

Brian Buchanan

Candidate Statement

I started playing handball when I was 24 years old. A few friends from college heard about 'a sport that looks pretty easy,' and I happened to be on the way to the gym. The gym in question was a weekly open practice session held by the New York Athletic Club on Long Island, and those friends are still some of my closest to this day because of handball.

Being an Olympian or professional handball player weren't things I ever realistically considered; I was pretty old to start a new sport, and I was never an elite athlete. But I fell in love with the game anyway; it gave me a sense of purpose – a reason to stay healthy, travel, make new friends, and try to get better at something difficult (as every American learns quickly, it's decidedly not easy to play handball).

Handball has given me so much in life. At this point in my career, I want to pay it forward.

If elected to the Board of Directors, I'll work tirelessly to improve the quality and participation level of handball in the United States from the grassroots leagues all the way up to our senior national teams.

As a club manager for over a decade, I know that administrative positions are often 'negative recognition' jobs – everyone notices when you do something wrong, but if you do your job right, nobody notices you did anything at all. When jerseys are clean and accounted for, handballs are inflated, rosters are turned in on time, team dues cover all seen and unforeseen expenses; it's how everyone expects it to go.

I know this Board position will be the same. Much is asked of our board members, and for good reason – this community deserves hard working, communicative, fresh leadership that understands the USA handball landscape. It's a brick-by-brick, hand-to-hand combat job to grow this sport, and hundreds of athletes and club managers from colleges and senior clubs go out and do it on a daily basis all over the country. I know what it's like, and I want to help.

Getting weekly gym space (at an affordable price), 5 people (guys and/or girls) to show up and hopefully afford team dues, not having too few players on a tournament roster, not having too many players on a tournament roster, dealing with Sport80, eventually realizing you can kind of ignore Sport80 – I've done it all, and I know you all have, too.

With the right leadership and plan, the hard work this community already does can produce a lot more tangible results.

I want to help everyone have a better handball experience so more people can play, fall in love with the game, and help our resilient community continue to grow.