

**USA Badminton (USAB) Board Meeting With Badminton World Federation (BWF) in Attendance  
February 4, 2026 Minutes**

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at **6:03 PM Pacific Time**.

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**Attendance**

**USAB Board Members:**

Ken Wong (Chair), Pavan Vedere (Secretary), Ben Apple, Paula Lynn O. Cao Hok, OLY, Sudhir Kondisetty, Eva Lee, OLY, Patty Pflaging, Jamie Subandhi, OLY, Philip Varghese, Beiwen Zhang, OLY,

**Absent:** no one

**USAB Staff:**

John Ruger, OLY (Interim CEO)

**BWF Representatives:**

Thomas Lund, OLY – Secretary General  
Richard Vaughan, OLY – Chief Operating Officer

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**Conflicts of Interest**

Jamie Subandhi disclosed that she occasionally works with Yonex in her capacity as a physical therapist and sought guidance on whether this constituted a conflict of interest for the meeting. The Chair and an independent board member confirmed that it did not present a conflict for the current meeting. However, she was advised to abstain from any future votes related to Yonex agreements or contracts.

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**Meeting Notice Waiver**

All attendees unanimously waived the 30-day meeting notice requirement.

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## **Background**

The USAB Board has carefully reviewed the Reset Proposal previously presented by BWF and has formally submitted detailed feedback, along with a request for specific modifications. The Board's response reflects thoughtful consideration of the proposal's impact on our athletes, stakeholders, and long-term strategic objectives, and is intended to ensure alignment with USAB's mission and the best interests of badminton development in the United States.

## **Opening Remarks**

Chair Ken Wong welcomed and thanked the BWF representatives for joining the meeting and for their continued engagement with USA Badminton.

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## **BWF Overview and Context (Thomas Lund)**

Mr. Lund provided historical context, noting that BWF has worked closely with USAB for nearly a decade across multiple leadership transitions and has provided funding support during that time.

He acknowledged the evolving and challenging relationship between USAB and the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), stating that BWF is concerned about the current trajectory and prefers to avoid litigation, which typically results in negative outcomes for multiple stakeholders.

Mr. Lund noted the potential risk that, if the current situation persists without a recognized badminton National Governing Body (NGB) in the United States, USOPC could consider alternative pathways. These could include recognizing another organization, potentially from a related sport, or supporting the formation of a new organization. He emphasized that such outcomes could create complex and prolonged challenges involving the IOC, USOPC, BWF, USAB, and any newly recognized organization. He also referenced the potential influence of the Ted Stevens Act on the process and timelines.

BWF has therefore worked with USOPC to develop a "reset" process aimed at resolving the current situation. Mr. Lund indicated that most of the modification requests proposed by the USAB Board appear acceptable to BWF, though BWF would need to confirm USOPC's position. He committed to engaging with USOPC and providing feedback to the USAB Board.

BWF asked whether the USAB Board was generally aligned with pursuing the reset approach.

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## **USAB Board Feedback**

### **Ken Wong**

Mr. Wong thanked BWF for their efforts in developing the reset proposal and confirmed that the Board is generally supportive of pursuing the reset pathway. He emphasized the importance of incorporating the Board's requested modifications to help ensure the incoming Board is positioned for success and able to effectively execute the organization's mission. He requested that BWF discuss these proposed modifications with USOPC and revert with feedback.

### **Patty Pflaging**

Ms. Pflaging expressed concern that the current reset proposal does not fully guarantee that USOPC will refrain from identifying another organization as the badminton NGB. She emphasized that the ultimate goal of the reset process should be the restoration of USAB's NGB status and requested BWF's perspective.

### **Thomas Lund (Response)**

Mr. Lund stated that the reset framework indicates the possibility of USAB being recognized as the NGB in 2027. While immediate recognition is not anticipated, he expressed confidence in the timeline outlined. He noted that BWF does not have complete visibility into the specific steps required for recertification but believes that collaborative engagement among all parties would increase the likelihood of USAB regaining NGB status. He added that USOPC's significant investment of time in the reset proposal suggests meaningful commitment.

### **Richard Vaughan**

Mr. Vaughan stated that BWF could work with USOPC to strengthen language in the reset documentation to reflect commitment and align it with milestone-based outcomes.

### **Philip Varghese**

Mr. Varghese echoed Ms. Pflaging's concerns and noted that BWF's direct involvement represents a meaningful difference compared to prior situations, expressing optimism that it would positively influence outcomes.

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## **Next Steps**

### **Pavan Vedere**

Mr. Vedere asked whether a tentative date could be set for the next USAB–BWF meeting.

### **Thomas Lund (Response)**

Mr. Lund noted that the Winter Olympics and other USOPC priorities may impact scheduling. BWF will coordinate with USOPC and revert with proposed timing. He also expressed support

for community-based Board representation and emphasized the importance of establishing strong guardrails to prevent conflicts of interest.

**Ken Wong**

Mr. Wong reiterated that the Board appreciates BWF's involvement and looks forward to the next meeting to continue the discussion of the reset plan.

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**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at **6:45 PM Pacific Time**.