

Minutes
USOPC Board of Directors Meeting
Conducted by Telephone and Videoconference
October 10, 2020

A special meeting of the Board of Directors (the “Board”) of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (“USOPC”) took place on October 10, 2020 via telephone and videoconference after an abbreviated notice period accepted by attending Board members pursuant to the USOPC Bylaws. Present were Susanne Lyons (Chair), Robbie Bach, Rich Bender, Cheri Blauwet, Beth Brooke, Anita DeFrantz (IOC Member, *ex officio*), David Haggerty (IOC Member, *ex officio*), Sarah Hirshland (USOPC CEO, *ex officio*), Bill Marolt, Vivek Murthy, Steve Mesler, Whitney Ping, Kikkan Randall (IOC Member, *ex officio*), Brad Snyder, and Robert Wood. Unable to attend was Kevin White. Attending Board members constituted a quorum of the Board under USOPC Bylaws.

USOPC staff members attending this session included Katie Bynum. The minutes were recorded by Christopher McCleary, Secretary.

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05am Mountain Time. She thanked Board members for the extra time and attention on the day’s sole agenda item.

2. Anti-Doping Discussion

Building on discussions initiated during the Board’s recent October 8 meeting session, members of the Board engaged in further discussion on international anti-doping topics and the USOPC’s role in playing a visible and positive role in advancing these issues.

The Chair referred to the drafting work done by a number of Board members between the Board meeting session on October 8 and the current session, which had been provided to Board members in advance of the current session. She invited comments from the drafters on the aim and approach of their work. These and other Board members engaged in an opening discussion about the need for the USOPC to draw on its role and position in international sport to advocate effectively for strong, transparent, and independent international anti-doping leadership. Board members offered thoughts on the importance of the USOPC aligning and collaborating closely with other leading anti-doping stakeholders in the US, particularly including USADA and the US Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP); and on specifically desired improvements in WADA governance to move towards the desired end-state: Augmented athlete and independent representation at the highest levels in WADA governance. Further discussion centered on the need for the USOPC to be agile and prepared to join the public conversation on important anti-doping issues and events in a way that is timely and impactful, and on the USOPC’s difficulty achieving this in past years.

The Chair offered thoughts and perspectives based on recent interactions with WADA and the IOC, and on her work with USOPC staff in these areas. Board members discussed the importance of making substantive improvements in the international anti-doping construct, and the counterpart need to ensure that US athletes can see and understand USOPC efforts in this regard.

Board discussion turned to the specific draft language offered by several Board members for consideration and discussion. Board members engaged in detailed discussion and review of the different elements of this language and its aim overall; contrasting thoughts about the value of working within the system and demanding change from the outside; opportunities and other considerations that apply particularly to the USOPC as it contemplates next steps; and thoughts about the value of provocation in public discourse in particularly kinds of issues.

The Chair invited thoughts from Sarah Hirshland on recent USOPC staff-level efforts in these areas, for further Board context in its discussion. Ms. Hirshland offered thoughts on several of the themes of the day's discussion and detailed a number of ongoing projects and accomplishments on tactical items supporting the priorities being identified by the Board. She detailed direct work with USADA, ONDCP, and WADA on particular athlete representation items, discussions with AAC leadership and the need for even more communication in both directions with that group on the anti-doping front; the newly-created USOPC Anti-Doping Advisory Group that includes athlete and NGB thought leaders along with USOPC staff experts on the science and medical elements of this work; and direct work with the IOC on this and other difficult issues, including where this work and the USOPC's positions in it tend to strain the IOC-USOPC relationship.

Board members again reviewed the draft language previously offered, reflected on the varying views and preferences of individual Board members, and identified the fact of general agreement among Board members that increased energy and urgency from the USOPC should be brought to bear in the international anti-doping construct. After further exchanges and adjustments on particular language, Board members agreed that the draft language should be entered into the minutes for the current Board meeting as follows:

Kikkan Randall, Whitney Ping, Brad Snyder, and Steve Mesler hereby move for the USOPC to prioritize its leadership role in the global effort to protect every athlete's right to compete in clean sport.

We move that the USOPC publicly recognizes the urgent need for leadership and deep, expedient changes to the current governance, systems, and organizations responsible for the international anti-doping movement. We hold concerns that the current status quo deeply threatens the short and long-term prospects of athletes and the Olympic and Paralympic Movements as a whole. WADA's most recent threat against US athlete participation in the Olympic Games unrelated to any doping violations, as well as the international sport community's inability to empower ourselves to hold Russia to account, demonstrate a broken system in need of change.

This motion empowers the CEO and the Chair to speak openly and forcefully in condemning state-sponsored doping and all other forms of organized doping; criticizing the weakness of the governance and enforcement measures pursued by WADA; calling for stricter measures for all violators; and to express that the USOPC will not take lightly threats against athlete's right to compete and to compete in Clean Sport. More independent governance and more athlete representation of anti-doping authorities are not a luxury but a requirement.

The motion further authorizes the CEO and Chair to prioritize the development of a comprehensive set of strategies and tactics to ensure Clean Sport. The USOPC is aligned and committed to USADA's call for independent governance at WADA and the American government's Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) call to explore global anti-doping and governance reform.

This motion is in line with the USOPC's mission and enduring commitment to the protection of athlete's rights, safety, and dreams of Olympic and Paralympic glory.

After this discussion and on a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted to express its appreciation and endorsement of the foregoing language and agreed that USOPC management should turn to implementation of the approach described therein, reporting back to the Board on plans and re-prioritization of other work as these develop.

Further Board discussion touched on a number of logistical specifics in carrying out this work and next steps for a number of meeting attendees.

3. Wrap Up

The Chair thanked the Board again for the extensive exchange and deep engagement on the day's topic. She suggested that the Board would benefit from another special Board meeting in advance of the next regular meeting set for December, and asked Board members to keep an eye out for calendar proposals aimed at a short special meeting in November.

4. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.

This document constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes of the October 10, 2020 meeting of the Board of Directors of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee.



Christopher McCleary
Secretary

December 18, 2020