



**USAR Board of Directors Meeting**  
**Monday, February 26, 2024**  
**5:30 pm MT**  
**Videoconference via Zoom**

**Called to order by President Stewart Solomon at 5:35 pm MT**

Quorum was achieved; advance notice given of the meeting; directors were reminded to recuse themselves on topics that are a conflict of interest.

**Attending:** Jake Bredenbeck (Athlete Representative/ExCom), Todd Boss, Steve Czarnecki, Mike Grisz (Executive Director), Michelle Key (Secretary/Athlete Representative/USOPC AAC alternate), Thomas Fuhrmann (Athlete Representative), Erika Manilla (Athlete Representative, USOPC AAC), Tony Prater, Sandy Rios (Treasurer), Terry Rogers (Vice President), Stewart Solomon (President), Slemo Warigon

*Note: Tom Fuhrmann left the meeting before motions and votes were taken.*

**Minutes:** Waiting for final version.

**Special Guests – US OPEN Proposal (Rod Southwood and Pablo Fajre)**

A full recap of the PowerPoint presentation deck and subsequent discussion is on file with the President and the Secretary.

Salient points in the presentation included history of the US OPEN, Golden State Open as a trial run, potential IRT hosting role, fundraising/sponsors, potential dates, prize money inclusivity, IRT/USA Racquetball roles.

Special guests exited the meeting with the thanks of the Board.

Board discussion including a number of questions took place following the presentation.

Next step – Stewart Solomon to email with follow-up information requests.

**ExCom Updates (Stewart Solomon)**

- Players Health ends 2024
- Athlete Representative election process moving forward
- Election Committee – updates, website, two open seats, four candidates. Election is March 1-31, 2024.
- PARC (references to the event appear below)

**Executive Director Update (Mike Grisz)**

- USA Racquetball doesn't have the resources to fund PARC in Guatemala (March 2024)
  - Donating \$3,500 from referee fees

- \$500 stipend to the athletes going (\$3,000)
- Uniforms provided via Nike APS VIK agreement
- High School Nationals – St. Louis, MO
- Intercollegiates – Tempe, AZ
- National Indoor 2024
  - Made a profit
  - Successful event overall
- National Indoor May 2025 – Pleasanton, CA
- Players Health
  - What moving forward looks like

### **Cogeo Case Statement**

- How can we support WOR differently/better?

### **Finance Update (Sandy Rios)**

Update provided on financials relative to the 2023 and 2024 budgets.

### **Discussion and Votes (Stewart Solomon)**

#### **Pan American Racquetball Championships**

Team has been put forward via Head Coach Pablo Fajre, not the U.S. Team Committee

- Athletes: Jake Bredenbeck, Sam Bredenbeck, Charlie Pratt, Michelle Key, Lexi York, Naomi Ros
- Support Staff: Pablo Fajre (Head Coach), Cheryl Kirk (Team Leader), Julian Lowe (Trainer)

**Motion by Stewart Solomon to approve Head Coach Pablo Fajre’s recommendation of a U.S. Team Delegation to represent USA Racquetball at the Pan American Racquetball Championships in Guatemala City, Guatemala, March 20-31, 2024, in a largely self-funded capacity.**

**Seconded by Terry Rogers**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: 8 yes, 2 abstentions (Bredenbeck and Key)**

#### **Manilla Junior Program Proposal**

(Information provided, on file with the Secretary)

**Motion by Stewart Solomon to approve the proposal provided by Adam Manilla to run a National Junior Program on behalf of USA Racquetball.**

**Seconded by Terry Rogers**

**Discussion: Funding comes out of the Peters fund – the fund’s purpose to help grow junior programs. Building out a platform to help grow programs, procure grants, gets initial money to start programs and then meet benchmarks and get paid again; kick start junior programs; not exclusive to Manilla Athletics but a great starting point, funding is to 1099 Manilla Athletics, providing assistance and creating programs, been growing this process for 3 years and now ready to implement, local program creates its own profit, do we need approval from the Peters family to use these funds? (Stewart will brief them.)**

**Vote: 9 yes, 1 abstention (Manilla)**

#### **Upcoming Elections (Tony Prater)**

- Voting announcement has been updated
- R2 is set up to send out blast messages
- Voting goes live soon

### **Upcoming Athlete Representative Elections (Michelle Key)**

Spoke with USOPC for assistance -- recommended that two individuals administrate the election

- Proposing Election Committee Member Terry Rogers and Legislative Chair/U.S. Team Committee Member Cheryl Kirk
- Cheryl holds the 10-year athlete list
- Planning to use an online resource for voting platform, either Election Runner or Election Buddy as recommended by the USOPC

**Motion by Michelle Key to appoint Terry Rogers and Cheryl Kirk to administrate the 2024 Athlete Representative Election.**

**Seconded by Sandy Rios**

**Discussion: Line item in the budget to cover the election, document the steps**

**Vote: Passes unanimously**

### **New Business**

- None

**Next Meeting:** Monday, March 25, 2024

### **Adjournment**

**Motion by Sandy Rios to adjourn**

**Seconded by Erika Manilla**

**Adjourned at 8:12 pm MT**