



Member, United States
Olympic & Paralympic Committee

USA Team Handball board meeting

Minutes of the 16-May-2024 regular meeting teleconference

Board members in attendance

- Michael Wall – Chair
- Tracy Deforge
- Jennifer Fithian
- Camille Nichols
- Patrick Jalabert – acting as secretary
- Mark Ortega
- Ebiye Udo-Udoma

Board members excused

- Marianne Acker

USATH Staff in attendance

- Martin Branick – CEO

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 pm MT by Michael Wall, Chair. Mr. Wall thanked board members for joining, and reminded them that several topics would be discussed, as detailed in the shared agenda. Mr. Wall asked Mr. Jalabert to act as secretary, and take minutes for the meeting.

This meeting was opened to the USATH community as a webinar, excluding the executive session.

Agenda item #1 – CEO report

- Mr. Branick provided an update on the recent US Open Nationals, hosted in Spokane, WA. Overall, the event was considered successful, with solid volunteer support and 20 teams participating.
- The event appeared to generate a 350 member increase, which equated to \$12,000 in additional approximately.
- Mr. Branick provided an update on National team activities:
 - The Beach National teams participated in the Global Beach Tour in Brazil.
 - The Men's Indoor National team participated in the NACHC championship in Mexico with some younger players, and some friendly games in Europe in early preparation ahead of the 2025 World Championship.
 - A team will be participating in the wheelchair World Championship in Egypt later this summer.
- Mr. Udo-Udoma shared that a head coach had been appointed for the Women's Beach National team and was eager for the challenge leading into the World Championship.
- Mr. Branick noted that the Center for SafeSport conducted an audit during the Open Nationals in Spokane, and results were expected within eight (8) weeks.

Agenda item #2 - Minutes of Board Meetings

- Mr. Jalabert had circulated the meeting minutes for the January 2024 and March 2024 meetings ahead of time for review.
- No changes were requested.

Motion

A motion was made to approve the January 10, 2024 meeting minutes, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

Motion

A motion was made to approve the March 7, 2024 meeting minutes, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

Executive session

The board entered executive session at 3.25 pm MT, ending the webinar.

- The board discussed some on-going publicity initiatives to gain visibility ahead of the Paris 2024 Olympic games and beyond.
- Mr. Wall noted that the Nominating and Governance Committee was struggling with participation beyond Dave Buckman, either from pending resignations or inactive members. Additionally, Dave Buckman's term on the committee was set to expire at the end of 2024.
- The board discussed Mr. Branick's recommendation for chair of the National Referee Committee (NRC).

Action item

Mr. Branick was tasked with clearly documenting the process used to determine his nomination before the board formally appointed that nomination.

- The board aligned on setting a term limit of two (2) years, with the first term set to expire on 31-May-2026. The board agreed to an annual review for the NRC chair in order to ensure continued quality of work.

Motion

A motion was made to set the term limit and expiration date, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed.

- The board discussed the partnership with the US Handball Union. Establishing a draft agreement was still in process, based on support from Jean Brihault. Mr. Wall had sought out support from the USOPC for guidance and other examples.

Action item

Mr. Jalabert agreed to take the lead on drafting an agreement, to be shared with the board for feedback and involvement.

- The board discussed a proposal for a professional league that involved incremental growth to achieve a full league by 2028.

Motion

A motion to adjourn was made at 4.30 pm MT, and was duly seconded. Hearing no objections, the motion passed, and the meeting was adjourned.

Patrick Jalabert served as Secretary.