



USA Ultimate Board of Directors

Q3 2026 Virtual Meeting

September 15, 2026

(13) Board Members Present:

Alexia McCaskill (At-Large)
DeAnna Ball (Appointed, Vice President)
Isaiah Bryant (At-Large)
Kevin Erlenbach (CEO, Ex-Officio)
Janna Hamaker (At-Large, Secretary)
Pawel Janas (Elite Athlete, Treasurer)
Terry Kalna (Independent)
Dave Klink (Appointed, President)
Benecia Newhouse (Independent)
Tom Osenton (Independent)
Nicky Spiva (Elite Athlete)
Ben Van Heuvelen (Elite Athlete)
Marvin Vuong (At-Large)

(0) Board Members Not Present:

Others Present:

Will Deaver – Managing Director of Competition & National Team Programs
Andy Lee – Managing Director of Marketing, Communications & Brand
Julia Lee – Director of Finance
Dan Raabe – Director of Youth Programs
Stacey Waldrup – Director of Member Services & Community Development; Chair of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Guest (during their presentation):

Rob “Nob” Rauch, WFDF President

Dave Klink **called the meeting to order** at 5:02 PM Mountain Time

Financial Review (Julia Lee)

- The 2027 operating plan and budget will be presented for board approval at the Q4 meeting.
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Staff Highlights and Inquires from Reports

Competition (Will Deaver)

- The Triple Crown Tour postseason began with 591 teams across 75 sectional events, down 20 teams from 2025. Four of seven Women's Growth Project grant recipients registered new women's teams.
- Recruitment began for a new Club Competition Manager and National Observer Director.
- U.S. national teams earned 30 of 39 possible medals in 2026, including 11 gold medals.
- Youth Club Championships included 103 teams across seven divisions or tiers. Planning also continued for fall state championships and 2027 promotion-relegation placements.

Youth Programs (Dan Raabe)

- USA Ultimate had sanctioned 46 learn-to-play clinics with 787 recorded participants, nearly double the 2025 clinic total, with additional rosters still outstanding.
- The University of Maryland Eastern Shore became the second HBCU to establish an ultimate program for the upcoming season.
- More than 150 youth registered for the BIPOC hat game at the U.S. Open, and USA Ultimate supported a try-ultimate event for Boys & Girls Clubs in the Portland area.
- The juniors-season survey received 157 responses. Staff also continued updating coaching education and restructuring certification into a common core plus youth-, college- and club-specific courses.
- YCC was seven teams larger than last year.

Membership and Community (Stacey Waldrup)

- Total membership through August 31 was 47,718, down 934 members, or 1.9%, from 2025. Adult membership declined 1.0%, college 6.6% and youth 3.5%; affiliate membership increased 9.7%.
- Middle-school-aged membership increased 4.8%, from 2,386 to 2,500.
- The affiliate network reached 50 organizations. USA Ultimate sanctioned 742 events through August, compared with 752 during all of 2025.
- Technology work included improvements to league registration and split payments, a server migration to improve performance and stability, and development of practice plans for the USA Ultimate app.

Marketing and Communications (Andy Lee)

- Social content generated 5.1 million Instagram views in July and 4.1 million in August, driven by Team USA, Triple Crown Tour and U.S. Open activity.
- USA Ultimate streamed 164 games during the quarter. ESPN aired 10 hours of U.S. Open programming, including three live championship games on ESPNU; three highlights appeared on SportsCenter's Top 10.
- Affiliates received customizable marketing templates, yard signs, on-site signage and other promotional resources. Staff are also developing an affiliate resource portal and rights-free photo library.
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- DISCover Ultimate Day
 - After Legends closed its digital marketing department, USA Ultimate moved the DISCover Ultimate Day campaign to Meadow Path Media.
 - Digital Market Campaign:



WFDF / US Flying Disc Federation (Rob “Nob” Rauch)

Nob presented to the Board and Staff about WFDF's desire that USAU form a confederation, USA Flying Disc Federation, with Disc Golf USA. USA Flying Disc Federation would only be joint representation for when joint representation is required; discipline operations stay within the discipline bodies. Split votes at the WFDF level are allowed. Why now-- WFDF's grandfathering of individual disc discipline membership ends in December 2026. Action plans for non-conforming organizations are due by July 2027 with transition completion expected by December 2027. There are currently 26 non-compliant organizations in WFDF.

Action Items:

- Dave Klink will review the draft bylaws that WFDF are proposing.
- A subset of Board and Staff will look at USAU options and present a proposal for the Board to review at the Q4 meeting.

Event Social and Political Expression Rules (Will Deaver)

- Staff presented a set of operational rules they would like to publish for the Club National Championships.
- There will be a Task Force formed after the Club National Championships in order to create USAU policy for this purpose moving forward.

Strategic Surplus (Dan Raabe)

- The proposal requests up to \$81,775 over two years to fund Youth Growth Grants and pilot Hello Insight, a platform for measuring belonging, inclusion, social-emotional learning and program quality.
- Each year would provide up to \$25,000 total for up to three Youth Growth Grants. The grants are intended to help local organizations build sustainable and accessible youth programming.
- Hello Insight would be used by grant recipients and a small group of pilot affiliates to collect participant feedback, improve local programming and measure retention and belonging.
- The proposal responds in part to Clemson research finding that 85.7% of women surveyed viewed ultimate as inclusive while 53.8% had also felt excluded or overlooked.
- Success would be measured through implementation quality, participant retention, improvements in belonging and inclusion, the usefulness of the resulting national data, and participating organizations' willingness to share subscription costs in year two.

Motion: To approve the strategic surplus proposal as presented.

Moved by: Ben Van Heuvelen | **Seconded by:** Terry Kalna

Result: Passed 9-0-0 (3 members absent at time of vote)

Committee and Working Group Updates

- SOAR: The Rules Working Group is working with Vonterio Duncan to produce rules videos.
- Judicial: Paige Bowen is now working as the National Judicial Director. Sam Callen worked hard getting sub-committee members to join in order to work on background check appeals.

Other Business

- We will be electing a new Board President in the Q1 meeting. Dave will still be on the Board next year which will ease the transition for the new President.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 PM Mountain Time