Minutes
Lakeshore National Adapted Sport Organization (LNASO)
Board Meeting
March 24, 2025

The Lakeshore National Adapted Sport Organization Board meeting was held on March 24, 2025, at noon in Cathy Sloss Jones's conference room. The board members in attendance were:

Bill Horton, Chair
Walter Beale
Lee Fredette
Allison Stephens
Patrick Parkes
Nick Taylor
John Kemp
Cathy Miller

Staff

Jen Allred
Chris Thomason
Rebecca Cline
Debbie Smith

Chairman William Horton opened the meeting and welcomed everyone to the first LNASO Board meeting of 2025 and declared a quorum was present and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Chairman Horton communicated that the first order of business was to review the minutes from the previous LNASO Board meeting on December 13, 2024. Chairman Horton asked for approval of the minutes. A motion was made to approve the minutes. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Chairman Horton shared that since adding para powerlifting that under the bylaws, we will add two athletes representing the sport to the LNASO Board that need approval - Bobby Body and Ahmed Shafik. Chairman Horton called for the approval of the two recommended athletes. The motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Mr. Horton called on Ms. Jen Allred to share background on the two seasoned athletes and noted that Bobby Body is also active in the USOPC Athlete Advisory Council.

Chairman Horton communicated that one our Board members, Mr. Eric Newby has become the assistant coach of the wheelchair rugby team, and we will need to replace him with an athlete. Chairman Horton shared that Sarah Adam has been recommend by the athletes. Ms. Allred shared some of Ms. Adam's bio and called on Mr. Lee Fredette to share with the group as well. Mr. Fredette communicated that Ms. Adam was elected the USAWR co-captain with Chuck Aoki and does an excellent job with leadership as she stepped into this role. Mr. Fredette communicated that she would be a great addition to the Board. Ms. Jen Allred asked for a recommendation for approval in replacing Mr. Eric Newby with Ms. Sarah Adam on the LNASO Board. Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Chairman Horton communicated that another item that was in Boardable was the amendments to our bylaws. Chairman Horton communicated to the group that outside of the date being changed to March 24, 2025, we are adding para powerlifting to the bylaws as noted in the track changes version posted for Board member review. Chairman Horton called for a motion, that motion was made to amend the bylaws then seconded and unanimously approved.

Ms. Allred communicated that one of our compliance pieces, as well as an important part of what we do, is to have an Athletic Advisory Committee for each one of our sports. Ms. Allred then called on Lee Fredette to share a bit about the AAC for wheelchair rugby. Chairman Horton asked for a motion for approval of the official charter for the Athlete Advisory Committee. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved.

Ms. Allred went on to give an update on the USOPC as well as each of the sports. From the big picture, two weeks ago, the USOPC made a monumental announcement about a significant gift, which will be shared directly with the athletes in two parts - twenty years after their competition they will get a $100,000 gift that is meant to help them continue in their financial wellness and they will also be receiving a $100,000 life insurance policy, an amazing legacy gift that is equitably distributed to Olympic and Paralympic athletes. Ms. Allred went on to share that from the para powerlifting side, we have been busy getting the sport and the athletes onboarded. Ms. Allred shared that there are virtual opportunities as well as in-person opportunities and we expect to have a para powerlifting camp here likely in August. Bobby Body and Ahmed Shafik will be with us at our next meeting, and we will be able to share a little more from them at that meeting. Ms. Allred shared that we selected our wheelchair rugby team in January 2025 and for the first time we selected 20 athletes instead of 16. Mr. Fredette communicated that they were just returning from camp last month. He shared that the team is getting ready to leave for Colorado Springs for a camp and then they have a tournament coming in Japan in April, and in Sao Paulo in June. He shared that the team is looking great and that they are excited to have new athletes that are stepping up in leadership roles.

Ms. Allred communicated to the Board that Boccia is coming off of a camp in Colorado Springs and getting ready to travel and compete at the beginning of April. Ms. Allred communicated that part of the group is being funded by Boccia United States and part of that group is self-funding. Ms. Allred communicated that our ultimate objective is to eliminate as much pay to play as we possibly can. Mr. Taylor communicated to the group that they had a good camp a few weeks ago in Colorado Springs with an emphasis on pairs play.

Chairman Horton called on Ms. Cathy Miller to give the LNASO financial update. Ms. Miller shared the statement of financial position, which was included in the board materials, and includes our three sports. Ms. Miller communicated that the total assets are $129,004.67 and the majority of that is in cash and the accounts receivable. Ms. Miller communicated that overall, the dollars are looking good so far. Ms. Allred addressed questions from the Board about fundraising opportunities. Mr. Thomason also shared an update on his ongoing work with sponsors and shared that from a fund development perspective he is asking to be introduced to anyone who might be interested in giving. Ms. Smith offered that there were some excellent training resources available to support athletes pertaining to philanthropy and she would work with the Training Coordinator to get that out to the athletes in all three sports.

Chairman Horton called for a motion to approve the LNASO financial statements. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved. Ms. Miller communicated that everyone should have received their Conflict-of-Interest forms and most have been returned, however there are still some that have not been returned, and she wanted to remind the Board members that these must be returned as soon as possible. She also communicated that after this meeting she will follow up with another reminder regarding the Conflict of Interest forms.

Mr. Thomason shared an update on fundraising events in Birmingham to benefit boccia. There was some discussion on fundraising and Mr. Thomason also shared that sport specific fundraising materials had been created as well as an overall piece for LNASO.

The last agenda item was strategic planning. Chairman Horton called on Mr. Kemp who highlighted key areas such as communication, brand reputation, strategic fund development and strategic partnerships.

What companies are making products delivering services that relates well to the three different sports, and the role of sports in the future of Sports Science Performance Center (SSPC). Mr. Kemp also communicated to the group that he would like to focus solely on strategic planning at one of our quarterly meetings. After discussion, the group agreed that furthering the current strategic plan at the fall meeting would be essential. Mr. Kemp went on to share an update about the athlete employment survey he is working on with the ACES group. Mr. Fredette posed a question about available resources for those athletes that are on social security and what are thresholds, as well as penalties when are actually and accidentally take yourself out of eligibility. The group discussed providing a financial literacy program for the athletes and Ms. Smith offered to follow up on that.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

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William Horton, Chairman