



MINUTES

USA Team Handball Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at Palmer House Hilton, Chicago
10am – Noon & 1:30pm – 3pm

Attending: Dieter Esch, Brad Krassner, David Thompson, Ralf Uhding, Mariusz Wartalowicz

Via Phone: Tomuke Ebuwei, Marilyn Gauthier,

Absent: Heins Kart Pedersen, John West, Kerry Moeller,

Guests: Fred Bernstein, *USATH National Events*
Felix Murokh, *USATH Midwest Region President*
Jacque Messel, *President of Chicago Inter Handball Club*
Andrzej Krasnicki, *President of Polish Handball Federation*
Igor Murokh, Mr. Floor
Tony Zemlinsky, Active Rehab Clinic
Bob Weiss, All Tile Company
Jack Hertz, Mitchell & Alan Attorneys at Law
Dave Gascon, father of USA WNT player

Steve Pastorino opened meeting, and welcomed guests. The meeting was held in Chicago, where several members of the Board also participated in meetings with UIC Pavilion (venue for Germany-Poland handball match in July 2010), World Sport Chicago and a press conference with the Polish media community.

As follow-up to December 2009 meeting, a motion to formally invite Salt Lake City businessman Jeff Utz to join Board of Directors was approved by unanimous vote. The board gave support to initiative to invite a European athletic goods manufacturer to take a seat on the board. The Board also asked David Thompson to begin the process of identifying one more athlete representative for the board of directors.

Steve Pastorino updated board that contracts are in place with Poland and Germany, and final terms were being negotiated with Palmer House Hilton, UIC Pavilion and various other service providers connected to the game. SPORTFIVE was announced as the European TV & Sponsorship rights holder. Fred Bernstein was introduced as a promoter who will represent USATH in group sales/marketing to German community and general market; The Polish firm Ex-Libris purchased 5,500 tickets in order to be the exclusive ticket outlet in Chicago's Polish community. Dieter Esch invited

Chicago Inter's board of directors to the game. Inter president Jacque Messel suggested Inter may purchase 200+ tickets.

Dieter Esch and Jeff Utz gave the guests from Chicago an overview of a contemporary handball club, using Salt Lake Handball Club as an example. Key components include:

- Local board comprised of reps from banks, insurance, construction, etc.
- Simple entry process for kids: Attend 3 practices and get free membership and tshirt. Recruit "family" memberships later.
- Board affirmed Bob Weiss' inquiry if soccer/lacrosse growth analogies are accurate. He suggested venue "Joy of the Game" in Deerfield, along with Lake Barrington Field House as venues.

Dieter Esch reported that a trip to the EHF European Championships yielded productive meetings with IHF, PATHF, Sportfive, hummel, various federations and clubs, Group Club Handball, player agents who are representing top American men and women, and more. Sweden will likely be the next and for now, last official federation partner for the USA.

Esch reported that he, Utz and Pastorino would likely visit Hamburg in April to attend the Lufthansa Final Four, visit Grundfos and Bjerringbro-Silkeborg Handball Club (April 8-13).

At this time, it appears no one from USA will attend IHF Congress in Rome and PATHF Executive Committee meeting in Brazil – both in April. USATH motion to split PATHF into two federations has been submitted, but is likely to be withdrawn until a more favorable climate for a split is available.

Pastorino reported plans to open an office in Chicago inside World Sport Chicago offices. WSC is the legacy organization from Chicago 2016 and recently unveiled an ambitious plan to continue to influence and grow youth sport participation in the region. USATH will not have to pay rent. PR manager Lauren Harrington will relocate to her home near Chicago April 1 in order to work in the office along with a European youth coach.

Pastorino updated the Board of growing youth programs including Futures (6 sites in 2010 vs. 1 in 2009), Ventura County youth handball club (100+ water polo players cross-training in handball), New Albany HS (more than 500 participants in schoolwide handball program), NYC rec program (five boroughs) and Salt Lake Handball Club (5-7 practices weekly in different locations). Additionally, USATH is one of nine countries to receive grants to field U14 teams at Partille Cup. Colorado Springs Landsharks will participate on the boy's side. Top U14 participants in the Girls Futures program will participate on the girl's side.

Pastorino noted that negotiations are underway to establish a National Training Center at California Lutheran University in West Hills, Calif.; and discussion to launch a comprehensive youth handball program at Lake Barrington Field House in Illinois in cooperation with Barrington Area Soccer Association.

Pastorino further reported that High School Nationals (Colorado Springs, CO), College Nationals (Myrtle Beach, SC) and Nationals (Las Vegas, NV) are expected to be successful with participation from many clubs who did not participate in 2009

including Ohio State University, Texas A&M, Gallaudet University, Las Vegas Scorpions, Denver Handball Club, DC Diplomats, Salt Lake Handball Club and others.

A lengthy discussion about USOC High Performance funding ensued. Programs and funding for Domestic Development, Futures Program and European Resident Athlete Program are in place. A discussion about National Team Development resulted in a commitment by Wartalowicz and Pastorino to present at this year's Nationals a "Plan 2016" that will outline the men's and women's roadmaps to success.

A complaint was raised by the Canadian Team Handball Federation over the \$100 fee that their clubs must pay to participate in USA events. The Board affirmed USATH's imposition of this fee.

The next Board of Directors Meeting shall be held on or about July 15, 2010, again in Chicago. Board members are invited to attend USA National Championships from May 21-23 in Las Vegas.