

UNITED STATES PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION



Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting

February 13 – 15, 2026
Los Angeles, California

(DRAFT)

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2. Call to Order (Ms. Butcher)

The President called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on February 13, 2026.

The Directors present were National Directors Angie Aragon, Jeannie Bartholomew, Sherry Butcher, Amy Chmeleki, Mike Mullins, Melissa Nelson, Scotty Wood, and Matt Yount. Regional Directors present were Charles Crinklaw, Dave Grabowski, Chuck Akers, Bob Mehl, Randy Allison, Ray Lallo, Michael Wadkins, Jim Rees, Brian Naiman, Paul Gholson, Jack Pyland, and Joshua Hall.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Ms. Butcher)

Motion 1: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to approve the summer 2025 Board of Directors meeting minutes.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

Motion 2: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to adopt the agenda.

5. President's Report (Ms. Butcher)

The President welcomed the directors and members to the Winter 2026 meeting and thanked the Board members for their continued dedication and hard work during the interim period and in preparation for the meeting. The commitment, collaboration, and responsiveness are instrumental in supporting the organization's goals. In addition, the President highlighted the value of continued focus on strategic, long-term planning to ensure the organization remains strong and well-positioned for the future. She emphasized the importance of remaining open-minded and adaptable as the organization evolves. Board members were encouraged to thoughtfully consider new ideas and approaches that support growth, innovation, and long-term sustainability.

6. Interim Actions of the Executive Committee (Ms. Butcher)

Motion 3: FB: Failed Executive Committee in the Interim

Move to waive BSR Chap 2-G.5.9. to allow Matthew Yount 152365 and Chris Whitley 148046 to allow them to conduct night tandems over the pyramids in Egypt from 24-31 October 2025.

Motion 4: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to Waive SCM Ch1 8.10.1.{1,2,3} through the entirety of the 2025 USPA National Skydiving Championships at Eloy, AZ.

Motion 5: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to approve the attached “Draft 2026 Budget” as the interim budget through March 31, 2026.

Motion 6: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to Waive SCM Chapter 1, 8.10.1.{1,2,3} through the entirety of the 2025 USPA National Collegiate Skydiving Championships at Eloy, AZ.

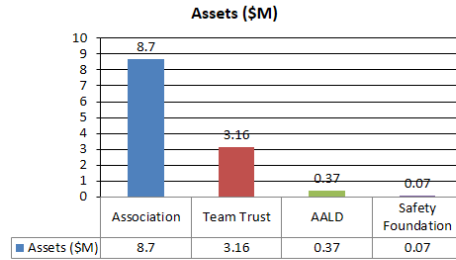
7. Treasurer's Report (Mr. Pyland)

Investment Overview – Janney (Feb 5, 2026)

- Total assets under management: ~\$12.3M across four funds
 - Portfolios are diversified, income-producing, and institutionally managed
 - Overall performance and risk remain appropriate for nonprofit reserves

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Assets by Fund

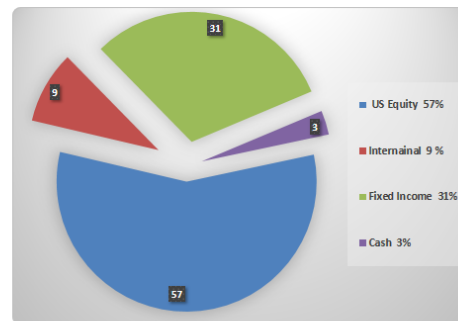


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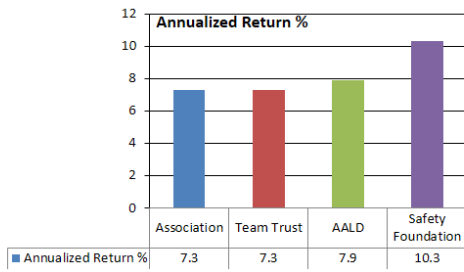
Performance

- 2025 returns: ~10–12% across major funds
- Long-term returns: ~7–8% annualized
- Early 2026: Positive, modest, stable
- Equity markets delivered strong gains in 2025 (~16% S&P 500)
 - Interest rates peaked and began declining
 - Portfolios benefited from equity appreciation and higher locked-in bond yields

Investment Asset Allocation

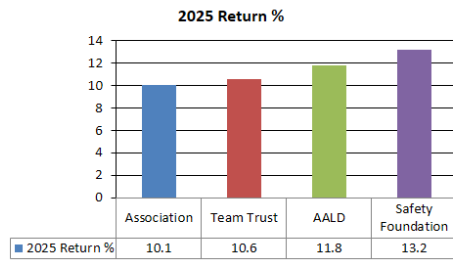


Since-Inception Returns



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Calendar Year 2025 Returns



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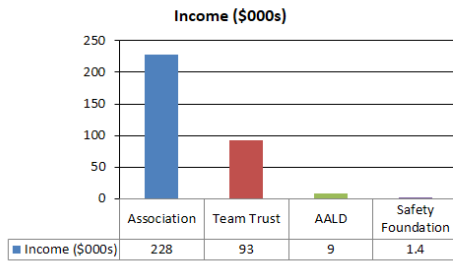
Risk & Volatility

- Portfolio volatility below equity benchmarks
 - Worst-quarter losses materially less than broad market
 - Fixed income duration ~4–5 years (moderate rate risk)

Fixed Income Overview

- Investment-grade corporate bond ladders (avg. credit quality: A)
 - Yield to maturity approximately 4.2–4.3%
 - Laddered maturities reduce reinvestment and interest-rate risk

Estimated Annual Investment Income



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Board-Level Conclusion

- Portfolios are performing as designed
 - Risk is controlled and diversification remains intact
 - Income supports operations without eroding principal
 - Recommended action: Accept the Janney investment report

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Answers to Tough Board Questions

- **Q: “Are we beating the market?”**
- “We’re performing in line with our blended benchmarks, with lower volatility. The objective is long-term growth with controlled risk, not market timing.”
- **Q: “Why so much in bonds if rates are falling?”**
- “The bonds were largely purchased before rates peaked, locking in yields around 4% while also stabilizing the portfolio.”
- **Q: “Could we earn more by taking more risk?”**
- “Possibly, but that would increase drawdown risk. The current structure balances growth, income, and capital preservation.”
- **Q: “Do we need to change anything now?”**
- “Based on current performance and risk metrics, no corrective action is indicated.”

8. ISC Delegate Report (Mr. Rees)

Summary of key items:

48 voting countries, as present (29) or represented by proxy (another 19).

FAI has a general section rule prohibiting any Continental Championship in the same year as a World Championship for the same discipline(s) being contested. This has never created a conflict.

But ISC also has World Cups in the off years. There is a growing issue of contention between World Cups and Continental Championships, which undercut each other when held in the same year. This has been exacerbated by the creation of the first Mondial of World Cups to be held in Brazil in 2027. Multiple Continental Championships were approved at this meeting that undercut the Brazil Mondial.

The first-ever Asian Continental Indoor Championship will take place this September. This technically could create a conflict with the Indoor World Cup in April, but there are very few Asian teams, and it's rare that they travel to World Cups. The conflicts are usually associated with European Continental Championships.

2029 World Games (Germany) in progress - Working Group formed. Canopy Piloting is expected to be represented there.

The sanction fee increased from 105 to 110 CHF.

Parachute Ski - has had events in 2019, 2025, and 2026 (a do-over of the weathered-out 2025 meet). Rumor has it that an organizer in Arizona may be submitting a bid for 2028.

Style and Acc - a wind rule that would cause a round to be suspended and resumed later was defeated on a secret ballot. It has been pointed out that the current rules in FS and CF regarding cloud ceiling and reduced working time may suffer the same issues as this failed motion and should be addressed in the next meeting.

Indoor Para Skydiving has their first World Cup this coming April.

Classic disciplines like FS, AE, S&A, and CF had few, if any, rule changes – mostly housekeeping. This is typical in World Championship years.

Canopy Formations has a World Cup in '27, which is highly unusual, but it was added in support of the Mondial of World Cups concept, and it received sufficient support from polling that it was deemed worthwhile.

Wingsuit Flying - many more rule changes in part to address issues raised at the US Nationals with exit timing in the performance event. Elsinore '26, Brazil '27, nothing for '28 yet.

Judges Committee - something of interest to the USA. The 50% rule, which passed in Orlando (2 years ago), was *accidentally deleted* after Rome, and re-debated this year - failed to pass. The rule would have raised the qualification requirements of FAI judges needed to certify international records set at a National Championship or Second Category Event. This means we could have more opportunities to set international records at Nationals. However, the same incentive could be at odds with our interests in developing our National judges – if Chief Judges feel obligated to ensure they have an FAI-qualified judging panel, lower experience judges will have fewer opportunities to become experienced and qualify to become FAI judges.

USA judges picked to be FAI Chief Judges in 2026;

- Steve Hubbard WS
- Jim Rees Indoor Formation Skydiving

USA personnel selected to serve on FAI Juries in '26

- Amanda Owens (IFS/IPS Lille, France - Jury President)
- Marylou Laughlin (S&A Slovakia)
- Albert Berchtold (CP, FS, AE, SP Eloy)
- Jim Rees (Indoor Solo Freestyle and Dynamic - Marseille)

New ISC Bureau - Rina Gallo of Canada President, Jim Rees 1st VP, Ron Miasnikov and Omar Alhegelan Vice Presidents, Vera Asquith - ISC Secretary, Natasha Higman - Finance Secretary. I will have some additional specific duties and more involvement in high-level discussions. I still represent the USA (unlike the ISC President, which is a stateless job).

USA Bid to Host ISC Meeting - defeated 38 to 10 !!! And we were far cheaper (\$1530 vs. \$925 single room full stay). We deliberately put together a relatively spartan package intended to increase participation (thanks to Albert for developing this). The speech, which was probably the smoking gun, was by one European delegate referencing the US policy of ideological exclusion, purportedly authorized by the Patriot Act, which gives CBP wide leeway to assess a visitor and refuse entry based solely on their political views.

