UNITED STATES LUGE ASSOCIATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
March 25, 2026, 6:00 PM ET
Zoom meeting: https://zoom.us/j/92544317999?pwd=3bhRaDzANKZgCCayN9KoH3pHWlYKKz.1

ATTENDING:

Board of Directors	US Luge Association Staff/ Guests
Robert Hughes, President	Scott Riewald, CEO
Robert Pokelwaldt, Secretary	
Ty Danco, Treasurer	
Bruce Norman	
Jeff Young	
Michael Thomas, Western Club Rep	
Ashley Farquharson, Athlete Rep	
Larry Dolan, Eastern Club Rep	
Chris Mazdzer, Athlete Rep	
Zachary DiGregorio, Athlete Rep	
Tucker West, Athlete Rep	

NOT IN ATTENDANCE:

Jennifer Wesselhoff	

I. Welcome and Call to Order at 6:01 PM ET **R Hughes**
Chairperson Robert Hughes opened the meeting and welcomed Board members.

II. Conflict of Interest Disclosure **R. Hughes**
The Board was asked if anyone had a conflict of interest related to any of the agenda items. No conflict of interest disclosures were reported.

III. Approval of March 26, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes **R. Hughes**

Motion to approve the November 19, 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes (C Mazdzer, B Norman)

Motion was approved unanimously with no discussion or abstentions.

IV. Chairman's Report **R. Hughes**

- Recognized the success of the Olympic Games calling out the overall accomplishments of the team and recognizing Ashley Farquharson's medal winning performance in Cortina.
- 'Thank you' given to coaches, staff, athletes, officials and board members. It takes everyone to support the performances of the team, and we should all feel good about the results at the Olympic Winter Games.
- Special acknowledgement to Bruce Norman for the work done, and the support provided to the team, around the Wolf-Pac project.
- Note about continuing to maintain financial discipline. Goal is to create an organization that maintains financial stability for the long term, not just in a given year.

V. CEO Report **S Riewald**

- **Domestic World Cup Summary.** Even before discussing the Olympic Games, recognized the two domestic World Cup races as being a great success – delivering in all areas we had hoped they would (athlete performances, relationships with FIL, collaboration with the UOP and ORDA, providing a great experience for sponsors/ donors, engagement with fans and promoting the sport).

- **Olympic Games Review.** Discussed achievements at the Olympic Games, including a bronze medal and strong performances by veteran athletes as well as some of the younger athletes on the team. The team's engagement with sponsors and connections with the USOPC, FIL, and IOC were noted as significant successes. The team is currently debriefing the Olympic experience to identify improvements for future events, including addressing some logistical challenges encountered during the games. Very excited about some of the young talent within Team USA and what the future could hold. USOPC is recognizing a lot of positive things happening within USA Luge. Recognized the opportunity for USA Luge to engage with the FIL and support their efforts to promote and grow the sport – with special mention of Sophia Gordon and Maya Chan meeting with top sponsors while also engaging with IOC leadership at the Games. There were some challenges, including the dismissal of the Athletic Trainer during the games, that force us to look to the future and find ways to control the controllables in future Games. Ashley and Zack provided an athlete perspective on the Games, noting improvements in team speed but also highlighted the ongoing logistical challenges that need to be addressed for future competitions, particularly regarding housing and facility arrangements.

- **Athletic Trainer.** Mentioned that the USOPC will no longer be hiring and managing the athletic trainer provided to USA Luge. Going forward, they will expect the USLA to hire and manage this position and the USOPC will provide some funding to allow us to make a hire. Approach will be to open a position and hire a full time, 12-month position.

- **Organizational Updates.** Staffing wise, the USLA has increased the accountant position to be a full time position. Intent is to rehire the national team coaching staff with support from USOPC, and announced that Amy Chapin will step down as Director of Operations and Administration at the end of June 2026 and we will be searching for a replacement. Noted that our intention is to work within the allocation provided by the USOPC to support the National Team.

- **Marketing and Sponsorship.** USA Luge successfully secured Gusto as a sponsor and finalized a contract with NASCAR, which includes $80,000 in funding with $30,000 supporting athlete activation and $50,000 for operational expenses. Highlighted the program's technical advancements, particularly in sled development and performance optimization, which have contributed to building credibility with both USOPC and potential sponsors.

- **Wolfpack Technology Expansion.** Recognition of the success of the Wolf-Pac project in the lead up to, and during the Olympic Games. Discussed the potential benefits of sharing Wolfpack technology with other sliding sports like bobsled and skeleton. Bruce provided an update on discussions with USOPC and Omega, noting that the technology was assessed as superior to current solutions used by other teams.

- **Visas for Staff.** Question of how we will approach securing visas for foreign coaches. Need to be looking further in advance to plan for these 'known events' and getting ahead of things going forward.

Motion: A motion was made to recognize Amy Chapin's 35 years with the United States Luge Association and her contributions to USA Luge.
(B Norman, T Danco)

Motion was approved unanimously with no discussion or abstentions.

Financial Report

- **General Budget Review and Expenses.** The 2025-26 budget was reviewed, highlighting areas where there are savings as well as areas of concern. Operational expenses are projected to exceed budget - attributed to cold weather and higher that projected power expenses. Detailed team trip expenses were discussed, noting that actual costs for national team trips will exceed what was budgeted, while junior national and Youth A trips came in on budget or lower than initially projected due to schedule changes.

- **Olympic Budget Decision Discussion** The group discussed a difficult budget decision made this year to only fund post-Olympic World Cup trips for athletes who had an opportunity to secure World Cup overall title. Athletes shared that while the decision hurt their overall results, they understood the financial constraints but believed more racing opportunities were needed, especially for younger athletes. It was noted that these cuts, while intended to be a one-time challenge due to Olympic year expenses, the reality is this is something we should anticipate facing annually unless additional resources are secured.

- **Financial Updates and Revenue Streams.** The group discussed potential revenue streams including sponsorships and donor funding, with members mentioning a proposed "donors choose" model as well as a suggestion to set aside 5% of sponsorship dollars for long-term funding.

Disciplinary Actions

- The board was briefed on a disciplinary case involving a minor athlete. Concerns were raised about the lack of board involvement in the process, and an idea was promoted to have a board member involved in a disciplinary committee. The board voiced concerns about the sharing of information and the timing of their notification about the case. It was discussed that it is important to have the Grievance and Complaint Hearing Committee operate independently of board involvement. Noted that the USLA needs to review policies and coordinate messaging across policies. Notification to the board of decisions and actions will be made as soon as possible following decisions by disciplinary bodies.

VI. New Business **R. Hughes**

- Elections will be a part of the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Membership. Call was made to the current board of directors to bring names forward of individuals who might make good board members.

VII. Executive Session

VIII. Adjourn **R Hughes**

Without objection, the board meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM ET.