



USA Surfing Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: July 27, 2026

Meeting Time: 7:00PM EST

Meeting Location: Maine

Meeting Type: Regular

1. Call to Order

Time meeting was called to order: 4:00PM 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	Independent	Ends 12/31/26
Kipling Sheppard	General	Ends 12/31/28
Jeff Egertson - Treasurer	Independent	Ends 12/31/28
Dana Cummings	General – Para athlete	Ends 12/31/26
Kayla Durden	Athlete	Ends 12/31/26
Kaleigh Gilchrist	Athlete	Ends 12/31/28
Brett Simpson	Athlete	Ends 12/31/26
Candice Appleby	Athlete	Ends 12/31/28

Board Members Absent:

Name	Type	Term
Dan Ciscel	Independent	Ends 12/31/26
Liv Stone	General – Para athlete	Ends 12/31/26
Kolohe Andino	Athlete	Ends 12/31/28

Guests/Staff Present:

Gregory Hulsizer – CEO

Mia Gilkerson - Secretary / Member + Athlete Specialist

Tracy Axel - High-Performance Director

Todd Kline - Athlete Commissioner

Ryan Simmons - Contest Director + Head Coach

David Patterson – Senior Governance Advisor with the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC)

Quorum: YES

Conflicts of Interest: YES

Notes: 9/12 board members present and voting

Notes: No conflicts were declared

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve agenda: Greg Hulsizer

Moved by: Laura Bren

Seconded by: Rob Pendergist

Outcome: Unanimously Approved

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Date of previous meeting: April 20, 2026 (Regular)

Motion to approve minutes: Greg Hulsizer

Moved by: Laura Bren

Seconded by: Rob Pendergist

Outcome: Unanimously Approved

Date of previous meeting: April 28, 2026 – Special Meeting (Treasurer Position)

Motion to approve minutes: Greg Hulsizer

Moved by: Laura Bren

Seconded by: Rob Pendergist

Outcome: Unanimously Approved

Date of previous meeting: May 28, 2026 – Special Meeting (No Kip)

Motion to approve minutes: Greg Hulsizer

Moved by: Laura Bren

Seconded by: Rob Pendergist

Outcome: Unanimously Approved

Date of previous meeting: June 15, 2026 – Special Meeting (Greg to Bank Signer)

Motion to approve minutes: Greg Hulsizer

Moved by: Laura Bren

Seconded by: Rob Pendergist

Outcome: Unanimously Approved

Date of previous meeting: June 24, 2026 – Special Meeting (COI + Sport Integrity Policies)

Motion to approve minutes: Greg Hulsizer

Moved by: Laura Bren

Seconded by: Rob Pendergist

Outcome: Unanimously Approved

5. Board Governance & Training

Dave Patterson, USOPC Senior Governance Advisor, provided governance training covering fiduciary duties, conflicts of interest, confidentiality, Board vs. operational responsibilities, executive sessions, and committee structure.

The Board assessment showed overall positive progress, with work with the Athletes Commission identified as the primary area for improvement.

6. Staff and Program Updates

The Board packet included a discussion of recent activities. USA Surfing staff shared highlights.

High Performance — Tracy Axel

- The International Surfing Association (ISA) announced that the 2027 World Surfing Games will be held in El Salvador.
- USA Surfing is working to secure team housing and other properties for the event.
- Off-cycle USOPC funding was secured for 2026.
- The 2027 High-Performance funding application, including a technology and innovation grant request, has been submitted.

Competition & Coaching — Ryan

- The Prime Series experienced its strongest season to date, with four events on both the East and West Coasts and improved parity between regions.
- Preparations are underway for the ISA World Juniors in early September.
- The first training session at Trestles has been completed, with additional August training planned.
- Junior National and Development Teams have been selected.
- Travel team logistics for upcoming ISA events are being coordinated.

Athlete Commissioner — Todd Kline

- Todd reported on the Lowers and Oceanside events.
- Event broadcasts operated successfully, and sponsors were satisfied.
- Work is underway to secure 2026 broadcast partners for Prime Series and championship events.
- Todd was also coaching with Ryan at the US Open.

Membership, Governance & Safe Sport — Mia Gilkerson

- Prime Series qualifiers are underway, with opening slots distributed to regional organizations.
- Mia is supporting implementation of new governance policies with Wendy.
- Mia is leading Safe Sport compliance for staff, Board members, and athletes traveling to ISA events.
- A \$25,000 personal donation to USA Surfing was secured.

- More than 90 conflict-of-interest forms were returned.

USOPC Certification Compliance

Wendy provided an update on USA Surfing's USOPC certification requirements.