Canopy Piloting

Lastly, I need to give a full accounting of the controversy surrounding the USA Proposal submitted, “Re-Imagining CP”. I am providing this report with the intent to address the volume of negative feedback received in the past several weeks about our actions at the ISC meeting. It is my sincere desire to respond with full transparency about our motivations, but not to pontificate or argue about the details here.

During the CP Official Practice Period at the USPA Nationals, two athletes were injured and eliminated from the competition. The first injury was a broken clavicle. In the second case, the competitor clipped a marker with his lines and canopy, causing the canopy to turn, leading to a second marker contact and an uncontrolled crash landing with serious injuries. These events followed two other serious injuries, both requiring hospitalization, the month prior to the CP World Cup in Eloy.

For context, in less than 4 years, there have been 7 USA fatalities directly attributable to Canopy Piloting competition or training. This represents one-sixth (1/6) of all US skydiving fatalities in that period. Worldwide statistics are unknown, though the 2025 CP World Championships in Pretoria, KSA experienced 4 serious crashes, of which one was fatal. Each such incident is an anecdote on its own, but the trend is concerning. No other recognized competitive skydiving discipline has such intrinsic risks or serious statistics associated with them.

USPA’s Executive Director and I both felt the need to get serious about addressing the problem. I had conversations with judges and competitors *daily* for weeks after these incidents. The range of responses varied from “Something has to be done” to “There is no problem here”. The lack of consensus from the competitor community was troubling to me.

We believed that trying to engage directly with the CP committee on these concerns would fall on deaf ears, as past experience had shown.

At an ISC Meeting, to guarantee the right to speak and give a presentation, a proposal must be put forth on the agenda. The real goal for the Executive Director and me was to have the opportunity to address the direction CP was headed, the hazards involved, and the steady decline in participation the discipline has suffered over the past 14 years. We know real change takes time, but to start the process, more delegates, less familiar with CP, needed to hear some facts.

Along with the narrative, we put forth a *radical* proposal, one intended to *slow down* the competitors in the Speed event, and one to dial back that amount of real estate required in a Distance event. We knew there would be substantial pushback, and that getting anything significant passed by the body would be near impossible. But that was part of the plan - to get people to pay attention and listen to the narrative and get people talking about the issue more openly.

Over the course of a week, in discussions with the Chair of the CP Committee, we amended the proposal four times, until finally it was only the narrative without any rule changes whatsoever, other than an adoption of principles to guide future development of the Canopy Piloting events. The ISC President, however, declared such a motion invalid to even be voted on, while still allowing the proposal's content to be included as an appendix to the minutes. We felt that it was a satisfactory outcome as it still achieved our goals and put the narrative into the permanent record.

What did we get in return for all the negotiations? The CP Chair committed to hosting regular open video conferencing sessions in the coming months to solicit ideas and develop future event formats. He made a good faith gesture, in the interests of the competitors and the discipline, and we took him at his word, and still do.

It has been suggested that a separate rule change proposed by the CP Committee (Marker Strike), which has since proven to be unpopular among some competitors, was intended as an enticement to us in return for dumbing down our proposal, and that the Committee was otherwise unified against its implementation. For several reasons, this idea has no merit:

- While the rule change did come up in a few conversations, it was never represented to us as a *quid pro quo*, nor were our thoughts and feedback factored into its evolution.
- The idea depends on the notion that our proposal had any chance of passing the plenary vote. As the proposal's original form had 6 weeks of public exposure, that was not a reasonable possibility.
- After we uploaded our 4th revision, which was narrative-only (hours before the final deadline), the committee had the opportunity to amend their own document and pull the rule change OR in the plenary session the CP Chair could have said the

committee changed its mind on the rule change and recommended voting against it. Neither of these things happened.

In retrospect, what was learned during this process is

1. The community is paying much more attention on the Internet to the proposed ISC agenda than in past years. This was my 5th ISC meeting and 3rd USA proposal put forth, but I would wager nobody can remember my prior two proposals (both of which resulted in no action). Predicting a similar outcome this year, I was surprised by the volume of feedback. A flaw in the lifecycle of an ISC proposal is that the outside world only sees the original version on the FAI website, but has no access to amendments created during the week. The only workaround currently is for the author to openly publicize its amendments as they happen on a platform that the community has access to. It would be wise for every committee and proposal sponsor to do this in the future as community participation over the Internet continues to grow.
2. Of all the things that could have been proposed to ISC to raise awareness, this could not be beaten in terms of escalating the discussion. However, to effect changes in event formats, I now believe the effective path involves working with meet organizers to run tests, either standalone or as an add-on format to an existing competition. During the meetings, we had discussions with organizers around the world whose feedback ranged from interested to eager. If the test is a flop, it will be known straight away. If people enjoy the tests, then more will happen organically.
3. Far more vitriol was generated through this process than I ever imagined possible, based in part on my prior experiences with ISC meetings. I do regret the stress this caused, and certainly, this will influence future work with ISC. There was no intent to be disrespectful to the competitors. On the contrary, our intentions were motivated to support USPA and its members to ensure a level competitive playing field exists without excessive safety concerns.

It must be acknowledged that all credit for the development of “breakaway markers” goes to the competitor community. While it cannot be proven, it is commonly accepted that the emergence of these markers over the past 2 years has saved many from serious injury or death, or at least lessened the severity of such injuries. The ISC CP Committee has now made these markers mandatory at 2 gates in the CP Carved Speed event, consistent with the practice that most meet organizers have already adopted on their own.

Additionally, I wish to express my support for the CP Committee and its current Chair, Mike Teague. In our conversations, I gained respect for his experience, wisdom, and candor. I respect

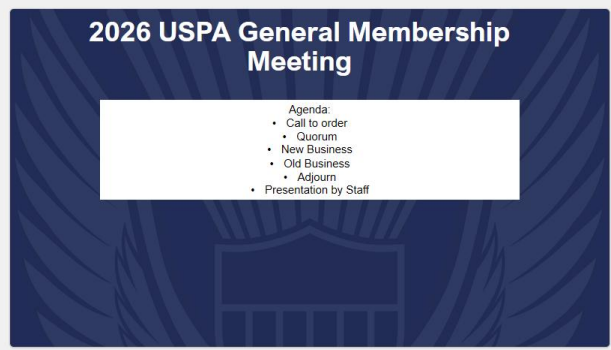
the challenges he faces going forward, and I sincerely hope we can find solutions to the challenges facing the discipline today and in the future.

9. Executive Director’s Report (Mr. Berchtold)



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USPA Board of Directors

- 22 Board Members
- 14 Regional, 8 National Directors
- Committees:
 - Executive
 - Safety & Training
 - Competition
 - Membership
 - Group Membership
 - Finance & Budget
 - Governance
 - Regional Director



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2025-2027 USPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

National Directors:
 Jeannie Bartholomew
 Melissa Nelson
 Amy Chmelecki
 Angie Aragon
 Sherry Butcher
 Michael Mullins
 Scotty Wood
 Matthew Yount

Regional Directors:
 Central Region-Chuck Crinklaw
 Eastern Region-Dave Grabowski
 Gulf Region-Chuck Akers
 Mid-Atlantic Region-Robert Mehl
 Mid-Eastern Region-Randy Allison
 Mountain Region-Ray Lallo
 New England Region-Jim Rees
 North Central Region-Michael Wadkins
 Northwest Region-Luke Atkins
 Pacific Region-Brian Naiman
 Southeast Region-*Jeannie Bartholomew (acting)*
 Southern Region-Paul Gholson
 Southwest Region-Jack Pyland
 Western Region-Joshua Hall



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USPA Board vs Staff

In short, the board makes policy, the staff executes.

USPA Members (that's you!) Elect the BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- 3-year term
- Volunteer
- Elected by the membership
- Current Term – 2025-2027
- They love the sport

Board responsibilities:

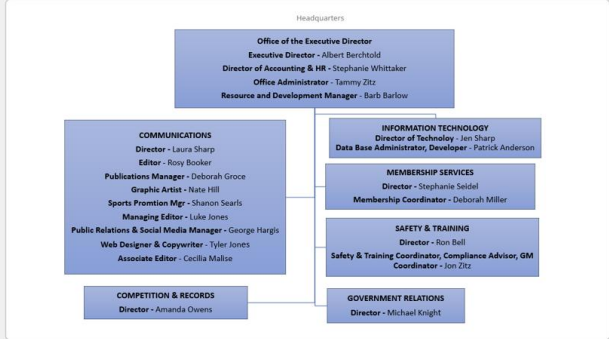
- To determine the policies of the association
- To establish the operating budget for the association
- To develop and establish programs for the association in concert with the headquarters staff
- To hire (and remove if necessary) an executive director to serve as the association's chief staff executive

Board hires an ED (that's me) who directs STAFF

- Paid employees
- Work in Fredericksburg VA(14), or remote(6.5) (2 planned departures this year)

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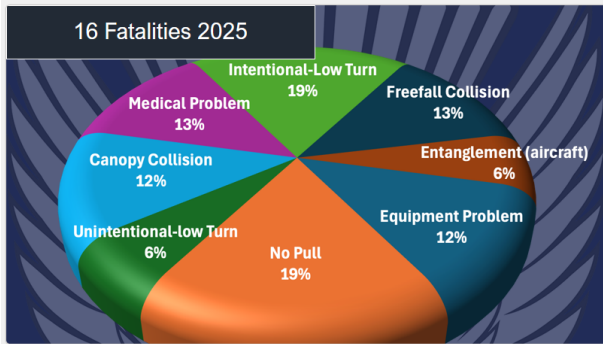
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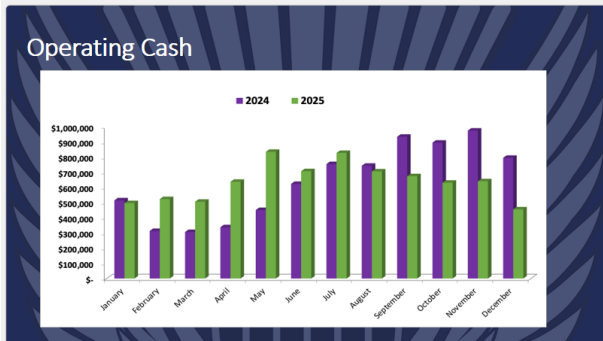
Statement of Activities

