UNITED STATES LUGE ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2025, 2:00 PM ET
Zoom meeting: https://zoom.us/j/98222045913?pwd=1C1p4vMej1t021vm5Wt8nX3xd839FV.1

ATTENDING:

Board of Directors	US Luge Association Staff/ Guests
Robert Hughes, President	Scott Riewald, CEO
Robert Pokelwaldt, Secretary	Amy Chapin, Director Operations/ Administration
Bruce Norman	Mark Grimmette, Director of Sport
Jeff Young	
Michael Thomas, Western Club Rep	
Ashley Farquharson, Athlete Rep	
Chris Mazdzer, Athlete Rep	
Zachary DiGregorio, Athlete Rep	
Tucker West, Athlete Rep	

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Ty Danco, Treasurer	Larry Dolan, Eastern Club Rep
Jennifer Wesselhoff	

I. Welcome and Call to Order at 2:02 PM ET **R Hughes**

Chairperson Robert Hughes opened the meeting and welcomed Board members.

II. Conflict of Interest Disclosure **R. Hughes**

The Board was asked if anyone had a conflict of interest related to any of the agenda items. No conflict of interest disclosures were reported.

III. Approval of September 13, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **R. Hughes**

Motion to approve the September 13, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (C Mazdzer, B Norman)

Motion was approved unanimously with no discussion or abstentions.

IV. Chairman's Report **R. Hughes**

- Thanks given to the Board for making the time to meet and for the pre-meeting materials.

- Asked athletes for a comment on the pre-season training. Zack DiGregorio reported that preseason training was going well, despite issues with the Igls track's homologation.
- Discussed timing of next Executive Board Meeting – should be after the Olympics, with Scott tasked to provide a comprehensive budget update in January, if needed.

V. CEO Report **S Riewald**

- **Russian participation in 2025-26 season.** Noted that doubles teams are considered teams and would not be eligible to compete in FIL competitions or the Olympic Games. Despite the Court of Arbitration of Sport's ruling the Russian athletes can compete, doubles are considered a team and therefore doubles team will not be able to compete in World Cups and the Olympic Games.

- **National Team schedule**. Scott Riewald shared that the World Cup scheduled for Igls, AUT was pulled due to track issues, with the Olympic qualification race now moved to the Cortina test event and the first World Cup moving to Winterburg. Noted that these changes would impact the junior national team and youth A team. There are financial dominoes that fall because of these changes – partly in sunk costs into hotels/ travel and potential changes to the travel schedule.

- **USLA Audit.** The USLA is undergoing the annual audit, and the organization is being reviewed for better financial controls. While there may be items to address, there are no issues of impropriety.

- **Finances.**
  - USLA received a $139,000 check from New York state from the November 2023 World Cup.
  - USA Luge signed an agreement with the USOPC for the 'Making Team USA' initiative - $15,000 worth of promotional content around athlete qualifications for the games. Additionally, USA Luge received an additional $20,000 grant for NGB development that can be used for television production and NGB promotion.
  - The organization is still waiting on $50,000 from ORDA and a signed contract for Molecule, which is a $60,000 line item.
  - NASCAR has agreed to provide $100,000 in services and a $80,000 cash component, with some of the money allocated for NASCAR stickers on helmets and supporting video aspects of World Cups and promotion. Money will go to athletes, video aspects or World Cups, and general support of USA Luge. Also builds a tie to NBC and affords cross promotional opportunities. Gives us access to their membership/ following and the sponsor summit.

- **USA – Canada partnership.** Trying a new test partnership with Canada, where we will share coaching resources and support to address budget constraints and provide better athlete development opportunities for both countries.

- **Tours and Rides.** The 'new' tours and rides initiative at the Luge facility has generated significant revenue and interest from community groups. The initiative could potentially be used as a recruitment tool and will direct funds towards youth development programs within the USLA.

- **Program costs.** Called out diligence from USA Luge staff that was put into refining the developmental team budgets, with the result being we have been able to shave $2000 off the cost families would bear for sending teams on the Junior National Team trip.

Financial Report **S Riewald**

- Discussed changes to the USLFF (foundation) Bylaws. Biggest changes are to take the USLFF down from 8 individuals to five (5). There will not be mandated formal committees, but the Executive Board has the ability to convene committees based on need. And there is a committed 5% commitment to the USLA – as a grant on an annual basis.

- Additionally, there is a separate change to the Foundation processes to align the fiscal year of the foundation with the fiscal year of the USLA.

  Motion to approve the changes to the USLFF (Foundation) Bylaws.
  (R Pokelwaldt, C Mazder)

  Motion approved unanimously with no abstentions, both by 2/3 of the board as well as a majority of the board of directors

  Motion to align the fiscal years and leave it to the staff to figure out the logistics.
  (R Hughes, B Norman)

  Motion was approved unanimously with no abstentions.

VI. Board Requirements and Expectations S Riewald

- USA Luge CEO will reach out to individual Board Members if there are aspects of their compliance that they need to complete (e.g., SafeSport Training, Background checks, etc.).

VII. Strategic Plan Conversation

- Want to draw information together from all constituent groups to develop a plan that is targeted and focused on the things that will help USA Luge be ‘the best we can be’ as we look forward to the next 8 years leading into the 2034 Olympic Games in Utah. The question was asked as to ‘what are the things you feel we should be focused on and should be pillars of our strategic plan.

- Several thoughts shared at this time:
  - Performance and results internationally should always be a focus.
  - Fiscal responsibility and revenue generation should also be a part of the plan. The larger, overarching plan, will in turn drive the annual plan driven by the budget.
  - Accelerated pace of learning and development. Access to information that is needed for athletes and staff to better understand the factors impacting performance. What are those things that will accelerate learning and the pace of development.

- Request additional time and thought to really have a deeper discussion. Also consider bringing together a working group to meet post Olympics and present a plan by the Annual Meeting in September 2026. Scott Riewald and Robert Hughes will develop ‘the plan to make the plan.’

- Scott Riewald was asked to distribute the current strategic plan for review by the Board. (sent via email on 21-November – 2025).

VIII. New Business **R. Hughes**

- No new business discussed.

IX. Executive Session

X. Adjourn **R Hughes**

Without objection, the board meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM ET.