



One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

[www.usateamhandball.org](http://www.usateamhandball.org)

## USATH Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 15, 2014

Location: Conference Call

Time: 1800 EST

Duration: 92 min

In attendance:

### **Board Members:**

Harvey Schiller, President & Chairman

Bob Djokovich

Jennie Choi

Attila Agoston

David Thompson

Tomuke Ebuwei (excused)

David Palmer (excused)

Tom Zelenovic (absent)

Maurice Godwin, Meeting Secretary

### **Staff:**

Mike Cavanaugh, CEO

Javier Garcia Cuesta, MNT Head Coach

Chris Morgan, Membership Director

### **Guests:**

Candy Marturano, Accountant

Dr. David Pascoe, Auburn University Professor

Rick Hurst, USATH Foundation President

Dede Piankova

### **18:05 – President's Report, Harvey Schiller**

President Schiller congratulated Auburn University on a successful Olympic Training Site tour. The designation could lead to local sponsorships and donations to USA Team Handball (USATH).

Although things are moving in a positive direction, financial challenges still loom for USATH. In particular, no High Performance funding is expected for 2015 to compensate coaches. Allen Ashley of the USOC is expected to meet with Mike Cavanaugh soon to discuss USATH's relationship with the USOC.



One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

[www.usateamhandball.org](http://www.usateamhandball.org)

Schiller expressed his optimism for funding, but noted that Team USA must be successful in international handball competition. Currently, USATH has between \$125-150K raised, and has secured a Nike sponsorship, but not much else. An organization named Jet Set is willing to support coaches and players, but this has not been finalized as of yet.

18:10 – CEO Report, Mike Cavanaugh

Cavanaugh reported that MNT Head Coach Javier Garcia Cuesta represented USATH at the 2014 IHF Coaches Symposium. Cavanaugh submitted a four-year plan to the IHF regarding USATH equipment needs. The IHF requested that USATH send a media representative to Qatar for the 2015 Men's Handball World Championships, and Cavanaugh suggested that USATH designate Allan Abrahamson and four other students.

Cavanaugh also reported that the bid to host the Repechage event is in to the PATHF and that the USOC has designated Safe Sport to form a third-party entity, to adjudicate sexual harassment, abuse, bullying issues. There will be an education and investigation and adjudication aspect of the program. It will mandatory for NGBs to participate!

18:15 – Financial Status, Candy Marturano

The USOC audited USATH 2012-13 financial statements, and reported items missing or incomplete. The USOC made recommendations, many of which are already in place, and noted that USATH is in better financial shape than in recent years. Marturano requested COI's and COE's from all Board members.

18:20 – Financial Status, Bob Djokovic

Djokovic stated that USATH is unable to make up debt and is in need of alternate funding. A realistic budget needs to be proposed for 2015, and Djokovic volunteered to initiate that project.

18:25 – Olympic Training Site Designation, Dr. David Pascoe

Two signatures are needed for the USOC Olympic Training Site (OTS) application; one from the Auburn University Provost and another from the Auburn University President. Pascoe is optimistic for OTS designation sometime in December. He suggested that Auburn and USATH organize a launch event, and that the Department of Education would like to get involved with the Olympic movement.

18:26 – Blue Turtle Creative partnership & Winter Classic event, Mike Cavanaugh

Blue Turtle Creative is an Auburn-based marketing firm, formed and directed by Beth Witten, a member of the Auburn City Council. USATH and Blue Turtle are close to signing a marketing agreement which will increase promotion and, hopefully, sponsorships.

USATH is hosting an international tournament for development and evaluation of the WNT in preparation for the Repechage. A successful club team from the French West Indies, Sainte Anne IHC



One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

[www.usateamhandball.org](http://www.usateamhandball.org)

(or “Guadeloupe”), and the Canadian Women’s National Team will travel to Auburn at their own expense to compete in a friendly tournament against Team USA’s WNT.

18:30 – Quorum established

18:31 – Beach Handball Developments, Dede Piankova

Piankova is currently working with 17 other people to develop beach handball from grassroots, and there is a plan to organize a professional league in Florida. Her proposal was to be researched against other models in Europe and South America.

18:35 – Athlete Advisory Council Report, David Thompson

Thompson reports that USATH athletes believe things are trending positively and Tomuke Ebuwei is representing USATH athletes very well to the USOC.

18:35 – Board Fundraising, Harvey Schiller

President Schiller expressed that there is a need to get the Board of Directors more involved with fundraising, and suggested that there be a \$500-1,000 membership fee imposed for Board members.

The idea of reducing current USATH membership fees was presented, along with an outreach effort to USATH Alumni for sponsor memberships. Schiller wants to give more value to USATH registered clubs and members, and reported that membership has decreased \$20K from 2013.

18:50 – Referee Report, Rick Hurst

Hurst pointed out that developing referees develops the sport of team handball and that a 2015 proposal from USATH referees has been submitted to the USATH Foundation.

18:55 – AllPlayers Registration and Membership Report, Chris Morgan

Morgan cited issues with AllPlayers membership platform, specifically members not being billed or being billed too much, and a lack of an accounting report. He knows a player on Boston THC who is willing to set up a new membership site. Google Forms was also presented as an option. AllPlayers to be reviewed to see if accommodation and improvements can be implemented.

19:05 – Leagues Committee Report, Jan O’Shea

Commissioner O’Shea gave a brief history of the Northeast Team Handball League (NTHL) and verified that all clubs and players were registered members of USATH. She cited that NTHL has brought in over \$14K in revenue, and is seeking more of a return on the \$70 USATH Adult Player membership fee.



One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

[www.usateamhandball.org](http://www.usateamhandball.org)

19:15 – Membership Survey, Jennie Choi & Bob Djokovich

The results from the USATH Membership Survey, created by Choi, reported that membership sought more value from their membership, lower fees, and a one-time fee. Djokovic reconsidered dropping the membership fees, and suggested new ways to add benefits to clubs and players.

19:25 – National Teams Report, Javier Garcia Cuesta

Garcia Cuesta believes (and WNT Christian Latulippe agrees) that the National Team players have everything they need to train successfully. However, there is a need for more international competition. International matches, he exclaimed, are very important for improvement.

He reported that there will be cuts from the National Teams after the Winter Classic. Most of the MNT players reside somewhere other than Auburn, while most of the WNT players reside in Auburn.

19:32 – Meeting adjourned. Next meeting anticipated in late January/early February.