USPA

Statement of Activities	31-Dec-24	31-Dec-25	Variance Amount
For the twelve months ending December 31, 2025			
Total Operational Revenue	\$ 4,029,868	\$ 4,433,095	\$ 403,227
Total Operational Expenses	\$ 3,918,030	\$ 4,185,794	\$ 267,764
Operational Revenue over Expenses	\$ 111,838	\$ 247,301	\$ 135,463
Interest & Dividends	\$ 176,828	\$ 25,917	\$ (150,911)
Investment Gains/Losses	\$ 616,836	\$ 733,708	\$ 116,872
Investment Fees	\$ (43,687)	\$ (49,796)	\$ (6,109)
Total Non Operational Activity	\$ 749,977	\$ 709,829	\$ (40,148)
Revenue over Expenses	\$ 861,815	\$ 957,130	\$ 95,315

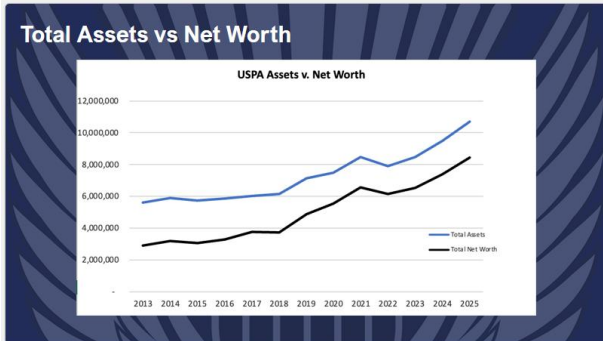
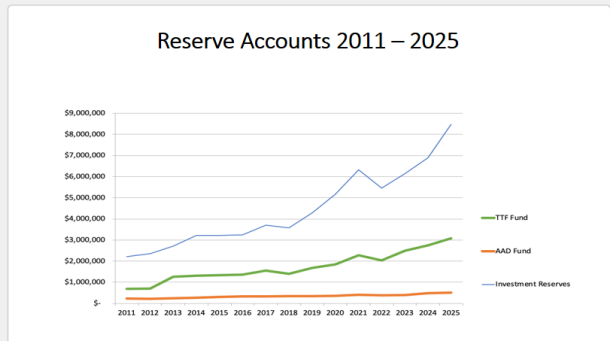
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2026 USPA Dues

USPA Dues Remain Unchanged

- ✓ \$95 New Annual Members
- ✓ \$93 Renewing
- ✓ \$40 Instructional Rating Renewal

Comparables

- ✓ British Skydiving £156.26 (\$212 USD)
- ✓ Australian Parachute Federation \$240 (\$168 USD)
- ✓ Federation Française de Parachutisme €187.00 (\$220 USD)
- ✓ Deutscher Fallschirmsportverband €145.00 (\$172 USD)
- ✓ Parachute Association of South Africa R1,480 (\$92 USD)

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- ### 2026 USPA Member Benefits
- ✓ Internationally Recognized Licensing & Instructor Credentialing Programs.
 - ✓ Safety & Training development – SIM, IRM, Development of standards so the government doesn't have to do it for us!
 - ✓ Competition programs – Create & manage competition standards which allow all members to enjoy competing in skydiving. Supports our U.S competitors and top athletes. We field more competitors at national and international competitions than any other nation.
 - ✓ Record Setting Programs that allow all of you to push your limits, and the limits of what can be done in performances and competitions.
 - ✓ Third-party Liability Insurance
 - ✓ Print - Parachutist Magazine
 - ✓ Digital Communications keeping you connected with the sport – email newsletters, social media.
 - ✓ Affinity Programs (AD&D Insurance, Travel Discounts, ExpertVoice, etc.)
 - ✓ Airport & Airspace Advocacy at the local, state, and national level for skydiving!!!
 - ✓ A COMMUNITY!



Government Relations

2025 Accomplishments	2026 In Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Continued success in airport/airspace access cases without the need for Part 13 or Part 16 complaints ✓ Worked to limit the impact on DZs during Government shutdown: FAA Emergency Order authorized ATC to limit duty service to parachute operations ✓ DZO Safety Inspection Checklist available online: Great tool to identify areas of safety deficiencies ✓ DZOs report safety/efficiency gains from implementing jump pilot training and emergency response plans tailored specifically to their locations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ FAA reopened comment period on: UAS BVLOS Part 108 FARs - USPA and Aviation Associations collaborating and submitting additional comments ✓ ADS-B Privacy Act: USPA actively supporting industry efforts to stop ADS-B usage to generate airport landing fees (working with AOPA) ✓ Collaborating with Aviation Associations industry efforts on ATC Modernization ✓ Currently working airport/airspace access issues in HI, FL, SC, RI

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SAFETY & TRAINING

2026 Goals	
<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">COMPLETED</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ PIA Fatality Presentations ✓ Featured article "Stay Alive – Practice Flies" in conjunction with Safety Day articles ✓ Produce detailed incident summary article from 2024. ✓ Online HC 100 Jumps Training Course ✓ Online Course for Tandem Trainer Certificate ✓ Rewrite IRM ✓ Six Standardization Meetings with Examiners 	<p style="text-align: center; color: red; font-weight: bold;">2026 Initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Expand HC 100 Jump Training into Spanish and Chinese Versions ✓ Instructional Examiner Evaluator Manual ✓ Expand Online Training to include AFFI & TI online pre-courses. ✓ Safety Day 2026 campaign – Normalizing Excellence / Combating the Normalization of Deviance ✓ Safety & Training Associate – Incident Analyst hire ✓ Support outreach for the Safety Culture Assessment Tools for DZs ✓ PLF / Canopy Task Force data collection and curriculum development ✓ Continue work with the Governance Committee & Compliance Group to ensure member and instructor compliance with our USPA procedures ✓ Continue exchange with international Safety & Training counterparts at other Associations worldwide.

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COMPETITION

2025 Accomplishments	2026 Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Overarching goal of supporting athletes at every level - SUCCESSFUL & CONTINUING ✓ USPA Nationals and Collegiate registration implemented with Hosts, Communications Department and Technology Department collaboration ✓ Planned and facilitated meetings for 2025 CP World Cup, which was productive and received positive feedback from Host, FAI Controller, Chief Judge, and Meet Director. Positive feedback at event. ✓ Served as FAI/ISC Jury Member at Speed Skydiving World Cup ✓ Attended Canopy Piloting World Cup to support athletes and receive feedback for FCE future meetings ✓ Attended ISC meeting ✓ Social media presence – bigger picture plan. Greater goal of promoting outside the sport. USPA YouTube page. Live stream, daily videos, host partnerships. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Judge working group monthly meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve judge experience, resources, consistency ✓ Facilitate monthly meetings for the 2026 USPA National and Collegiate Hosts and Management Teams to communicate and create a smooth experience at competitions ✓ Facilitate meetings for the 2026 FCEs in the US ✓ Continue to support and process records ✓ Continue to support USPT and Competitions ✓ Continue bigger picture exposure

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US PARACHUTE TEAM

2025 Accomplishments	2026 Goals
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ 5 FAI World Cups. SPECTACULAR EVENTS AND SHOWINGS BY ALL ATHLETES ✓ US Team Collaboration and Communication for FCE's ✓ Team Manager collaboration – drafted customized emails for each event, so all athletes received the necessary information and Team Managers had additional resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Facilitate and conduct webinars/meetings in addition to informational emails for 2026 US Parachute Team members ✓ Team Manager for FS, CF, CP, AE, WS, SP in partnership with Lauren Pfeifer ✓ Continue to build collaboration amongst athletes as the US Team

USPA Records Program

2025
Ratified World Records: 4 Ratified Continental Records: 6 World Records awaiting ratification: 2 Continental Records awaiting ratification: 0
National Records: 24 (11 General, 8 Female, 5 Collegiate) Slate Records: 94 (52 General, 28 Female, 12 Collegiate, 2 Night)
Total Ratified 2025 (to date): 118 2024: 154 2023: 146

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TECHNOLOGY

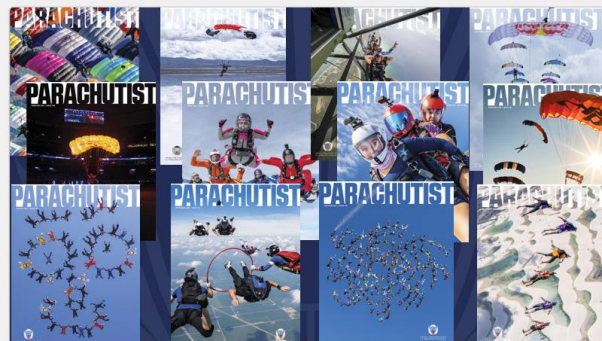
2025 Accomplishments and 2026 Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Nationals and Collegiate Registration project IMPROVEMENTS SLATED ✓ Set up SMS text, WhatsApp, and push notifications for renewals ✓ Membership card for Apple and Google Wallet ✓ USPA Library curriculum for AFF and Tandem Instructor rating courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3D Dive Flow videos LAUNCHED ○ Tandem Trainer rating and educational course online NEARING LAUNCH ○ Tandem Handcam modules and endorsement, also in other languages LAUNCHED ✓ Initial application for GM, IADZ, College Clubs online LAUNCHED ✓ Exclusive tools for Group Member Drop Zones for student training ✓ Improving Online Course Manager for examiners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improving incident reporting for submitters and for staff reports, using AI and submit by voice to text ✓ Global Association Program for international affiliate organizations ✓ SIM IRM REEM rewrites w/ supporting resources & alignment ONGOING ✓ Performance National Judge Rating LAUNCHED ✓ Updated communication to members on their donations, making it easier to donate LAUNCHED and ONGOING • Continue to improve websites LAUNCHED and ONGOING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ mega menu and navigation ○ flattening profile pages ○ AI chat ○ adding features, ○ a face lift on theme

