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## USA Team Handball board meeting

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Meeting minutes for the 10-Sep-2025 executive meeting

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### **Board members in attendance**

- Olga Chaikouskaya
- Jason Borchik
- Chris Brase
- Andre Carter
- Andrew Donlin
- David Eldridge
- Evan Gitomer
- Patrick Jalabert – chair, acting as secretary

### **Board members excused**

- Julia Taylor – vice-chair

### **USATH Staff in attendance**

- Michael King

### **Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 11.05 am MT by Patrick Jalabert, chair. Mr. Jalabert thanked board members for joining, and reminded them that several topics would be discussed, as detailed in the shared agenda.

### **Agenda item #1 – CEO updates**

- Mr. King noted that the operational plan was ready for review, pending confirmation of funding approval from the USOPC. The plan would be shared to the board upon receipt of that final piece of information.
- After a busy summer, the National team calendar was beginning to wind down, with the cadet men's indoor World Championships and the youth women's indoor IHF trophy coming up. The men's senior indoor National team was scheduled for a training camp during the October international week.
- The club season had officially started, with a first sanctioned beach event, which drove an influx of new members to the community. The board discussed an item for improvement on the membership side: pivoting the default setting in the membership platform away from auto-renewal, as several members who had recently moved away had been requesting refunds on a membership they did not expect to

use. Mr. King also noted that the board approved lifetime membership option would be rolled out in the coming week.

- The start of the club season kicked off a one-event-per-week cadence expected to stretch from the final week in September to Thanksgiving.
- Following the recommendations of the Center for SafeSport's audit, the Quality Control System for sanctioned events had been finalized and was expected to be shared with committed hosts for upcoming events.
- Mr. King noted a drive to push social media improvement around sanctioned events, leveraging input from the community, to give a more "professional" appearance for marketing purposes.
- Mr. King noted that he remained committed to securing guidance from the IHF on the women's indoor National team coaching staff search, with a deadline set to provide sufficient time to prepare for an invitational event in Morocco in early November.
- The board discussed its commitments and liabilities to the IHF, in an effort to ensure that past leadership's accumulated debt was on track to being resolved.
- Mr. King highlighted on-going efforts to expose new athletes to the sport, starting with those that had sought information over the summer. This included connecting potential athletes with their closest club, and developing a cadence for talent identification camps.
- A first military tryout, in partnership with the World Class Athlete Program (WCAP) was scheduled for mid October. The focus in that partnership was also set on developing programs with other military academies, with the goal of replicating the success of Army and Air Force's programs.
- The men's indoor NACHC qualifier was set to take place in May 2026, in conjunction with the US Open Nationals, in the Quad Cities. Following the success of the 2025 Open Nationals, the host venue had expressed interest and openness to negotiating an affordable rate to draw a larger portion of the community together.
- Conversations were still on-going with the facility development group in Florida, including discussions with the local tourism board for early involvement. A heavy focus was being put on the athlete experience, including ensuring on-site opportunities for anyone interested in relocating (housing, employment, etc.). For the time being, no announcement was to be made to current or potential athletes, as the path forward was not fully confirmed.

#### **Action item**

*Mr. King was tasked with circulating a roadmap for the project to the board.*

#### **Agenda item #2 - Issues and Opportunities**

- Work on recommended actions from recent audits was on-going, and on-track to meet required timelines.
- Mr. Jalabert was tasked with finalizing goal setting for the CEO for 2026, for review at the next board meeting.

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- At the request of several board members, the deadline to vote on the approval of previous meeting minutes was extended to 30-Sep-2025.
  - The board agreed that a 90-minute timeslot would be more appropriate than 60 minutes, to enable full conversations with running into members' scheduling conflicts.

*The board meeting was adjourned at 12.15 pm MT.*