

Amanda Fields

Candidate Statement

Like many American newcomers, I discovered team handball later in life. Specifically, it was the summer of 2024 while watching the Paris Olympics on TV. Fast forward two years later: a national champion with New York City Team Handball Club, a newly arrived but passionate advocate for the sport, and a Team USA Women's National Team pool athlete. I'm running for the Board because my story isn't unusual in our sport these days. Americans newly discovering the club handball scene, especially women, now make up the largest share of newcomers to this sport in the U.S. I want to make sure the organization is building with this population in mind, and to use my skillset in strategy, marketing, fundraising, communications and event operations to help maintain and increase this momentum.

My priorities on the Board: build structured pathways for adult newcomers into competitive and national-team tracks through club membership and development; expand youth exposure; and bring a strategist mindset and marketer execution to growing USATH.

I bring a mix of perspectives. As a current club athlete with zero youth handball background, I know exactly what it's like to walk in cold, the challenges experienced and what support actually does or doesn't look like from the inside. As a former D1 Track and Field athlete at UPenn, I saw what competitive program-building looks like from the inside - our team went from 7th in the Ivy League my freshman year to 2nd by senior year, and is now a multi-year Ivy champions program.

Professionally, I am a Strategy and Operations lead at Google where I sit on a transformation and experience team for a 6,000-person organization and was a founding member and product lead of an AI innovation lab. Before that, I was a strategy consultant at PwC (Strategy&) advising a range of clients from Fortune 500 C-suites to startups. I've also bootstrapped and scaled my own startups to multi-million dollar revenue and thousands of customers. I specifically thrive in 0-1 spaces and do not shy away from gritty hands on work, and will bring these experiences and work ethic to our organization.

Outside handball, I serve on the Emerging Leaders Council of New Heights NYC, a youth basketball nonprofit, where I've seen firsthand how deliberate program design moves participation numbers and shapes outcomes for athletes and community alike.

I do not have years of handball experience, but I am a tenured strategist and builder, and a representative of a recent wave of American handball newcomers. I will be a fierce advocate for what is best for our clubs and members of all backgrounds, genders, locations, and ages. I love this sport and am deeply passionate about getting better myself and seeing the sport grow. I found it late, and I don't want the next wave of American athletes to have to as well.