



Member, United States  
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

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## USA Team Handball board meeting

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Meeting minutes for the 14-Jan-2026 regular meeting

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### **Board members in attendance**

- Julia Taylor – vice-chair
- Jason Borchik
- Chris Brase
- David Eldridge
- Evan Gitomer
- Patrick Jalabert – chair, acting as secretary

### **Board members excused**

- Olga Chaikouskaya
- Andre Carter
- Andrew Donlin

### **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. With six (6) directors in attendance, a quorum was established.

### **Agenda item #1 – Conflicts disclosure**

Board members were asked to disclose any potential conflicts of interest arising from the contents of the agenda:

- Mr. Eldridge disclosed that his spouse was employed by Verizon, a sponsor of USA Team Handball, though she was not involved in the decision making process that impacted sponsorship or philanthropic initiatives.
- No other conflicts were raised

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### **Agenda item #2 – CEO updates**

- Mr. King shared that multiple clubs and event hosts had issued requests for guidance with event coordination, and were engaging with key leadership groups such as the National Referee Committee (NRC) to establish high quality and consistent events. To that effect, Mr. King was expecting to appoint a three (3) member Competition Committee shortly, to take on the leadership of competition structure(s). The objective was to establish a balance of representation across genders and club types to ensure thorough representation.
- USA Team Handball had 1,241 active members at the time of the meeting, a 96 member increase year-over-year. The increase appeared primarily driven by an increase in women's participation, with female members exceeding 400, higher than the highest count by season-end in previous years. Mr. King credited this stepped up participation to the efforts of Handball Futures, the emergence of newer clubs, and the women's National team coaching staff's recruitment drive. An example of those efforts was a recent tryout in Los Angeles, where over 100 prospects had reached out to express interest, and 84 athletes had participated.
- National team coaching staffs were focusing on increasing regional opportunities, especially on the women's side, to establish an athlete pipeline. The men's senior National team had just completed a ten day training camp in Denmark, leveraging a newly established local partnership with the city of Sonderborg. The partnership was seen as a positive opportunity to host high-quality training events for National teams, with minimal costs incurred, thanks to a three-year agreement with local leadership.
- Mr. King noted that tryouts for both women's and men's National teams were scheduled to occur in Florida in coming weeks; during the men's Blue Cup, which the men's National team coach was scheduled to attend, the women's coaching staff would host a tryout; with the reverse scheduled during the women's Blue Cup.
- Alongside the NACHC, Mr. King was looking ahead to potential visa challenges associated with hosting the continental qualifier event in May, in order to maximize competitive participation. In addition, a meeting was scheduled with leaders from all member federations of the NACHC to confirm bids for event hosting over 2026 and 2027. The goal was to improve forward planning for National teams across disciplines, genders, and age groups.
- The Commander in Chief match was scheduled for the following weekend, and would include a formal kick-off for the training side opportunity in Florida.

### **Agenda item #3 – 40th Congress of the IHF debrief**

- Mr. Jalabert had circulated a short report to the board to summarize activities and discussions that occurred both at the continental level, and at the international level.
- The board discussed some of the upcoming initiatives, and expressed hope for productive conversations on strategic topics, with the uncertainty of an upcoming election having passed.

*The meeting was moved to executive session.*

**Agenda item #4 – Organization finances**

- The finalized 2026 budget had been circulated to the board ahead of the meeting.
- The board discussed some of the details, including open liabilities from past settlements, and the fact that no formal monetary contribution from the IHF had been included, pending conversations on expected metrics for return on investment. During congress, the IHF's budget for 2026 had been approved, including some expenses tied to the New Markets Project, which USA Team Handball would be eligible for, provided the leadership team could demonstrate value.

***Motion***

*A motion was made to approve the 2026 operational budget, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.*

***Action item***

*Mr. King was tasked with submitting the approved operational budget to the USOPC, in line with the established expectation and deadline.*

**Agenda item #5 – Issues and Opportunities**

- Mr. King noted that all open actions from the USOPC quadrennial audit had been completed ahead of the 5-Jan-2026 deadline.
- The board discussed the need for an updated athlete safety policy, in line with executive order 14201, and set a goal to review and approve a policy update at the next scheduled meeting.

***Action item***

*Mr. Jalabert was tasked with circulating relevant information and expectations to the board ahead of the next meeting.*

***Action item***

*Mr. King was tasked with drafting a policy update for board review.*



## Board of Directors Meeting minutes

14-Jan-2026

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### **Open to the floor for discussion**

- The 2024 financial audit report had been circulated to Ms. Chaikouskaya and Mr. King. It was currently under review by the accounting firm for final due diligence. The auditor had been authorized to publish upon completion of that review.

### ***Action item***

*Mr. Jalabert was tasked with following up with the accounting firm if no update had been received by the end of the week.*

*The board meeting was adjourned at 12 pm MT.*