



Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

USA Team Handball board meeting

Meeting minutes for the 12-Feb-2025 meeting

Board members in attendance

- Olga Chaikouskaya
- Julia Taylor
- Jason Borchik
- Chris Brase
- Andre Carter
- Andrew Donlin
- Patrick Jalabert – interim chair, acting as secretary

Board members excused

- N/A

USATH Staff in attendance

- Michael King

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 11.05am 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: Committee updates

- Nominating and Governance Committee (NGC)
 - Mr. Jalabert shared an update from the NGC, who were expecting to provide an update on board candidates later that month.
 - After receiving feedback from both the NGC chair, and the USOPC, the board discussed reducing the size of the committee from six (6) to five (5) members.

Motion

A motion was made to reduce the overall size of the Nominating and Governance Committee (NGC) from six (6) members to five (5), by removing section 8.10.3. (C) of the by-laws, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

- The board then discussed a candidate that had been proposed to fill the remaining vacant seat on the NGC. It was noted that the candidate in question currently served on the Judicial Committee, and that consideration had been submitted to the USOPC for guidance. With no conflict of interest or eligibility concern raised, the candidate was presented for nomination.

Motion

A motion was made to approve Margaret Rubin to serve as the fifth member of the NGC, thus fulfilling the board's obligation under section 8.10.3. (B) of the by-laws to appoint three (3) independent members of the NGC, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

- The NGC was now fully seated, and would be tasked with proposing term limits and staggering for its members. Additionally, the board agreed to revisit the value of downsizing the committee to three (3) members based on feedback from the committee itself after a year of operating in its current format.
- Judicial Committee (JC)
 - After receiving feedback from both the JC chair, and the USOPC, the board discussed reducing the size of the committee from six (6) to five (5) members.

Motion

A motion was made to reduce the overall size of the Judicial Committee (JC) from six (6) members to five (5), by amending section 8.9.2 of the by-laws, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

- The JC was now fully seated, and would be tasked with proposing term limits and staggering for its members. Additionally, the board agreed to revisit the value of downsizing the committee to three (3) members based on feedback from the committee itself after a year of operating in its current format.

Agenda item #2: CEO updates

- Mr. King provided a summary of the recently ended men's indoor world championships, including the team's historical wins.
- The board debriefed the meeting with the IHF in Oslo, with some positive topics of conversation, and an agreement to follow-up with a formal proposal by the end of the week.
- Mr. King noted that the organization was on-track for compliance with USOPC expectations, and working towards securing funding for 2025.
- Mr. King summarized on-going conversations with Verizon, which were expected to progress faster now that the company's focus on its SuperBowl efforts had wrapped up.
- It was noted that the men's indoor National team had a full jersey of sponsors during the World Championships, which was seen as a positive result and would be used to build towards sponsorship of other National team programs throughout 2025 and beyond.
- Mr. King provided a brief overview of upcoming international events, starting in March with IHF Trophy continental phase tournaments.
- Mr. King and Mr. Jalabert briefly discussed the recently announced pro league project, for which the scope remained, in line with the board's approval, as ensuring conformance with the organization's vision of the sport without formal sanctioning.
- Mr. King discussed the recent call for candidates for the election of referee representatives to the National Referee Committee (NRC). An initial round, aimed at confirming contact information for active referees, had been sent out, with the formal candidacy submission phase scheduled for February 12. It was noted that the 60 day waiting period that was required for general membership elections did not apply in this case, and that voters and candidates would simply be expected to have a valid USATH membership at the time of the election. For the purposes of clarification, it was noted that the structure of the NRC was driven by the Ted Stevens Act and the subsequent expectation for 33% athlete representation on any committee that oversees appointments to international events.
- Collegiate Nationals had been formally announced on the USATH website. Open Nationals were expected to be announced shortly, pending confirmation of details from the primary candidate venue in Charlotte, NC.
- Lastly, the board discussed beach handball events. The U17 continental qualifier was expected to take place in a region that the State Department had assessed as a level 4 risk, driving some conversations around the feasibility of sending youth athletes. At the time, coaching selection was still being pursued with the intent to field a team, pending guidance from the USOPC. There had not yet been any announcement regarding a senior beach event.

Agenda item #3 – Approval of Meeting minutes

- Meeting minutes for January 16, 2025 and January 27, 2025 had been circulated ahead of time for review.
- No changes were requested.

Motion

A motion was made to approve both sets of meeting minutes, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

Action item

Mr. King was tasked with publishing approved meeting minutes to the USA Team Handball website.

The board moved to executive session at 11.40am MT, ending the webinar.

- The board briefly discussed how to approach practical matters under the responsibility of the NRC while the election was pending. Mr. King noted that he would ensure access to the NRC email account was renewed for incoming leadership.
- Mr. King presented the proposal that USATH was expected to submit to the IHF following the meeting in Oslo, and the board challenged and aligned on its contents.

The board meeting was adjourned at 1pm MT.