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TECHNOLOGY

Ongoing ...
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting users with 2FA, Account Recovery, AI chat • USPA Library online courses • PCI Compliance • Internal Staff requests and ticket system • Exploring even greater protection from hacking and attacks • Install updates and upgrades as they become available • Addressing errors • Participating in user groups, continuing education, and contributing to improvements to our platform • Support online and in-person meetings (DZO Conference, Board meetings, webinars, Examiner standardization)



2025 Accomplishments

- ✓ Supported each USPA department in communication and graphic design efforts (board meetings, webinars, Safety Day, safety graphics, SIM, IRM, WSD products, wind blades, Group Member packets, United States Parachute Team uniforms, ISC Primary meeting graphics, Christmas cards and various USPA Store items)
- ✓ Served membership with an educational and beneficial monthly magazine while prioritizing cost effectiveness, averaging 23.9% advertising
- ✓ Added a web designer to communications staff, who has begun an overhaul of uspa.org
- ✓ Hired two editors to replace resigning communications staff and developed a staffing continuity plan
- ✓ Re-wrote the SIM and completed first edit of IRM re-write (soon to be published)
- ✓ Advanced World Skydiving Day efforts
- ✓ Produced DZO Conference and upcoming International DZO Conference
- ✓ Maintained ancillary sites - worldskydivingday.com, uspanationals.com and uspadzconference.com
- ✓ Improved and re-designed new-member and A-license e-mails

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Communications

2026 Goals

- ✓ Complete transition of new staff into Director and Managing Editor positions
- ✓ Complete Starter Mag Vol. 2 with drop-shipping option for group members
- ✓ Complete initial updating of uspa.org, making navigation easier and improving look
- ✓ Publish IRM re-write
- ✓ Produce six or more webinars with speakers and topics of interest to members
- ✓ Maintain ancillary sites - worldskydivingday.com, uspanationals.com and uspadzconference.com
- ✓ Promote engagement and grow audience on USPA social media channels
- ✓ Provide a live experience for Nationals through uspa.org and social media
- ✓ Provide graphic-design support to all departments
- ✓ Expand World Skydiving Day efforts
- ✓ Provide public relations services to promote positive skydiving stories in the news

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Communications

E-Newsletter Performance



61.1% Open
2.9% Click

2025
60.9% Open
4.4% Click



64.3% Open
2.9% Click

2025
62.2% Open
3.6% Click



76.2% Open
12.9% Click

2025
78.2% Open
13.6% Click




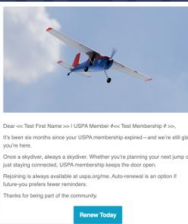
70.7% Open
6.9% Click

2025
71.9% Open
7% Click

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Membership Renewal Email - New 2026 Schedule

1. Expire in 3 Months
2. Expire in 2 Weeks
3. Expired 2 Weeks
4. Expired 1 Month
5. Expired 2 Months
6. Expired 3 Months
7. Expired 4 Months
8. Expired 5 Months
9. Expired 6 Months

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Dittoe Public Relations

SKYDIVING RECORD
HEADLINES AT A BY PARK IN WALTON COUNTY COMPLETE

Month	Placements	Impressions	Ad Value	Domain Authority	Content Pieces
January	13	103,766,105	\$959,836	76	0
February	20	754,429,869	\$4,997,372	78	0
March	5	2,172,132	\$20,092	59	1
April	18	133,764,408	\$1,409,326	69	0
May	13	75,571,173	\$168,129	77	3
June	21	1,584,938	\$38,397	57	1
July	217	285,396,679	\$4,695,772	69	3
August	294	121,514,575	\$1,989,885	72	1
September	211	1,015,826,139	\$5,747,397	69	3
October	45	10,793,021	\$264,248	69	1
November	52	630,861,309	\$7,523,081	69	2
December	22	\$,231,526	\$74,974	58	2

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Dittoe Public Relations

2022 PR Summary	Placements	Impressions	Ad Value	Content Pieces
2022 Total	597	2,194,479,803	\$27,219,252	18
2023 PR Summary	Placements	Impressions	Ad Value	Content Pieces
2023 Total	9,657	25,612,963,837	\$249,950,859	22
% change '23 vs. '22	1518%	1067%	818%	22%
2024 PR Summary	Placements	Impressions	Ad Value	Content Pieces
2024 Total	273	2,337,413,672	\$23,273,477	18
% change '24 vs. '23	-97%	-91%	-91%	-18%
2025 PR Summary	Placements	Impressions	Ad Value	Content Pieces
2025 Total	1,498	3,178,779,932	\$34,428,409	17
% change '25 vs. '24	449%	36%	48%	-6%

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Membership

2025 Accomplishments

- ✓ First point of communication with USPA – friendly, helpful, efficient.
- ✓ Maintain speedy processing times: Average 1-2 business days
- ✓ Opened auto renewal options for members in their profile accounts
- ✓ Added Affinity benefit: Expert Voice
- ✓ Added tracking of awarded FAI awards for USPA members
- ✓ STORE Holiday Jersey – limited stock left! New 2026 USPA jerseys coming soon!
- ✓ YTD 90% of applications & transactions being processed online. 2021-69%, 2022-70%, 2023-78%, 2024-85%, 2025-69%

2026 Goals

- ✓ Maintain world class member service-continue timely, friendly, helpful, and member-centric attitude
- ✓ Assist with updating competition award hallway at HQ-ongoing
- ✓ Research Affinity Travel & Insurance
- ✓ Continue to add new & fresh products to online store

HQ ADMIN & ACCOUNTING

2025 Accomplishments

- ✓ Timely financials: USPA, US Team, USSSF & USTTF: Done & Continuing
- ✓ Clean audit for USPA, US Team, USSSF, & USTTF: 2024 Done
- ✓ Timely filing of 990's for 2024
- ✓ On-boarded 5 new hires in 2025: Rosy, Tyler, and Cecelia in Communications Dept, and Patrick in IT Dept, Barb Resource Development,
- ✓ Updated security system: including adding 6 new cameras: 3 interior and 3 exterior.
- ✓ Mid-year landscaping duties moved in-house: Staff keep up with grass cutting and weeding.
- ✓ In-house grass cutting includes ISM-HOF lot for added revenue.
- ✓ HQ parking lot was ressealed & relined in September.
- ✓ 2 EV charging stations installed for nondues revenue, and property enhancement.
- ✓ Passed our PCI Compliance requirements.

2026 Goals

- ✓ Implementing new corporate credit cards with robust rewards and the ability to streamline recording credit card expenses.



10. Old Business

The FB considered an appeal in accordance with Section 1-6. The following motion resulted.

Motion 7: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent
Move to uphold the decision of the Executive Committee appeal dated December 10, 2025, related to member Chris Normandeu (USPA #305900).

The FB considered an appeal in accordance with Section 1-6. The following motion resulted.

Motion 8: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent
Move to uphold the decision of the Executive Committee appeal dated August 29, 2025, related to member Minoo Mirsaidi (USPA #360781).

11. New Business

Due to the resignation of Brandon Radcliff from the board, the position of Member-at-Large on the Executive Committee was left vacant. Friday morning, the president took nominations for the position from the floor. Melissa Nelson was nominated and seconded for the position. There were no other nominees.

Motion 9: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent
Move to elect Melissa Nelson to the Executive Committee as Member-at-Large.

The Board selected the dates for the Summer 2027 Board of Directors meeting.

Motion 10: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent
Move to hold the USPA Summer 2027 Board of Directors summer meeting on August 27-29. Location TBD by HQ Staff.

12. Committee Reports

A. Competition

The Committee was chaired by Jim Rees. Present were the following members:

Chuck Akers
Jeannie Bartholomew
Amy Chmelecki
David Grabowski
Josh Hall
Melissa Nelson

Larry Hill (Advisor)
Shawn Hill (Advisor)
Scott Smith (Advisor)
Mike Mullins (Advisor)

Staff Advisor
Amanda Owens

Key:

Old rule wording marked in ~~red~~ ~~strikeout~~

New wording in blue text

Rationale/comments in green text

1. Report-out Interim actions

- a. Record appeals
 - i. One CF record claim was rejected for being submitted beyond the 30-day deadline. No mitigating circumstances were presented. The committee upheld the rejection upon appeal.
 - ii. A judge appealed *against* two ratified wingsuit large formation sequential records based on the interpretation of the rules regarding what constitutes distinct formations. Based on precedent of the use of the same wording in FS and CF records, the Committee rejected the appeal, but we offered that if a future rule change clarified the meaning specific to WS formation rules, the records could be retired.
 - iii. Two claims were rejected for failing to comply with the non-waiverable pull altitude requirements, published 21 days prior to the performance. The claimant appealed arguing that more time is needed before any published rule change should be effective.
Upon review, there was consensus that we can and should do more to publicize when updated SCM versions are published (Skydiver Update emails should be utilized). It was agreed by the majority, however, that in the end, the claimants are responsible for knowledge of the current rules. The appeal was rejected.

b. FAI Judge Course approvals

- i. 3 National FS judges approved for FS – course expected in Eloy the week prior to the World Championships.
- ii. 3 National CP judges approved – one course scheduled for Klatovy in August so far.
- iii. 1 National CF judge approved.
- iv. 1 National WS judge approved.

Separately, acting as ISC Delegate, but outside of USPA process, the Chair took the initiative to work with USBodyFlight to get a DY course request for 6 National DY judges. At least 2 of them have signed up at the time of this writing for the course in Marseille in April. This doesn't impact USPA or its members directly, but USA's DY competitors are frequently also VFS and AE competitors.

