



One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

www.usateamhandball.org

USATH Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 31, 2015

Location: Conference Call

Time: 1700 EST

Duration: 45 min

In attendance:

Board Members:

Harvey Schiller, President & Chairman

Bob Djokovich

Jennie Choi

Mike McNees

Maurice Godwin, Meeting Secretary

Absent:

David Thompson – baby boy just born

David Palmer – professional responsibility

Tomuke Ebuwei – with WNT in PUR

Attila Agoston – professional responsibility

Staff:

Mike Cavanaugh, CEO

Guests:

Dennis Berkholtz, '72 Olympian and new Director of USA Beach Handball

Reita Clanton, '84 Olympian and Director of Auburn University Sports Optimization Center

Candy Marturano, Accountant

17:00 – Quorum Not Established – Informational Meeting

17:03 – February 10 Board of Director Teleconference Minutes, Mike Cavanaugh

Minutes were approved and posted to USATeamHandball.org within aspirational 30-day deadline.

17:04 – President's Report, Harvey Schiller

President Schiller briefly mentioned how the losses to Uruguay impacted the financial outlook for USATH. He also briefly mentioned how previous USATH leadership has affected current financial standing and the ability to compensate the current head coaches. However, Auburn University being



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designated as an Olympic Training Center is a positive for USATH and the Olympic movement, and USATH appreciates the support of the university.

USATH is not in a position to receive more USOC funding, as the USOC is focused on NGBs that will compete in the 2015 Pan American and 2016 Summer Olympic Games. However, the USOC has recently appointed a new Board members, and Schiller has been in contact with them on how to obtain funding for USATH.

The current job for USATH is to step back and look at how team handball can continue to grow on a National level and how to maintain international relationships.

17:08 – CEO Report, Mike Cavanaugh

Mike Cavanaugh and Bob Djokovich's first order of business after the Uruguay matches was to speak directly with the MNT and WNT head coaches, and to the leadership of the Auburn University School of Kinesiology.

Meanwhile, AU was designated as an Olympic Training Site by the USOC, but the official press release and notification is being handled by Auburn leadership and the USOC.

17:10 – Olympic Training Site Designation, Reita Clanton

Auburn appreciates the candor of USATH regarding the financial status, however AU is committed to the support of the National Teams' athlete development. The AU leadership is also excited about the OTS designation and is currently deciding how to announce it in a way that will make the biggest impact, potentially at an AU home football game.

17:12 – Financial Report, Candy Marturano and Bob Djokovich

There was no additional news to report. Djokovich added that he would like to see one or two coaches remain at Auburn, but understands that is not possible until sustainable funding is acquired. As such, the current head coaches will be furloughed at the end of April.

17:14 – Legacy Project and Membership Planning, Bob Djokovich

Mike Lenard and Lindalisa Severo have been very active on creating the Legacy project for the website, however the implementation of the project has been delayed due to the nature of the TeamUSA.org website. The purpose of the project is to increase web traffic through USATeamHandball.org and there has been a delay in finding a way to do so that USATH will get credit for.

After speaking with Jennie Choi and Jan O'Shea (Northeast Team Handball League Commissioner), a number of new methods to increase efficiency and improve USATH membership value will be implemented after the Membership Meeting at the USATH Open Championships (May 15-17, York,



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PA). Memberships will run from September 1 through August 31, and a portion of USATH membership fees will be allocated to club development.

17:22 – Introduction of Dennis Berkholtz as Beach Handball Director, Harvey Schiller & Dennis Berkholtz

Dennis Berkholtz has been associated with handball for 45 years and has always been supportive with ideas for promoting handball in the United States. He and Schiller are currently discussing ways to develop a professional league in the U.S., and have spoken with many influential leaders in sports on ways to go about doing so.

Berkholtz outlined his three goals for beach handball to be implemented over the next three years: 1) make beach handball relevant, 2) to brand the name beach handball, and 3) get beach handball on television.

He envisions an East Coast beach handball league in West Florida, and a West Coast beach handball league traversing from San Diego to San Francisco, California. He has already reached out to and gained support from Bryant Johnson ('88 Olympian) and Michael Hinson (President, Los Angeles THC). Berkholtz also plans to reach out to the 42 universities with varsity beach volleyball teams and explore the possibility of organizing a collegiate club beach volleyball league.

Berkholtz was advised by the PATHF leadership to establish a beach handball season from April – June. He believes that USATH should begin development of international competition, namely a "USA Cup" international tournament featuring Pan American beach handball teams, as well as make a bid to host the 2016 or 2018 PATHF Beach Handball Championships. To drive the 2016 effort, he and Djokovich are seeking financial support to create a televised beach handball event to promote the sport. Without a televised event, hosting the 2016 championships would be unlikely.

Lastly, Berkholtz intends to speak with other leaders in beach handball about promotion and development, as well as ways to certify coaches and referees.

17:28 – AAC Report, Mike Cavanaugh and Harvey Schiller

Both AAC representatives were unavailable for various reasons, but Cavanaugh and Schiller praised Tomuke Ebuwei's performance as liaison with the AAC and Jennie Choi's performance as a Board member.

17:30 – USATH College National Championships, Mike Cavanaugh and Maurice Godwin

Cavanaugh gave an update on the number of teams attending College Nationals (12 Men's and 4 Women's teams) and presented the College Nationals staff—Mark Ortega, Competition Director, and Maurice Godwin, Chair of Local Organizing Committee. Godwin gave updates on scheduling and facilities.



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Schiller complimented Godwin's performance as Communication Specialist and his work on the USATeamHandball.org website.

17:32 – USATH Open Championships, Mike Cavanaugh

Cavanaugh highlighted the collegiate teams that opted to attend the 2015 Open Championships in York, PA (May 15-17) instead of College National Championships due to financial reasons and proximity. Both events (College and Open) are expected to exceed the 2014 participation numbers.

Jim Thome was appointed Open Championships Competition Director due to his outstanding organizational ability and experience. York, PA, although not a well-known destination like years past, has proven to be a great choice for host city due to the financial considerations (complimentary venue labor, flooring and installation support, sports medicine services, and shuttle transportation from Harrisburg, PA, and Baltimore, MD airports).

There will be an Annual Assembly at Open Championships for the Board of Directors to communicate directly with the USATH membership.

17:35 – Membership Update, Jennie Choi

Jennie mentioned that she, Severo, Godwin, Chris Morgan, and Attila Agoston have been developing a USATH-members only web forum as a membership incentive and as a way to increase traffic to USATeamHandball.org. This web forum is intended to increase community among USATH membership and a platform to share ideas with others about handball in the U.S.

17:36 – Old Business/New Business, Mike Cavanaugh

In December, Cavanaugh created a four-year plan to be presented to the IHF in one week, and met with Hassan Moustafa, the President of the IHF, during the 2015 World Men's Handball Championship in Qatar in January. MNT Coach Javier Garcia Cuesta also met with President Moustafa separately during the World Championships. Moustafa designated an executive council member to review the USATH four-year plan and report back to the IHF Executive Committee, to and also meet with Cavanaugh and Coach Cuesta separately. After the evaluation, the recommendation was that the USATH program "has merit and deserves support."

PATHF officials, who have positive relationships and history with USATH, were assigned to be technical delegates for the Last Chance series versus Uruguay. They were given tours of the Beard-Eaves Memorial Coliseum and School of Kinesiology at Auburn University. The delegates were VERY impressed with the showcase, and enthusiastic about the AU facilities' potential for PATHF competition, clinics, and events.

17:43 – Meeting Adjourned