



USA Surfing Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: April 20, 2026

Meeting Time: 4:00PM PST / 7:00PM EST

Meeting Location: Virtual (Chair Location: Maine)

Meeting Type: Regular

1. Call to Order

Time meeting was called to order: 7:00PM EST

Presiding officer: Rob Pendergist – Chairman

2. Roll Call / Attendance

Board Members Present:

Name	Type	Term
Robert Pendergist - Chairman	Independent	Ends 12/31/26
Laura Bren - Treasurer	Independent	Ends 12/31/26
Kipling Sheppard	Independent	Ends 12/31/28
Jeff Egertson	Independent	Ends 12/31/26
Dana Cummings	General – Para athlete	Ends 12/31/26
Kayla Durden	Independent	Ends 12/31/26
Brett Simpson	Athlete	Ends 12/31/26
Dan Ciscel	Independent	Ends 12/31/26
Liv Stone	General – Para athlete	Ends 12/31/26
Candice Appleby	Athlete	Ends 12/31/28

Board Members Absent:

Name	Type	Term
Kaleigh Gilchrist	Athlete	Ends 12/31/28
Kolohe Andino	Athlete	Ends 12/31/28

Guests/Staff Present:

Rebecca Fleischauer Jewell – CEO

Mia Gilkerson – Secretary / Member + Athlete Specialist

Tracy Axel – High Performance Director

Todd Kline – Athlete Commissioner

Quorum: YES

Conflicts of Interest: YES

Notes: 10/12 board members present and voting

Notes: Brett Simpson declared a conflict



3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda: Rob Pendergist

Moved by: Laura Bren

Seconded by: Jeff Egertson

Outcome: Agenda approved unanimously

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Date of previous meeting: February 8, 2026

Motion to approve minutes: Rob Pendergist

Moved by: Laura Bren

Seconded by: Jeff Egertson

Outcome: Minutes approved unanimously

5. Reports

a. President's Report – Becky Fleischauer Jewell

- USA Surfing officially granted NGB certification by USOPC
- Certified with conditions, similar to prior NGB precedents
- Certification elevates organizational status and Olympic positioning
- Increased access to funding, resources, and influence (notably for LA28)

b. Treasurer's Report – Laura Bren

- Revenue through March: \$82K vs. \$113K budget (shortfall of \$31K)
- Expenses: \$154K vs. \$308K budget (intentional conservative spending)
- Current assets: \$1.3M total
- Cash on hand: \$181K (as of April 20)
- \$1.2M in pledged donation agreements (12 months)
- Transition to W2 employees increased staffing costs ~35%
- External audit scheduled for May; IRS 990 filings upcoming in May

c. Committee Reports

- Ethics (Maja): Working to support compliance initiatives in on 3 areas complaints, conflict of interest, and code of ethics. Quarterly meeting April 27th.
- Judicial (Rob/Laura): Nothing to report.
- Nominating & Governance (Dan): Working on board members with 12/31/26 terms. Committee will begin to identify candidates.
- High Performance (Tracy): Ongoing development led by Tracy with athlete input.
- Audit & Finance (Laura/Jeff): External auditor has been selected. 2025 audit to begin in May (see New Business)
- Para Advisory (Liv): Working on broadening reach to Para surfers and bring in new donors and sponsorships and continuing connecting the community. Meetings set monthly, next meeting April 27th.
- Athlete Advisory (Candice): Working through athlete questions for longboard surf-off
- SUP Advisory (Candice): Working to provide more events and pathways for SUP athletes.



6. Old Business

NGB Certification Conditions & Compliance

Discussion:

- Monthly monitoring required by USOPC until full certification
- Key deadlines:
 - Financial strategy (May 1)
 - SafeSport onboarding plan & training (May 5)
 - Board training (May 14)
 - Selection procedures & high-performance plan
- Section 8 waiver raised legal concerns; under review by counsel

Decision/Action:

- Board acknowledged requirements and compliance timeline
- Legal review to continue

7. New Business

a. Board and Staff Updates

- Laura Bren has given her notice to resign as Treasurer.
- The Board will be asked to vote on electing Jeff Egertson as interim Treasurer.
- Laura Bren will continue her active involvement on the Finance Committee working closely with Jeff and leadership to manage financial stewardship
- Todd Kline appointed Athlete Commissioner (effective March 1)
 - Focused on athlete services and high-performance integration

b. Sponsorship & Partnership Development

- Hurley returning as presenting sponsor for 2026 USA Lowers Champs
- Renewals: Dry Robe
- New partner: Nomadix
- Pipeline opportunities: P&G, Visit Huntington Beach, Endless Surf, Atlantic Park, Rip Curl
- Exploring external agencies for marketing, sponsorship, and PR

c. Championships & Competition Planning

- 2026 Championships planning (Oceanside / Lower Trestles)
- Broadcast partnership with Action Sports Productions
- Slot allocations being distributed to regional organizations as of 4/13/26
- Banner order deadline: May 15
- Prime Series completed on budget
- 2026/27 season planning already underway & permits confirmed
- ISA World Championships scheduling challenges noted



d. LA28 Olympic Qualification System

- Five qualification pathways established
- Athlete preference for 2027 WSL rankings over 2028 season
- Ongoing discussions with WSL

8. Action Items

Action Item	Owner	Due Date	Notes
Complete USOPC Board Span training	All Board Members	May 14, 2026	Required for certification
Submit financial strategy to USOPC	Laura Bren / Jeff	May 1, 2026	Compliance requirement
Confirm board continuation intentions	Applicable Board Members	May 12, 2026	For nominating committee
Finalize high performance plan and budget	Todd Kline / Tracy	Ongoing	Include athlete input
Finalize championship slots & invitations	Mia	May 18, 2026	Sent to each regional organization as their season completed
Special Meeting to vote on Treasurer	Mia	May 1, 2026	Per bylaws

9. Announcements

- ISA World Championships schedule compressed into late 2026 calendar (LB + SUP TBD)
- Under-18 Championship invitations forthcoming

10. Follow-Up Meeting

Date of Next Meeting: July 27, 2026

Time: 4:00PM PST / 7:00PM EST

Location: Virtual

Meeting Type: Regular

11. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned on April 20, 2026 at 5:30PM PST / 8:30PM EST

Minutes Prepared by:

Name: Mia Gilkerson

Title: Secretary / Membership + Athlete Specialist

Date: April 20, 2026

Approved by Board: July 27, 2026

Posted on Website: July 28, 2026