- c. Waiver of Ch1 8.1.10.3 (once at Nationals, once at Collegiates)
 - i. See item #8 below

2. Consent Agenda (Appendix A)

3. Adoption of ISC Rule Changes

Motion 11: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to adopt ISC Competition Rule changes as follows:

- WS - all competition rule changes applicable to USPA **except:**
 - All changes referencing competitor classifications.
 - The judging panel size
 - Scoring system approval process changes.
 - The change regarding judging of official training jumps
 - The change requiring additional release times when switching events.

...and limit the size of the Suit Advisory Board to no more than 3.

- SP All competition rule changes applicable to USPA **except:**
 - All changes referencing competitor classifications (for medals)
 - All changes to the Mixed Team event.
 - All changes related to official training jumps.
 - All references to the FAI Controller.
 - The change regarding the costs of rejump.
 - The change defining record categories Junior, Junior Female, Master, Master Female.

...and table the question of adopting the Junior and Master categories for records purposes to Summer.

- FS Only the following housekeeping fix:
 - a rejump will be "offered" not "given"
- CP All applicable changes to both CP and CPFS – except:
 - A6.3 Course markers for Zone Acc 2,3,4 becoming “balls”.
 - The Marker Strike penalty changes.

- We already have a rule that applies to collisions with objects, though it needs some housekeeping:

Ch12 3.6.4 The Chief Judge or the Meet Director may issue a red card without a prior yellow card for any action that presents immediate danger and safety hazard to the competitor or others on the ground. Examples of this include, but are not limited to low approaches over the crowd or flying the canopy, lines, or body ~~in an uncontrolled manner~~ into any person or objects inside or outside of the course.

- CF Adopt the following two rule changes:
 - The change to Plane and Plane/Stack definitions.
 - The change creating the CF Vertical Formation performance record.
- AL – Adopt the following change ... but as a common rule in Chapter 1 for all disciplines.

Ch1 8.3.3: Competition jumps may only take place between the official times of sunrise and sunset at the competition site. For Team Accuracy Landing, the jump time is defined as the exit time of the first jumper.

- AE Adopt all changes except:
 - All changes to Indoor AE
 - The change to the judging order rule

4. Discussion – Should USPA become a scoring system licensee?

InTime Scoring is the only scoring system that encompasses all of the events at the USPA Nationals and can be used for the USPA Collegiates. OmniSkore is not an approved/active scoring system at this time. Currently, Skydive Arizona has acquired an InTime license.

However, InTime does not allow an event the size of a 7-discipline Nationals to be run without them personally for full support. In that model, the event license is included, so there is no benefit to already possessing a license.

The real benefit if a license is for smaller events, like a standalone AL competition, Collegiates, or if any other discipline was to be run by itself. In this situation, InTime still requires that the system operator be someone they have approved for that discipline on InTime. This is a solvable problem with volunteers and training, but it cannot be ignored.

The license structure incentivizes a business model for an enterprising individual who purchases and maintains a full license and then invests in their own training and approval to be a systems operator for competitions. This person then markets themselves to competition organizers to handle the scoring. This still only works for events small enough not to trigger InTime's policy of requiring their personal on-site support. At \$2500 + \$600 maintenance per year, it could be challenging to break even without access to multiple competitions/year – for example, all the ISSA and USCPA events.

5. Report from the Department of Technology on USPA's Nationals Registration System – Jen Sharp

Nationals Registration program was debuted for Nationals and Collegiates 2025 and worked well. Feedback from competitors and hosts was very positive. Based on their feedback and experience from both competitions, staff will implement improvements for the upcoming events. Additionally, staff is currently working with manifest software vendors to potentially integrate online payments for 2026 Nationals hosts using a custom API to meet their needs for integration.

6. Development of Meet Director Manual – Melissa Nelson

Draft has been in slow progress, and is expected to continue with volunteer help from Members and regular Meet Directors.

The Committee agreed to create a Meet Director Handbook Task Force chaired by M. Nelson. A progress report shall be added to the Summer agenda.

No other action or proposal for the full board.

7. Nationals Bids and review for correctness.

Paraclete XP – all but SP, WS

Skydive Arizona – all but WS

Skydive Arizona w/Remote AE – all but WS

Skydive Phoenix AL proposal to replace AL from Perris '26 - same dates, lower price.

8. Proposal to Change Rule 8.10.1.pdf - T. Bartlett

“Statement of Agenda Item: Move to remove Rule 8.10.1, in Chapter 1 General Competition Rules, section 8.10 Recognition of Winners from the SCM. The result would be that teams in disciplines and classes with less than 4 team entries are not restricted from receiving a medal based if they score less than 50 percent of previous teams, or 50 percent of the first place team.

Justification of Agenda Item: As it currently stands, this rule discourages teams from entering USPA Nationals and penalizes trained but poor-performing teams, instead of encouraging more teams to participate in Nationals. The USPA must strive to encourage more teams to compete at Nationals and this rule works against that goal. In challenging disciplines that draw few teams due to the difficulty (for example: freestyle, freefly, MFS, VFS), it is likely that each class and discipline will not have 4 teams. Also, in many of those disciplines a high-scoring team emerges and dominates the podium for many years (example: SDC Core, FlightShop) with scores that are very difficult for other teams to earn 50% of their total points. So other teams are faced with the choice of training hard and competing, knowing it is likely they will be unacknowledged for their efforts in turn disincentivizing them from competing, or as is much more common, choosing to not compete in Nationals at all. Supposedly, this rule discourages pick-up teams from entering a low-turnout discipline and collecting a medal without some level of expected performance, but that outcome appears to be far less common than the outcome

described above. And even if that is what happens, wouldn't the outcome be more teams competing, and isn't that the goal?"

The Committee debated this proposal for a significant time. This rule has been waived twice and inadvertently neglected back in 2022 for one event. The suggestion was made by the Chair that a bare minimum standard of performance be met in order to qualify for medals – that being a score that exceeds the score of a competitor/team who never made a jump, such as 0 for 4-way, or straight 35.0's for 10-way.

However, a majority of the committee felt that any standard was unfair to a team that struggled to score any points while still trying their best. There was no consensus on an objective standard that would clearly differentiate between a team that deserved a medal for their efforts and one that did not. As such, the motion is presented that deliberately makes no effort to filter out hypothetical abusers of this rule.

Motion 12: FB: Yes-16 No-3 AB-1

Move to amend SCM Chapter 1 as follows:

8.10.1 For all USPA competitive disciplines, appropriate medals or other suitable recognition are presented annually for places first through third to each individual titlist in the individual events and each team member in the team events, not including guest competitors, ~~except:~~

~~<delete clauses 8.10.1.1, 8.10.1.2, 8.10.1.3>~~

9. Eliminate 1 panel judge from AE, let EJ double as panel judge.

Currently, the rule reads 4.2.4 The panel of judges for a discipline will comprise an event judge plus at least three other judges. (Adjust 4.2.10 to 4.2.11, etc., and add the language below)

Also, reduce the minimum panel size for AL to 3.

These changes are motivated to support the AE and AL disciplines while they struggle to maintain sufficient participation to avoid cancellation. By reducing the judging requirements, the costs to a host for running such events drops and entry fees are able to be lowered.

The change to AL was requested by the likely Chief Judge of Skydive Phoenix's AL proposal for 2026. The resulting entry fee is substantially less than the Perris Entry fee.

Motion 13: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 1 as follows:

Move 4.2.4.1 to 4.2.4

~~4.2.4 The panel of judges for a discipline will comprise of an event judge plus at least three other judges.~~

4.2.4.1 The Chief Judge shall approve the start of competition in collaboration with the USPA Controller and the Meet Director.

4.2.5 For the purposes of this section, the following are considered one discipline:

- Accuracy Landing
- Artistic Events
- Canopy Formation
- Canopy Piloting
- Canopy Piloting - Freestyle
- Formation Skydiving
- Wingsuit Flying
- Speed Skydiving

4.2.6 The panel of judges for Formation Skydiving and Canopy Formation, will comprise an event judge plus at least three other judges.

Change 4.2.6 to 4.2.7

4.2.6-7 Accuracy landing requires at least ~~five~~ ~~three~~ judges (including the Chief and Event judges).

4.2.8 Artistic Events require a Chief Judge, Event Judge, and two or three panel judges of whom can be remote if approved by the Competition Committee.

10. Reduce minimum *required* time on the ground to 40 minutes (Ch1 7.5.3, 7.5.4)

This item was created in response to the consistent pattern of a Meet Director asking the competitors in every discipline to waive their “hour on the ground”. The theory is that if the minimum time is set to 40 minutes (25 minutes + the 15-minute call), that’s one “Otter turn” less and should remove the incentive to ask for the waiver in the first place.

The downside is that for several events (16-way, Speed Skydiving, WS Performance, CP in some cases), the need for the full hour is real, and most competitors are not willing to waive their time – such a rule change to lower the minimum ground time would do real harm.

For comparison, the times at ISC are 60 minutes for FS, AE, CF, and 45 minutes for AL, CP, SP, WS.

Competitors need to retain an hour standard for which there is a barrier to reduction – this is a safer bet for the competitors. Director Nelson shared not waiving as Meet Director made for a smoother event.

11. Consider adoption of a closing-ceremony protocol to prohibit hats and sunglasses on the podium.

This proposal initially came about due to a conflict at Nationals between requests from USPA photographers to remove hats and sunglasses for podium photographs, and competitors who insisted that the hats were essential for representing their sponsors. As such, no matter what decision was made, the Committee had to address the issues and assert a policy, as we have no medal ceremony policy prior.

Versions of this motion initially requiring hats off for Parachutist photos were rejected, and eventually, references to the fact or eyes or sunglasses were removed as well. There were concerns by some over subjective interpretation issues.

