



MINUTES OF THE USHA BOARD MEETING

April 9, 2025

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

President Denis Hogan opened the virtual meeting at 11:59 am Pacific.

All Board members were present virtually except for Porter and Mendez-Caba. Vale was given Mendez-Caba's proxy vote. Also present were Executive Director Matt Krueger and Development Director Sam Esser. A quorum was present.

The minutes from the Winter Board Meeting were briefly reviewed. Two amendments were suggested: past chair of the Collegiate Committee was improperly identified as "President," and the replacement chair of the committee should have been noted as "subject to confirmation by the Board." **Martin made a motion, seconded by Van Arsdale, to approve the minutes with the suggested amendments.** No further discussion ensued. **The motion passed 15-0-1.**

Hogan gave his president's report, noting it is posted on the Board's Shared Drive. It primarily reviews the past three months, most notably the activities surrounding the National Handball Center in St. Louis. He urged all to read the posting at leisure.

The **Game Committee** was next up, starting with the presentation of the amended Transgender Policy. The changes to the text required by the Board in the Winter Meeting were completed. Also, a subcommittee of Martin, Steele and Krueger was tasked to develop a non-disclosure agreement as required by the Policy. Other changes to the Policy were discussed and adopted by consensus, which were to transfer the wording of the original Protocol regarding the USHA's right to change the Protocol, as well as wording the Protocol will always be applied in accordance with laws where applicable. **Burns made a motion, seconded by Wohl, to approve the Transgender Policy with the adopted changes, No further discussion ensued. The motion passed 11-2-3.**

Sove completed the Game report with notice that the Committee advised the Collegiate Committee that they may run the doubles events in the Collegiate National Tournament with a 15-15-11-point format, but all finals determining USHA National Championships should be the traditional 21-21-11 format. No discussion ensued.

The **Promotion Committee** reported on a proposal to move the Junior National Tournament from the traditional time between Christmas and New Years. The suggestion comes from coaches and parents. The reason is because winter presents obvious travel obstacles, air tickets are higher, and the Holiday Season presents deterrents for family involvement. All this has an influence on junior attendance in the tournament. Other times were considered. MLK and Presidents Day weekends were rejected because they still are in winter, and Spring Break week was rejected because they are not consistent nation-wide. Late June was the compromise. It is a month away from the 4-Wall National Tournament, almost everyone is out of school by late June, the time stays away from the July 4th holiday, and does not conflict with numerous summer events. Discussion centered on agreement to try making the move, but when would be the optimum time. Consensus was to not make a firm commitment on a specific weekend, as each year fluctuations in handball events could make for conflicts. Subsequently, **a motion was made by Langmack, seconded by Duval, to move the 4-Wall Junior National Tournament from the traditional December dates to "early summer", starting in 2026.** No further discussion ensued. **The motion passed 15-0-1.**

The Promotion Committee report concluded with an update on the Showcase Series. Portland is confirmed for May 30, 2025. Other targeted sites for 2025 include Bakersfield, Alaska, Florida and Denver.

The **Technology Committee** report was next. The use of technology, specifically the Bracket Ace application and platform, combined with the use of Ace Referee application, had great effect on the running of the Collegiate Nationals. Each worked very well and was universally accepted by the players.

The Tech Committee set up a Social Media Subcommittee. The subcommittee will work on strategies regarding content and calendar usage on USHA's social media sources such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. The intent is to have postings two to three times per week. Taylor Bell was added to the Technology Committee, and will chair the subcommittee. Other new faces were added to the subcommittee only. The subcommittee was approved by the Board by consensus.

Other Technology Committee discussion centered on online membership renewals, stressing automatic renewal options; development of a Board Main Drive for accommodating the sharing of all Committee documents and reports; and establishment of a Slack Workplace for saving messages.

There were no comments regarding **Old Business**.

Under **New Business**, Mulkerrins and Wells will be traveling to NYC to further develop Collegiate Committee strategies on collegiate recruitment.

There was brief discussion on the benefits of opening Board virtual meetings to the public. Consensus was anyone who would be allowed to attend should first go through some sort of vetting process.

Further discussion ensued regarding the use of Board Main Drive for all Committee reports for all to view.

The magazine will be targeted to be in the mail at the end of the month. Articles will include notice of fund raising for the National Handball Center. On that subject, templates for use by Board members for solicitation by email and face-to-face will be drafted soon. Further, the ribbon-cutting ceremony on May 27 was announced to the board and will be further promoted nationally, as well as at the 4-wall Nationals. Sponsorship for one court at the Centered has been obtained.

Nichols reported on a fundraising idea arising from SoCal, wherein bricks or tiles would be offered to sponsors, with the bricks/tiles laid in a patio at the Center. This was very well received by the Board and consensus was to present this nationally. This was deferred to the Promotion Committee for development.

The next Board meeting will be in the summer, with the exact date TBD.

Martin made a motion, seconded by Van Arsdale, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 15-0-1. The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm Pacific.

Submitted by



Tom Sove
Secretary
4-13-25