycle. Comments during discussion will be provided to the chairperson.</i>

would have traveled along a path directly to the front wall. The referee must continue to visualize the projected path of the ball to determine this. Jumping is a popular maneuver to clear the path of the ball; however, the defensive player jumping does not negate a potential penalty hinder call; it all depends on if the ball had a direct path to the front wall. In the event the defensive player is struck with the ball while jumping, play stops, but the referee must continue to visualize the projected path of the ball to determine if the ball would have traveled along a path direct to the front wall and would have made it to the front wall. <u>Reasoning:</u> This new definition makes clear that penalty hinders for failure to move should only be called when the opponent is denied an offensive down-the-line or cross-court shot, and not situations when a player is making a purely defensive or desperation shot. <u>Result of Rules Committee Vote:</u> Approved by Rules Committee on September 22, 2025, by a vote of 5-1.	
Change #6: Court Hinder Rules <u>Current Rule 3.14(a)(1):</u> Court Hinder. The referee should stop play immediately whenever the ball hits any part of the court that was designated prior to the match as a court hinder (such as a vent grate). The referee should also stop play (i) when the ball takes an observed irregular bounce as a result of contacting a very irregular surface or object (such as court light or vent) or after striking a wet spot on the floor or wall and (ii) when, in the referee's opinion, the irregular bounce affected the rally. This also includes any ball that leaves the court after legally touching the front wall and then <u>bouncing on the floor</u>. <u>Proposed Revision:</u> Court Hinder. The referee should stop play immediately (i) when the ball takes an observed irregular bounce as a result of contacting a very irregular surface or object (such as court light or vent) or after striking a wet spot on the floor or wall and (ii) when, in the referee's opinion, the irregular bounce affected the rally. This also includes any ball that leaves the court after legally touching the front wall and then bouncing on the floor. <u>Current Rule 2.1(a)</u> (a) Dimensions. The dimensions shall be 20 feet wide, 40 feet long and 20 feet high, with a back wall at least 12 feet high. Generally, all surfaces shall be in play, with the exception	Motion by Sandy Rios Ratify Court Hinder Rules changes 3.14(a)(1) 2.1(a) 3.8(a) B.5(a)(4) as presented by the USA Racquetball Rules Committee on May 15, 2026. Seconded by Jerry Lis Discussion None Vote passed

of any gallery openings, surfaces designated as out-of-play for a valid reason (such as being of a significantly different material or not in alignment with the back wall), and designated court hinders.

Proposed Revision:

- (A) **Dimensions.** The dimensions shall be 20 feet wide, 40 feet long and 20 feet high, with a back wall at least 12 feet high. Generally, all surfaces shall be in play, with the exception of any gallery openings, surfaces designated as out-of-play for a valid reason (such as being of a significantly different material or not in alignment with the back wall).

Current Rule 3.8(a)

- (A) **Court Hinders.** A serve that takes an irregular bounce because it hit a wet spot or an irregular surface on the court is a dead-ball serve. In addition, any serve that hits any surface designated by local rules as an obstruction rather than being out-of-play.

Proposed Revision:

- (A) **Court Hinders.** A serve that takes an irregular bounce because it hit a wet spot or an irregular surface on the court is a dead-ball serve.

Current Rule B.5(a)(4):

Before each match begins, it shall be the duty of the referee to . . .

Go onto the court to make introductions; brief the players on court hinders (both designated and undesignated); identify any out-of-play areas [see rule 2.1(a)]; discuss local regulations and rule modifications for this tournament; and explain often-misinterpreted rules, such as screen serves and calling hinders.

Proposed Revision:

Before each match begins, it shall be the duty of the referee to . . .

Go onto the court to make introductions; brief the players on court hinders; identify any out-of-play areas [see rule 2.1(a)]; discuss local regulations and rule modifications for this tournament; and explain often-misinterpreted rules, such as screen serves and calling hinders.

Reasoning:

Most designated hinders are out of the view of the ref, and so they rely on the players to call them. To designate a court hinder means you must stop play even if the ball takes a clean bounce, thus taking away a rally ending opportunity for the

offensive player (such as a door latch or hinge). An example would be when lights are designated as a court hinder. Many lights bounce true but may have a certain spot on them that may not. If it's clean, play it. If not, ref stops play. It's much easier for a ref to see a ball taking a weird bounce, then it is for them to see exactly what it hit since most court hinders are on the back wall. So, having designated hinders doesn't add anything to make the game more fair and can actually do the opposite. Refs will always depend on players to call balls that hit an area that has been determined "out of play", as well as any ball hitting an irregular surface and taking a funny bounce, when both of those are out of the ref's field of vision. A designated hinder adds nothing to that.

Result of Rules Committee Vote:

Approved by Rules Committee on September 22, 2025, by a vote of 5-1.

###

Mission Statement

The United States Racquetball Association is the National Governing Body for the sport of racquetball, recognized by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee and is committed to excellence and service to our members. We provide opportunities for members and enthusiasts to actively participate in the sport, through sanctioning of events, administration of programs, and development of competitive teams.

Core Values

- Excellence
- Customer Service
- Integrity
- Dedication
- Communication



WE ARE USA RACQUETBALL

We are 4 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS and 500+ sanctioned events

We are WORLD OUTDOOR RACQUETBALL: 3 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS and 50+ events

We are JUNIOR, HIGH SCHOOL, and COLLEGIATE players: OUR NEXT GENERATION

We are a PAN AMERICAN SPORT

We are the U.S. ADULT AND JUNIOR NATIONAL TEAMS

We are the USAR HALL OF FAME and ANNUAL AWARDS recognizing excellence and contribution

We partner across the sport – IRF, IRT, LPRT, MRF, NMRA, WSMRA, WTR

We support STATE ORGANIZATIONS and EVENT DIRECTORS

We help our members with STRATEGIES to SAVE COURTS

We provide TECHNOLOGY: communication, membership, rankings, and R2 Sports

We manage RULES and EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS

We deliver the WEBSITE, SOCIAL MEDIA, and PUBLICATIONS that connect, inform, and educate the racquetball community



WE ARE RACQUETBALL: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

   www.usaracquetball.com