Motion 14: FB: Yes-14 No-2 AB-3

Move to create a new section in SCM Chapter 1, Section 9 as follows:

9 Awards Ceremony Conduct

9.1 The awards ceremony is a formal part of the competition and is intended to honor the achievements of all competitors. All participants are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful and professional manner.

9.2 - Competitors shall attend dressed in a manner that shows respect for the USPA, the event, and fellow competitors. Attire must not display language or imagery that is insulting or degrading. There are no restrictions on sponsor promotion in a competitor's attire.

9.3 Only medal recipients, including team alternates, may be present on the stage during the awards presentation.

12. Increase the Protest Fee from \$50 to \$100. ISC's is 150 CHF (\$195)

The purpose of the fee is not about raising revenue (the proceeds go to the TTF anyway). It is to disincentivize abuse of the protest process. The current CP challenge fee is \$75, and it makes more sense that this should be less expensive than a protest. The process required in a Challenge is designed to be much less than that of a protest, and take a few minutes at most to decide. Protests can involve hours of interviewing and deliberation by the Jury.

Motion 15: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 1 as follows:

8.4.4 A ~~\$50~~**\$100** fee must accompany the protest. This fee applies to each competitor/team.

13. Create a Combined *Vertical* Champion Medal akin to FS's Combined Champions, using the MFS, VFS, AE-FR, and AE-FF events.

A friendly amendment was submitted by multiple athletes to include SP into the mix as well.

One reason VFS/MFS were removed from Combined Freefall was that it was usually impossible to give out the award(s) to belly competitors if MFS+VFS took place after the last belly FS event. While SP, AE, MFS, and VFS are all equally deserving for participation in such a new award, the more events are involved, the less likely it will be that the winners will still be on-site when it is known to whom to give the medal(s). There could even be a scenario where not all the events are held at the same location. As such, in many cases, the medals will end up getting mailed out. Once the last qualifying event has completed, it will be known then who the winners are, and hopefully one or more of the champions can receive their medal in person.

This adaptation from FS Combined limits placement values to 5, allows participation in as few as 2 events while also requiring entry in at least 2 disciplines (i.e., the 2 events cannot just be AEFR and AEFF). The 5-point limit is intended to limit how badly any one placement, or non-participation in a 3rd event, can impact their result.

Motion 16: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to insert at the end of SCM Chapter 1 the following:

8.12 Combined Vertical Freefall National Champions

8.12.1 A special multi-disciplinary award is given to those who demonstrate excellence across vertical freefall events in FS, AE, and Speed Skydiving.

8.12.2 For each individual competing in the Open class of MFS-2way, VFS-4way, AE-Freestyle, AE-FreeFly, and the Speed Skydiving individual event at the USPA National Skydiving Championships in any given year, points are awarded to the *individual's* team or solo placement in each event (1st place = 1 point, 2nd place = 2 points, etc.). A placement of 5th or higher always earns 5 points.

8.12.3 An individual must compete in at least 3 of the events. For a competitor who has competed in more than 3 events, their best 3 placement point values per 8.12.2 are added.

8.12.4 The individuals with the lowest cumulative placements are the winners.

14. 7.8.4 Electronic Official Announcement Board

Most competitors use technology – cell phones, laptops, internet, etc. Very few competitors walk from the packing area where TVs display competition videos being streamed through the internet and scores displayed through the internet. Using modern technology to provide the “Official Board” information was well received in all the AARs at the 2025 USPA Nationals and from competitors. A public computer was provided at manifest for those who may not have access to technology otherwise.

Various chapters required signatures, but with technology, a private, customized login can be provided to Chief Judges to upload the scores.

Motion 17: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend the SCM as follows:

Chapter 1, 7.8.4 A meet announcement board, **which may be an electronic format approved by the USPA Controller**, where official announcements including event holds, releases, scores, and protest results are posted, must be present.

Chapter 1 7.8.5 Such announcements, and especially scores, become officially posted when placed on such an announcement board for permanent, continuous public display.

Chapter 1 7.8.6 The Chief Judge shall post standings for each round on the board to declare the given rounds as official. Only the Chief Judge shall have this ability.

Chapter 7, 5.7.3 The judges will use an electronic scoring system (if one is available) to record their evaluation of the performance. The judges may correct their evaluation record after the jump has been judged. Corrections to the evaluation record may only be made before the chief judge ~~signs the score sheet.~~ **declares the round official.** All individual judge's evaluations will be published.

Chapter 9, 9.2.3 The judges will use the electronic scoring system to record their evaluation of the performance. The judges may correct their evaluation record after the jump has been judged. Corrections to the evaluation record can only be made before the Chief Judge ~~signs the score sheet.~~ declares the round official. All individual judge's evaluations will be published.

Chapter 10, 7.6.2.3 The judges will use the electronic scoring system to record their evaluation of the performance. The judges may correct their evaluation record after the jump has been judged. Corrections to the evaluation record can only be made before the Chief Judge ~~signs the score sheet.~~ declares the round official. All individual judge's evaluations will be published.

Chapter 11, 4.4.5 The Judges may use an electronic scoring system to record the evaluation of the performance. At the end of working time, a freeze frame will be applied on each viewing, based on the timing taken from the first viewing only. The Judges may correct their evaluation record after the jump has been judged. Corrections to the evaluation record can only be made before the Chief Judge ~~signs the score sheet.~~ declares the round official.

Chapter 14, 7.2.5 The judges will use the electronic scoring system to record the evaluation of the performance. At the end of working time, freeze frame will be applied on each viewing, based on the timing taken from the first viewing only. The judges may correct their evaluation record after the jump has been judged. Corrections to the evaluation record may only be made before the Chief Judge ~~signs the score sheet.~~ declares the round official.

15. Amendment to Ch1 8.6 Transgender Athlete Policy to clarify procedural requirements in cases where FAI's policy must be adhered to.

– transgender female competitors contending for a slot on the US Team must also satisfy FAI's policy **in time for the FCE.**

The only issue here is to establish the deadline for when a transgender male or female must have received FAI's certificate of eligibility to compete in a category or classification corresponding to their gender identity. The deadline proposed is the final registration deadline (established by the USPA Competition Director) for the international sporting event.

They must also satisfy FAI's policy to set performance records in the female category.

The current FAI Transgender Policy involved issuance of a certificate which proves eligibility, though future policies could express eligibility in a different form, so the language here is written to be as general as possible.

A male category does exist – for example, the men's AL team. The FAI standards for passing as a male are obviously much lower, but they still provide a certificate for it.

Motion 18: FB: Yes-13 No- 1 (by name Dave Grabowski) AB-5

Move to add to SCM Chapter 1 the following:

8.6.5 Transgender athletes who have qualified for the US Team in a male or female category or classification must provide proof of eligibility per the current FAI Transgender Policy prior to the US Team's internal final registration deadline for the international sporting event.

8.6.6 Transgender athletes who are claiming **international** records in a male or female category must include proof of eligibility at the time of the record performance per the current FAI Transgender Policy when filing the claim to USPA Headquarters.

16. Amend 2.3.1 to reduce the number of Committee-approved courses from 3 to 2 for qualification for a Judge Examiner appointment.

Two courses have been commonly enforced for the past 4 years. We would like to be creating more Judge Examiners, especially in disciplines where we currently have none, such as CF.

Motion 19: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 2 as follows:

6.3.1 National and International Judges may apply for appointment by the Competition Committee as a Judge Examiner, if they:

- have conducted ~~three~~-two judge courses, one within the last two years, with satisfactory results, as determined by the committee

17. 5.1.2.2 Judge renewals (tabled from Summer)

- Who has the authority to decide whether a Judge's performance at a competition constitutes demonstration of currency?
- How do we ensure judges are current in every event of a discipline, even when they may not always judge every event? (Examples: the 6 different events in FS, CPFS, WSAcro/WSPerformance.)

Online evaluation tools could be very helpful here.

These issues have been referred to the newly formed Judge Advisory Working Group.

Chapter 3 re-factoring for clarity

Still a big task, but no semantic changes are intended – planning to have completed with all of this meeting's Chapter 3 changes within 2 weeks of the meeting.

18. Adopt Flocking record type

Proposal originally submitted at the Daytona meeting.

It consists of 3 record types modelled after Wingsuit Vertical Large Formation.

The document was loaded with extra *requirements* that are not verifiable by judges, such as exit altitudes and formation altitudes. The mandatory break-off altitude at 3500' is left in the record rules here as a safety-oriented requirement. A condensed set of rules appropriate for SCM Ch3

Motion 20: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 3 to add new flocking record types per Appendix C.

19. Discussion on Requirement Collegiate Record

Add a requirement to Collegiate Record category for records set outside of Collegiate Nationals that documentation of eligibility be included in record claim: Proof of enrollment, date of birth, date of first jump, number of logged jumps.

At a Collegiate National Championships, competitors are required to provide documentation in order to compete. The same documentation should be required for Collegiate record setters and included with the record claim.

Motion 21: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 3, definition of Collegiate Category as follows:

3.7.4 Collegiate – best performance achieved by an individual collegiate skydiver or team composed only of collegiate skydivers as recognized per Chapter 7 of the SCM, except for the photographer/videographer providing the photo/video evidence to support the record. [For record claims set outside the scope of a USPA Collegiate National Skydiving Championships, documentation proving eligibility per Chapter 7 Sections 2.2 and 2.3 must be included in the record claim. The date of the record performance shall be used as a reference for determining age, years in the sport, and number of logged jumps.](#)

20. Eliminate sub-types for ~~7~~ 9 points and higher for all large-formation sequential/full-break record types in FS, CF, WS, and mark *retired* all current records for these cases.

This is intended to eliminate excessively high subtype claims (such as 13, 18, and more point counts) have been received in the past year, and instead *promote* record attempts that increase the size of the formation as the record type was intended. These records are titled **Large Formation** Sequential, not Longest Sequence.

Feedback was received from Mr. Fry, indicating that he was considering a 7-point vertical sequential sometime in the future.

