



## USATT Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, July 17, 2025

Board Chair **Kelly Watson** called the Board Meeting to order at **6:05 pm** US Mountain time.

Board Members in attendance via teleconference: **Kelly Watson, Richard Char, Patrick Gildea, Dell Sweeris, Ian Seidenfeld, Tahl Leibovitz, Dr. Tuan Le, Kagin Lee, Ajay Anand, Will Shortz, Amy Feng**

Board Members not Present: **Tom Feng**

USATT Staff Present: **Virginia Sung** (CEO), **Mark Thompson** (COO/General Secretary to the Board), **Brian Moran, Esq.** (Chief of Staff)

### **Board Chair Call for Conflicts**

Board Chair Kelly Watson called for actual, anticipated or perceived conflicts. Board Member Kagin Lee stated that he would recuse himself from any discussions and voting related to the Umpires and Referees Committee.

### **Approval of Minutes March 6, 2025**

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved unanimously:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes from the Board Meeting held on March 6, 2025, are approved and formally entered into the record.

### **Approval of Minutes April 7, 2025**

Upon Motion properly presented and seconded, the following Resolution was approved with Board Member Kagin Lee abstaining:

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes from the Special Board Meeting held on April 7, 2025, are approved and formally entered into the record.

### **Report of the Chief Executive Officer**

USATT Chief Executive Officer Virginia Sung provided a post-event report for the 2025 US National Table Tennis Championships which were held from June 28 through July 4, 2025, at the Ontario Convention Center in Ontario, California. The highly successful National Championships saw a record 868 participants, 668 male and 200 female athletes, play in over 6000 matches during the tournament, despite the fact that the full use of the facility wasn't available to USATT until the third day of the tournament. The media presentation also proved equally successfully with some 1.75 million views on social media of the content created during the US Nationals. VIPs from LA28, the San Jose Sports Authority, and His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed Bin Abdulrahman Bin Nasser Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia attended the US Nationals and presented awards for the Men's and Women's Finals.



Ms. Sung noted that immediately after the completion of Nationals, the USATT staff traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada, for the WTT Smash Event, where the US was represented by eighteen total players (twelve in singles – and six doubles pairs), including the recently crowned US National Champions, Kanak Jha and Sally Moyland, as well as three US Para players in Class Nine. There were a number of strong performances, particularly from US Junior players including fourteen-year-old Irene Yeoh, who shocked the international table tennis community with a victory over Brazil’s highly ranked Giulia Takahashi. Paralympic Gold Medalist Ian Seidenfeld advanced to the championship match in the Class Nine Para event, which was unfortunately blemished by what many believed to be questionable – albeit apparently within the current rules of the sport – service tactics of his opponent.

The WTT Smash in Las Vegas elevated a number of US table tennis athletes with respect to the international table tennis rankings, as five US athletes (male and female) are now ranked in the top 100 in the world, two US doubles pairs are ranked in the top 100, and four US junior players are ranked in the top 100 in the youth world rankings.

Ms. Sung also noted that USATT was a bit concerned that certain elements of the Smash presentation by the WTT, including the playing conditions in the “tent” area adjacent to the Orleans Casino in Las Vegas, might be improperly attributed to USATT, but overall the Smash event did provide USATT staff members the opportunity to connect with leaders in the international table tennis community, including His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed. USATT also celebrated the 54th anniversary of Ping Pong Diplomacy with the Chinese team and had a very productive meeting with the new CTTA President, Wang Liqin.

#### **Report of the Athlete Protection Officer**

USATT Athlete Protection Officer Mark Thompson provided an update on the current developments in the area of Athlete Safety for USATT. Mr. Thompson stated that USATT was still waiting for the results from the 2025 Event Audit conducted by the US Center for SafeSport during the Pacific Regional Championships hosted by the ICC Table Tennis Center in Milpitas, California, in May. Mr. Thompson also stated that USATT had recently submitted two matters to the USCSS for consideration of jurisdiction, including a matter involving a minor athlete which arose during the 2025 Nationals and a matter involving a foreign national who was purportedly coaching in the United States, despite being suspended by the National Olympic Committee of his home nation.

#### **USATT Foundation**

Board Chair Kelly Watson noted that the USATT Foundation is moving forward with the plan to hire the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee Foundation to manage the USATT Foundation Investment Portfolio.

#### **Possible Effort to Revise the Laws of Table Tennis**

There was discussion amongst the Board about the appropriate manner to consider possible revisions to the Laws of Table Tennis in order to address what several believed was a “loophole” in the service rules that makes it fundamentally unfair to little persons and/or persons with dwarfism to compete in elite level international table tennis competitions. The USATT Board indicated a desire to study this issue further and to do all within the powers of the organization to protect US Para Athletes and the fundamental fairness of the sport.



### **Executive Session**

Upon a motion properly presented, seconded and approved, the Board excused the General Membership and moved into Executive Session.

There was further discussion regarding the Para match at the WTT Smash in Las Vegas involving what many believed to be an unfair and/or unethical playing strategy against a US Para Athlete.

There was discussion regarding a possible USATT response to the apparent decision of the WTT to open an office and/or a training center in the United States of America without proper communication or authorization from USATT.

There was discussion regarding the revised Memorandum of Understanding proposed to broaden the scope of collaboration between USATT and the Saudi Arabian Table Tennis Federation.

### **Resolution to Ratify MOU with Saudi Table Tennis Federation**

WHEREAS a draft of the Memorandum of Understanding dated July 16, 2025, between the Saudi Table Tennis Federation and USA Table Tennis, Inc. (the "MOU") was circulated to all Board members by email.

AND WHEREAS ten (10) of the Board members responded by email expressing their support for the MOU and the USATT entering into the MOU with the STTA.

AND WHEREAS no Board member expressed any objections or reservations with the MOU.

AND WHEREAS it was necessary and desirable for USATT to enter into the MOU on July 16, 2025, prior the President of the Saudi Table Tennis Federation returning to Saudi Arabia.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the MOU is hereby ratified and approved.

### **Adjournment**

It was properly moved, seconded and approved that the Board return to General Session and adjourn the Board Meeting at 7:18 pm US Mountain Time.

Respectfully submitted.

Mark Thompson,  
USATT Chief Operating Officer / General Secretary to the Board

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