



**USA Racquetball Board of Directors
Annual Meeting -- Minutes
May 13, 2025 10:00 am PT
Bay Club, Pleasanton, California**

Pre-Reads

- PR1 – BOD Minutes Approval 4/28/25
- PR2 - Committee Reports
- PR3 – U.S. Junior Team Handbook
- PR4 a/b – Social Media / Content Strategy
- PR4 c/d/e – Strategic Planning – COGEO / 144 Group

Welcome/Call to Order 10:04 am PT – Stewart Solomon

Roll Call – Cheryl Kirk

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

Cindy Tilbury was present with voice/no vote until the reconvened meeting later in the day when she took her Executive Appointed seat on the Board.

Approval of Agenda – Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Steve Czarnecki to approve the 5/13/25 Board of Directors Annual meeting agenda

Seconded by Jake Bredenbeck

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

Approval of 4/28/25 Minutes (PR1) – Cheryl Kirk

Motion by Glen Gitterman to approve the 4/28/25 Board of Directors meeting minutes

Seconded by Kristin

Discussion: None

Vote: Passed

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.

Committee Reports (PR2) – Kristin Wattz

Reports submitted included four of seven Designated Committees and eight of nine Working/Advisory Groups.

Kristin Wattz provided Committee Reports as a pre-read that included this introduction:

This year's Annual Reports highlight significant achievements for the organization, including the successful execution of four National Tournaments, key board appointments, and a successful USOPC audit. Growing the Sport initiatives were also impactful, notably the updated "How to Play Racquetball" and "We are Racquetball" posters and a corresponding video contest as well as a collaboration with Manilla Athletics to identify and train Racquetball Coordinators in local clubs.

Requests for future consideration by the Committees included securing funding for event hospitality and high school athlete scholarships. The re-establishment of the Revenue/Fundraising Committee, to be chaired by Stewart Solomon, and a revised membership structure are proposed actions that are expected to positively impact requests for funding.

Suggestions were provided relative to analyzing and supporting the work of one committee and one working group that can provide critical service to the association but are not currently on track.

Written goals and objectives from all committees and working/advisory groups will provide improved focus with more measurable results.

National Rules Commissioner – Cheryl Kirk

Cheryl Kirk described the six-week process that resulted in the interview panel's recommendation, i.e., posting, written questions, video interviews, panel deliberation, and final recommendation.

Motion by Kristin Wattz to approve the interview panel's recommendation to name Joshua Jones as National Rules Commissioner for the term beginning at the Annual Meeting 5/13/25 and concluding at the Annual Meeting in May 2028.

Seconded by Tom Fuhrmann

Discussion: Board members inquired as to who the other candidates were and asked for the panel's selection rationale.

Vote: Passed

U.S. Team Committee – Cheryl Kirk

Approval of U.S. Junior Team Handbook (PR3)

Motion by Karen Grisz to approve the U.S. Team Committee's recommendation to approve the U.S. Junior Racquetball Team Procedures & Protocols Handbook and Agreement dated June 1, 2025, for the 2025-26 season.

Seconded by Sandy

Discussion: Suggestion to add assistant coaches to coaching parameters re: talking to line judges.

Vote: Passed with two abstaining (Cordero and Manilla)

Manufacturer's Perspective – Rafael Filippini (Gearbox)

Rafael, Founder and Owner of Gearbox, joined the meeting via Zoom to share his thoughts and recommendations on topics to build the sport including:

- Speed of the game and the ability to play based on the speed of the game; consider incorporation of smaller racquet/slower ball for beginners
- Recruiting non-athletic players into the sport
- Look at ways to build community in racquetball
- Resurrect an ambassador program
- Tournament formats -- run more shootouts vs. entire weekends
- What made racquetball successful before, what will make it successful again?

A detailed account of this session is available in the Secretary's meeting notes.

Growing the Sport / Strategic Planning – Karen Grisz

- PR4 a/b – Social Media / Content Strategy
- PR4 c/d/e – Strategic Planning – COGEO / 144 Group

Karen made a presentation to the Board that recapped strategic planning initiatives and led the group through an exercise/discussion of Priorities/Goals/Action Items tied in with the strategic retreat SWOT analysis in 4Q 2024.

Discussion took place including but not limited to:

- Relationships – USOPC / State Associations
- USA Racquetball infrastructure as an NGB
- Partnering with other organizations to combine resources
- Ambassador program / recruiting recreational players for USAR membership
- Developing and keeping juniors/collegiate players in the sport, but increasing emphasis on attracting adults to play
- Providing players with tools for local recognition of the sport via their own accomplishments: win/win; send it in

A detailed account of this session including pre-read materials, discussion notes, and slide decks are available in the Secretary's records.

Fundraising – Kristin Wattz / Stewart Solomon

Stewart and Kristin led this discussion, emphasizing that strategic planning initiatives require funding.

Discussion took place including but not limited to:

- Funding needed for Marketing Consultant
- Develop a pie chart depicting what \$\$ go where in our financials
- Explain what we're fundraising for – be transparent, ensure donations are used for intended/desired purposes
- Engage recreational players to build a broader and more cohesive racquetball community
- USA Racquetball Funding Initiatives
 - Fully fund U.S. Team to compete in international competitions
 - Host successful national championships (High Schools, Collegiates, Indoor, Juniors, Outdoor)
 - Generate additional funding to support WOR
 - Develop and support additional Save Courts initiatives, e.g., support Manilla Athletics Program, develop grant program for running racquetball programming (juniors, leagues, etc.), ambassador program

Stewart shared the 2025 World Games China fundraising draft -- breakdown of expense categories

A full account of this session is available in the Secretary's meeting notes.

*Note -- A sign in the meeting room resonated: **There is no elevator to success. You have to take the stairs.***

US OPEN – Jeff Collins (Racquetball Revolution)

Jeff joined the meeting via Zoom to provide a brief update on US OPEN planning, including:

- Created a promotional video showcasing the club, conference center, and host hotel
- Press conference to be held in Springfield, Missouri, June 10th. Stewart Solomon, Cindy Tilbury, and Tom Fuhrmann plan to attend.

Outgoing President – Final Comments – Stewart Solomon

Stewart thanked the Board for the opportunity and honor to serve as Board president. He vowed to pitch in to support the Board, the Office of the Executive Director, and the Association. Leverage the power of the ask – don't be afraid to ask for support. Stewart has accepted the assignment of leading the USA Racquetball Revenue/Fundraising Committee.

Thank You to Departing Members

The Board members extended their gratitude to Stewart Solomon and to Steve Czarnecki for each donating their selfless service over the past six years to the USA Racquetball Board of Directors. Both Steve and Stewart have been involved in a multitude of ways as Board officers and in other

roles as well, using their extensive knowledge and experience for the benefit of the association and its members. They will be missed.

Adjourn

Motion by Stewart Solomon to adjourn
Seconded by Steve Czarnecki

Adjourned 2:45 pm PT

Reconvene 3:00 pm PT – Special Meeting per Bylaws Article VIII / 803.0

A motion was made at the beginning of this meeting to move to closed session. The business conducted was solely the election of officers. The minutes of the special meeting are on file with the Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Adjourned 3:34 PT