Currently, the highest point-count value for any such record in the FAI database is 5. The proposed limit of 6 was designed to accommodate one more point, but two or three more doesn't take away from the purpose of this motion.

The Committee found no consensus that limits should be set, and it may be revisited in the future after more feedback is solicited.

21. Clarify that when 2 or more Performance records are claimed for the same date, only the best performance should be ratified.

This aligns us better with FAI policy and eliminates consideration of which record was performed first, saving paperwork. This also prevents conflicts in Speed records where the better performance might meet the required percentage threshold over the lesser record.

In some scenarios, this could result in retroactive corrections when opposite ends of the 30-day claim window are used for two claims for the same date.

Motion 22: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 3 to add the following:

3.2.11 When 2 or more performance records of the same zone, category, type, and subtype if applicable, are claimed for the same date, only the best performance shall be ratified.

22. Discussion - Consider elimination/retirement of the classic belly sequential record type/subtypes as full-break has effectively replaced it.

Note that FAI eliminated this record type at the time full-break was instituted. We deliberately retained classic sequential with a limit of 3 points because it was still a popular format for larger formations of lesser-skilled belly-fliers.

Submissions are dropping—only 2 in 2025.

When we hit zero, there will be value in removing it from the rules, but for now, we can leave it be while there is still some interest.

Motion 23: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 3, 3.8.9 to add a final bullet rule to the end as follows:

- This record type will be valid for use through Dec 31, 2027, after which current records will be marked Retired, and claims for performances on any later date will not be accepted.

23. Create requirements for record appeals akin to that of Protests in competition.

Several appeals have been submitted in the past year. Some had no explanation nor any reasoning for why the appeal was filed.

Refer to Appendix B as a sample.

Motion 24: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 3 as follows:

3.11.5. The appeal must state the particular rule or rules about which the appeal is being made and contain a description of the situation, reasons for the appeal, names of pertinent witnesses, and the availability of the witnesses to provide information.

No appeal may be accepted by the Director of Competition that deals with the evaluation of a jump or a performance assessment given by the judge(s).

24. Add 1.0.1.2 When the opening altitude is waived for team records, a signed letter from the S&TA must be included in the record claim submitted to USPA.

Motion 25: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to add SCM Chapter 3 the following:

1.0.1.2 When the opening altitude is waived for team records, a signed letter from the S&TA must be included in the record claim submitted to USPA.

25. Amend requirements for certification of female-category records

Upon hearing Mr. Mullins present his discussion to the Competition Committee, it was clarified that his proposal was that USPA should adopt the FAI Transgender Policy.

Mr. Mullins presented evidence that it is possible and relatively easy to acquire multiple government-issued IDs with different indicated genders. He points this out as a weakness in USPA’s transgender policy. USPA’s policy is that an athlete’s gender is whatever is presented on their government-issued ID. One can easily research the existing policies of USPA, FAI, the Olympics, and other national sporting authorities – it might be helpful to survey the spectrum for greater understanding.

FAI’s policy is very complex and can take a long time to satisfy.

Another suggestion put forth by Mr. Mullins was a letter from a doctor indicating a transition path.

Multiple committee members expressed interest in helping work on such research and look for solutions.

No specific proposal has enough support at this time

26. Clarify custody of PLD procedure for performance records - Matt Fry

Unknown what the proposal actually is. Will reintroduce at Summer if it can be determined and found to be valuable.

27. Team Manager Tax in World Cup years.

TMs in World Cup years are volunteers , and neither USPA nor the TTF has ever had funding.

More feedback to be collected and a structure designed for how funds are allocated and distributed.

TABLED for Summer implementation, but feedback should be solicited immediately.

28. Address Speed Mixed Team in 3.2.9

Avoid any confusion between mixed team at Nationals and Mixed Team at an FCE. Placement in mixed team at Nationals has no bearing on US Team selection.

Motion 26: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 4 as follows:

3.2.9.4 Members of the US Speed Skydiving Team are free to form up teams for the Mixed Team event on their own. The results of the Mixed Team Event at USPA National Championships are not used here.

29. Amend Team Contract to specify what teams the individual is committing to.

Motion 27: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to add an added extra line after signature on SCM Chapter 4, Appendix A: Team Contract as follows:

Events and Teams Participating on: _____

30. WSPerf, raise minimum performance requirement for US Team eligibility to 200 points – Hubbard

Almost did this, but then when reading the rules, realized that in a short event that is weathered out where not all 3 tasks were run, we could still pick a US Team, but 200 points might be out of reach for many competitors.

Tabling to Summer for now to be researched with the WS CJ , so we don't inadvertently rush into something that will have to be fixed.

31. Appendix B, USPA Responsibilities, 3. Parachutist/Advertising agreement change

Motion 28: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to add to Chapter 5, USPA Responsibilities 3, as follows:

USPA will provide, at its own expense, ad space for a minimum of three (but up to four) ~~one~~ full-page color advertisements for each year's National Championships to run in the issues of *Parachutist* magazine immediately preceding the event. When the National Championships have more than one host, this ad space will be shared equitably between them. ~~and one one-half page black and white advertisement of each event in two issues of Parachutist magazine preceding the event.~~ USPA will have sole discretion to determine the content of the advertisements.

32. Remove 1.9.2 per CJ AAR

Motion 29: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 8 as follows:

~~1.9.2 A Video Viewing system must be available and may be used for all competition jumps (for example: tablet with slow motion) at the discretion of the event /chief judge for any decision found necessary. This decision is not grounds for protest.~~

Chapter 9

33. Proposal to eliminate VFS Intermediate, replace with VFS Pro/Am as a separate event in the same way CF 2-way Pro/Am is a separate event from CF 2-way.

Alternative: Open class camera flyer.pdf - Jason Russell

Justification of Agenda Item

In order to encourage participation of newer flyers/teams into the Intermediate Class of VFS, we would like to allow those Intermediate teams to seek out an Open class competitor to act

as their videographer for the US Nationals. Participation within this incredibly difficult discipline has always been limited, but growth in recent years has been particularly small. In addition, I was approached by 2 teams at the 2025 US Nationals asking if this rule change could be implemented. I believe if the rule can be changed soon, we can put this information out to the community, as well as allow me the time to find other Open competitors who are willing to help an Intermediate team, and pair those interested parties.

Background Information

During its inaugural year (2015), the Intermediate VFS class teams were allowed to solicit an Open class competitor as their video flyer. 5 teams joined the Intermediate class that year, and VFS had its largest Nationals with a total of 15 teams, certainly a successful year by the metric of participation. Although most teams simply solicited that help very late in the season, I think an additional opportunity exists to foster growth within this very small discipline. The Intermediate team, should they enlist an Open competitor early in the season, will likely be able to benefit from having a de facto coach for the season, receiving guidance throughout the year on a variety of VFS topics, including, but not limited to: better engineering, successful exits, and team dynamics. Help in any or all of these areas will possibly create a more lasting synergy between teammates, and encourage sustained years of competition. For the Intermediate team, this allows them to focus their training resources in the best ways they can, not be stressed about possibly paying slot/day rate to a videographer, and feel confident that their performance at Nationals will be professionally documented. At the 2015 Nationals, there was absolutely no discussion related to the possibility that the jumps the Open class competitor did with the Intermediate team provided any benefit to their performance in their own discipline

Pro/Am format would allow 1 or 2 “pros” on the team.

Skydive Perris has agreed in principle to either alternative in 2026.

In 2018, CSC ran a test with 5 Intermediate teams where the videographer for each team was an Open-class VFS competitor. It was an amazingly successful event, but since the format was never adopted in this form, VFS Intermediate has not done well ever since.

Given the successful datapoint from 2018, the Committee decided to adopt a single-coach version of the idea, and keep it flexible for the team to have the “Pro” fly in any slot, and come from either Advanced or Open. VFS Intermediate allows up to 2 “sandbaggers” already, so we don’t need to alter that number. The key change here is that VFS Intermediate allows another competitor from another team.

In the future, a true Pro/Am format would make the Pro/Am class a separate event , and then we would need to create a definition of what a Pro is or is not.

Motion 30: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Ch 9, 2nd bullet item in section 3, as follows:

A competitor or videographer is allowed to compete on only one team in each of the events. An exception to this rule is that an Advanced or Open VFS 4-way competitor may also compete as the videographer on one Intermediate VFS 4-way team. Team Composition requirements of section 3 must still be adhered to.

34. Zenith zenith rule.pdf - Jason Russell

Currently, Chapter has a rule:

5.1.4 Where possible the Meet Director will attempt to schedule rounds at times when the sun is not within 20 degrees of the zenith to allow the team videographer to clearly video their team.

Phrasing like “Where possible,” and “attempt to,” means the rule has no real teeth and does not have mandatory outcomes. The proposal was to tighten the wording and make the direction mandatory.

Solar interference (“sun bust”) can happen at any time of day, not just between 11 am and 1 pm. The ISC FS Committee passed a rule update in 2025 to force the offer of a restricted rejump to the team when any sun-bust occurs. It was adopted by USPA the same year, and the rule was successfully applied at Nationals 2025, though the team in question declined the rejump.

After discussion with the Chair about the update NV rule change, it was agreed to **withdraw** this proposal.

35. 4-way Beginner Divepool. Remove blocks 8 and 19. Add blocks 1 and 13 – Frikken

When polling 4-way coaches, all feedback was very positive. Beginner derives from the NSL A subset, which pre-dates the current blocks 1 and 13. These blocks are widely considered easier to learn for beginning 4-way teams.

The proposed change is duplicated to Collegiates as well.

Motion 31: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 9 4.2.1.7 as follows:

4-way Beginner

- The draw will be performed from a dive pool consisting of only blocks 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, ~~8~~, 9, 13, ~~19~~, 21 and all the randoms.

Amend SCM Chapter 7 7.4.1.1

The draw will be performed from a dive pool consisting of only blocks 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, ~~8~~, 9, 13, ~~19~~, 21 and all the randoms.

