



**U.S. Association of Blind Athletes
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes - May 22, 2024**

Present:

Skye Arthur-Banning, Vice Chair
Gary Remensnyder, Treasurer
Amy Wasson, Secretary
David Cohen, Board Member
Jennifer Demby, Board Member
Matt Simpson, Athlete Board Member
Brian Eaton, Independent Director
Eve Wright Taylor, Board Member
Eliana Mason, Athlete Board Member
Calahan Young, Athlete Board Member
Tyler Merren, USOPC AAC Alternate
John Kusku, Chair of Ethics & Judicial Committee
Tracie Foster, Chair of Nominations & Governance Committee
Erika Petach, Nominations & Governance Committee
Molly Quinn, CEO
Catherine Raney Norman, Staff
Breann Scott, Staff
Amanda Duke Boulet, Staff

Absent:

Mark Ackermann, Chair
Zach Buhler, Athlete Board Member

The meeting took place via teleconference. The meeting was recorded.

Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by vice chair, Skye Arthur-Banning at 4:00 p.m. MST.

Conflict of Interest

Skye asked if any board members had a conflict of interest. No such conflicts were declared.

Approval of Minutes

Skye asked for approval of the February 28 meeting minutes. Motion made by Matt Simpson and seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Board Highlights

Skye Arthur-Banning chaired the May 22 meeting with Mark Ackermann on vacation. On May 16, USABA released the organization's five-year strategic plan in the monthly newsletter and resides on our website as part of governance. Skye commented that we will continue to see it being implemented and put into practice.



Molly Quinn, CEO, did a nine-minute recording of a high-level overview from the US Olympic & Paralympic Museum so that our community could also listen to the strategic plan. A few board members added that they appreciated this comprehensive process of putting it all together and now getting to see the plan in action.

Sport Ambassador, Tyler Merren, shared his Google HQ experience. He was able to collaborate with their employees, setting up devices and shared how it was neat to see athletes from different sports come together. Later that night, the group headed out to a goalball practice in Berkeley to make an appearance and work with some of those athletes. Skye commented that getting a sponsor at this magnitude is a big deal. This is a national and actually an international sponsor element that we as an organization can contribute, continue again to professionalize the organization and move us forward.

The USABA bylaw working group has been formed. The working group will be adding our new sport of blind football (soccer), along with the athlete advisory charter. Board member, David Cohen, who is leading the group added how important it is that blind soccer athletes will have a voice. We know that there are USOPC qualifications that must be met before they're technically considered national team athletes under the USOPC. So, we want to be mindful, make sure that those needs are met.

Calahan Young has been appointed as the Interim Chair of the AAC Interim Athlete Advisory Committee.

CEO & Staff Report

As part of our reporting, the CEO & Staff Report now follows our strategic plan framework in the four sections: organizational leadership, expansion of Paralympic team sports, community impact results and revenue generation/partnership growth. We will be reporting quarterly on our strategic initiatives and measurements within these areas.

Google Pixel sponsorship was announced on May 16 as part of Global Accessibility Awareness Day. The partnership continues to evolve and develop into areas of advancing the technology that the organization needs for athletes, coaches and staff.

Sport Performance Update

The Goalball Men's team continues to train monthly. The final selection camp for the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games will take place at the end of June. Additionally, the men had a seven-day training camp with Brazil in early May. Calahan Young gave a recap of the camp with positive outcomes and important learnings going into Paris. The Goalball Women's team held training camps in March and April, they continue to meet virtually on a monthly basis. The Goalball Working Group continues to meet every few months with a goal to further expand the group to support grassroots efforts such as coach and referee certification.

Building blind soccer has expanded into an additional site with the Kansas School for the Blind and in the fall, we will be adding Miami. Coach certification has continued to grow with able bodied soccer coaches through United Soccer Coaches with virtual training certification courses that are being held throughout the year. The second camp for the national team is in June and the athletes continue to meet bi-weekly as a group.

Our LA28 quad USOPC High Performance Plans are due to the USOPC in June.



Committee Updates and Reports

John Kusku gave the Ethics & Judicial Committee report of one (1) active grievance and the USABA staff conflict of interest forms have been submitted to the committee for review. The USABA Board is in 100% compliance with conflict of interest forms.

Gary Remensnyder gave the Audit & Finance Committee update and reviewed the 2024 Q1 financials. Overall, we are close to the budget in Q1 and most of the variances are based on timing. As part of our annual requirements, the external 2023 audit has started and will be finalized before it is due to the USOPC.

Tracie Foster gave the Nominations & Governance Committee report. The USOPC AAC election will be held in the fall for the next Paralympic quad. In December during the annual meeting, there will be the election for the four board positions which expire at the end of the year. The four positions are two (2) At-large Directors, Constituent Director, and an Independent Director.

Calahan Young and the internal Athlete Advisory Committee had a meeting in late March. The committee will provide feedback as part of the LA28 quad USOPC High Performance Plan.

The meeting went into executive session at 5:30 p.m. MST.