- All deadlines to date have been met, and no submissions have been returned by the USOPC for correction.
- Staff is meeting monthly with USOPC to review progress.
- The USOPC has expressed satisfaction with USA Surfing's preparation and understanding of certification requirements.

Athletes Commission Update

The Athletes Commission remains a priority area following the Board assessment.

- The September 29 date is considered a target rather than a hard deadline.
- The USOPC has emphasized developing a sustainable and appropriate process rather than rushing to meet a date.
- Work continues to interpret the new ten-year tenure-plus definition.
- Sue and Greg are working to establish the structure and process for athlete elections.
- Board approval of the election process will be required before an athlete election can take place.
- Tracy and Greg previously met with Dave Patterson to confirm the proposed approach.

Sponsorship Development

The Board received an update on sponsorship development.

- DENSU has been engaged to value USA Surfing's sponsorable assets.
- A sponsorship survey is currently open, and Board members were encouraged to complete it.
- USA Surfing is narrowing its search to two sponsorship consultants with Olympic experience.
- Kip and Greg have a call scheduled with one of the prospective firms.
- USOPC administrative and communications grant applications have been submitted; responses are pending.
- A \$25,000 donation was secured through Mia's efforts.

7. Financial Report + Forecast

The Board reviewed the financial report and midyear forecast.

As of June 30:

- Revenue was approximately **\$46,000 ahead of budget.**
- Expenses were approximately **\$89,000 below budget.**
- Net operating income was approximately **\$135,000 ahead of budget.**

The primary drivers included stronger pledge payments, sponsorship revenue, and event entry fees. Certain planned expenses have been deferred until later in the year.

The Board approved the midyear forecast, which reflected approximately **\$67,000 of higher income than the original budget.**

The forecast includes:

- **\$330,000 in USOPC grants**, with the first two installments funded and the remaining balance expected in October.
- \$110,000 for World Surfing Games and CT support.
- \$75,000 for High-Performance staffing and operations.
- \$75,000 reallocated to the National Championships at Lowers.
- \$50,000 for Olympic housing.
- \$20,000 for Olympic planning and venue analysis.
- An additional \$50,000 in capital support from existing pledge agreements.

The forecast is cash-based and conservative and does not include potential upside from sponsorship opportunities currently in progress.

8. Para Surfing Selection Criteria Discussion

Director Cummings raised concerns regarding the selection process for Para Surfing athletes competing at the Para Nationals.

Dana reported that he had filed a whistleblower complaint with the USOPC and had consulted an attorney, although the attorney had not been retained.

Ryan provided context regarding the evolution of the Para Surfing pathway and noted that multiple organizations and pathways contribute to the complexity of the current system.

Tracy noted that the registration process includes a checkbox addressing prior competition and emphasized accountability and athlete representation.

Candice Appleby, Athlete Commissioner, offered to advocate directly for Para Surfing athletes moving forward.

9. New Business

Discussion: Approve Financial Forecast

Motion: Laura Bren

Moved by: Rob Pendergist

Seconded by: All in favor by voice vote

Outcome: Unanimously Approved

10. Action Items

Action Item	Owner	Due Date	Notes
Dana Cumming on Para Champs Event	Greg Hulsizer	September 1, 2026	Greg to follow up with Dana to discuss his concerns
Complete the DENSU sponsorship survey	All Board Members	ASAP	
Schedule August special Board meeting regarding committees and governance	Greg	August, 2026	Set-up for August 27 th , 2026
Add Strategic Plan updates to future Board agendas	Greg	Future meetings	
Require brief written committee reports in advance of future Board meetings	Committee Chairs / Greg	Future meetings	
Complete Ethics Committee review of conflict-of-interest disclosures	Ethics Committee	Before August 12, 2026	
Confirm mitigation approach for any flagged conflict-of-interest disclosures	Ethics Committee	Before August 12, 2026	
Continue development of Athletes Commission election process	Greg / Su	Target September 29	
Obtain Board approval of Athletes Commission election process before athlete voting	Board	Prior to Election	

11. Follow-Up Meeting

Date of Next Meeting: October 26, 2026

Time: 4:00PM PDT

Location: Virtual

Meeting Type: Regular

12. Adjournment

Time of adjournment: 8:53PM EST

Motion to adjourn: Robert Pendergist

Moved by: Greg Hulsizer

Seconded by: All in favor by voice vote

Outcome: Unanimously Approved

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Minutes Prepared by:

Name: Mia Gilkerson

Title: Secretary / Member + Athlete Specialist

Date: August 25, 2026

Approved by Board: October 26, 2026

Posted on Website: October 26, 2026