36. Update Airspeed by aircraft requirements in Chapter 9, 10.1.2. Add Caravan as distinguished from smaller Cessnas.

The committee will consider unifying airspeed requirements for all disciplines at Summer.

Motion 32: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 9 as follows:

Chapter 9: 10.1.2 The Meet Director and the Chief Pilot will determine the aircraft speed, torque, and flap settings at the time of exit, except:

Twin Otter: 85 to 95 knots (indicated) inclusive.

Cessna Caravan: 85 to 95 knots (indicated) inclusive.

DC-3: ~~90 to 100~~ 85 to 95 knots (indicated) inclusive.

Cessna (piston): 70 to 90 knots (indicated) inclusive.

37. Incidental contact clarification (~~Block 17 and~~ Collegiates 6-way)

At the 2025 USPA Collegiates a protest was submitted after a team received maximum score in FS 6-Way Speed event. A hand from one competitor was on the back of a teammate's container. What is the definition of incidental contact?

Other references:

Chapter 9:

8.4.1.6 Assisting handholds on other bodies in a scoring formation are not permitted.

8.4.1.7 Handholds by the jumper on their own body within a subgroup or a scoring formation are permitted.

Note from Chair: While the final text of the proposal doesn't sound harmful, the logical path to getting there is suspect. Terms from formation building are being applied to an exit rule. This change ONLY affects a Collegiates event, so we can table to summer and make sure we're doing the right thing here.

Amend SCM Ch7, 9.6.4 ~~Assisting h~~Handholds on other persons or their equipment are not permitted on exit. Incidental contact is permitted.

Chapter 10

38. Amend CF 2-way Pro/Am "Pro" definition to include FAI medalists and to add a timeout such as 5 years.

Also, be sure that a prior medal in Pro/Am or a lower-than-Open class does not disqualify a competitor.

Motion 33: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 10 as follows:

3.2.2 Only one flying competitor of a Pro/Am team may have won a medal in the open CF event at the nationals of any country, or at any FAI-sanctioned International Sporting Event, at any time in the 5 calendar years leading up to and including the year of the competition in question. This rule does not apply to the videographer.

39. Reduce minimum exit altitudes 1,000 feet except for Rotations.

After exchanges with prior Chief Judges and competitors, these numbers were agreed upon and may be helpful when navigating cloud ceilings in the future.

Motion 34: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 10 as follows:

Exit Altitude And Working Time

4-Way Sequential

5.2.1 Each jump is made from ~~10,000~~ 9,000 feet.

2-Way Sequential

5.3.1 Each jump is made from ~~8,000~~ 7,000 feet.

Chapter 11

40. Adopt the Intermediate class events as official with the following change

- a. Simplify deductions to “divide by 4” and any rounding is left to the judge’s discretion. Amounts must still be multiples of 0.1.

Motion 35: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 11 as follows:

Folding the content of the **AE Intermediate Test Event** document into SCM Chapter 11 as an official class of AE competition. When doing so, express standard deduction guidance to “divide by 4, approximately vs the standard deductions for the Open-class, with final deductions still being multiples of 0.1””

41. If no video is submitted (by end of registration) *only* round 1 will be used to determine technical score, and therefore only 1 free routine is permitted.

Promotes earlier video submission and saves judging time.

Motion 36: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 11 as follows:

3.2.4.5 For Teams who register less than 48 hours before the start of the competition, the Judges will evaluate their round 1 video for Initial Difficulty Score before the start of judging round 1. **If no video is submitted by the end of registration, *only* round 1 video will be used to determine technical score, and therefore only 1 free routine is permitted.**

42. 3.2.4.5 Change “before the start of the competition” to “before the close of registration”

Motion 37: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 11 as follows:

3.2.4.5 For Teams who register less than 48 hours before the ~~start of the competition~~ **close of registration**, the Judges will evaluate their round 1 video for Initial Difficulty Score before the start of judging round 1.

Chapters 12 and 13

43. Daily jump order rotations – change to *within each class*, and only by whole passes, so that the class ordering is preserved and not rotated.

Suggestion – simply the language by saying the rotation is always ONE pass within each class, because participation is so low that the logical rotation is always one pass. Even if we get up to 20 competitors per class (x 3 classes), 20% of that is still 1 pass.

Motion 38: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 12 as follows:

3.5.5 The order of exit passes **within each competitor class** will be rotated by 20%, rounded ~~down~~ **up**, with the start of a new round on a later date. The rotation will be done by taking the first 20% of the passes **of each class**, excluding rejump passes, and placing them at the end of the jump order **of each class**.

and amend SCM Chapter 13 as follows:

3.5.4 The order of exit passes **within each competitor class** will be rotated by 20%, rounded ~~down~~ **up**, with the start of a new round in any event on a subsequent day. The rotation will be done by taking the first 20% of the passes **of each class**, excluding rejump passes, and placing them at the end of the jump order **of each competitor class**.

Chapter 15

44. 4.2.2 Speed mixed teams must be registered by the close of registration.

The original language could be misinterpreted to suggest that registration in the individual event is *sufficient* to be registered also in the mixed team event.

Motion 39: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to amend SCM Chapter 15 as follows:

4.2.2 The Mixed Team Event consists of up to three rounds, to be run concurrently with the Individual Event, using scores from the last three completed rounds (or fewer if applicable). Each team includes one male and one female competitor, both registered in **both** the Individual **and Mixed Team Events**, with their scores in each round summed to form the team score. A Mixed Team Event is valid with a minimum of one round.

45. Housekeeping for clarify in TTF funding rule.

Motion 40: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to to amend SCM Chapter 4 Section 6.5.5 to add clarification:

6.5.5 Funds shall be allocated to pay the entry fees of the U.S. Parachute Team, not including alternates and leadership personnel, or teams other than the first selected team, who will attend the World Parachuting Championships that calendar year. Additional available funds from USPT, Inc. may be used to cover additional costs including but not limited to accommodation and meals if approved by the board of USPT, Inc. In order to be eligible for funding, a competitor or team must **either**:

- Place first or be strictly in the top half of Open (or only) official standings of the selection event.
- OR
- For Accuracy Landing, Formation Skydiving, Canopy Formation, Artistic Events, and Speed Skydiving, achieved an average performance which would have placed them strictly in the top 3/4 of standings of either of the two ISC First Category Events that took place prior to the selection event..

46. Nationals SOLICIT WS/SP BIDS

Motion 41: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to Solicit bids for a 2027 USPA National Skydiving Championships of Wingsuit Flying and Speed Skydiving. Announcements to be published ASAP. Deadline for bid submission would be 5pm ET 31 March. Bids for either WS, SP, or both would be accepted (both would be encouraged). Immediately after the deadline, the Competition Committee will vet the bids for correctness and pass on to the Executive Committee for an interim decision. The decision shall be published no later than 30 April 2026. If no bids are received by the deadline for either discipline, no further attempts will be made in 2026.

Appendix A – Consent Agenda

Item#	Short Description	Details	Rationale
1	Housekeeping / grammatical	Ch1 4.2.4 The panel of judges for a discipline will comprise of an event judge plus at least three other judges.	
2	Performance Judge Rating Definitions, Qualifications & Procedures	SCM CH02 2.2.2 A Performance National Judge is someone whose National Judge rating has expired and who is now qualified to perform	Clarification

		all duties of a Regional Judge plus judge National Performance Records. 3.2.2 A Performance National Judge rating can only be acquired through the expiration of a National Judge rating.	
3	Housekeeping	Ch9 8.2.1 ...For VFS/MFS a foot grip extends	MFS has foot grips too
4	Housekeeping	Ch9 8.5 VFS /MFS “Grip Line”	MFS has griplines too
5	Convey Correct Dive Pool meanings	Add statements in Ch9 Appendix B & Appendix L that circles around grips denote foot grips.	We have the circles, but no statement anywhere as to the meaning.
6	Remove unnecessary requirements on smoke canisters that only increase costs and complexity for hosts.	Ch12, definition of closed course ...a floatable orange smoke canister... Ch13, ...an orange smoke canister ...	Smoke is never thrown in the pond, and we don’t want to have to prevent a meet from starting just because the smoke is the “wrong” color.
7	Correct terminology	Ch3 3.9.2 State records must be certified & signed by two authorized-certifying officials as follows: Authorized-Certifying officials include ...	
8	Clarify according to current practice	Ch7 2.6: No later than 02 January – Closing Ceremonies	The closing ceremony is allowed to take place earlier than 2 January if possible.
9	Clarify which rounds of Sport Acc are the team rounds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ch7 4.4.3: The maximum scheduled number of rounds for Team Sport Accuracy is three (3). Scoring for these rounds shall derive from the first three rounds of Sport Accuracy. 	Without this, there is nothing stating which rounds are the team rounds.
10	Routine description submission in CP Freestyle	SCM CH13, 4.1.3 The routine description sheet for all the rounds must be presented to the Chief Judge at least 48 hours before the start, as announced by the MD, of the	Corrects an old typo, and lets the CJ offer some flexibility for routine submissions

		or at a time specified by the CJ during the Competitor meetings	
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Appendix B - Example: Record Appeal Application

Name of person filing complaint (First and Last) _____

Contact email and phone number _____

Date filed _____

Record Category (General/Female/Collegiate/Night)	Record Group (FS/WS/SP/CF/CP)	Type (Lg Formation, Sequential, Highest Exit Alt, Longest Time, etc)	SubType (if applicable, the performance, ex 3 points)	Performance (#of participants ex. 104-way, or if solo, the performance ex 2 km)

Particular rule or rules about which the appeal has been made. (A rule must be misapplied/misinterpreted.) _____

Description of situation _____

Reason for appeal _____

Signature _____

Appendix C

3.8.36 Flocking Performance Records

A Flocking Formation Record is the successful execution of a canopy flocking formation, where jumpers maintain specific spacing, altitude control, and slot assignments within a defined structure. The formation must be clearly presented, vertical, stable, and documented by air-to-air videography.

For the purposes of judging and certification, these record types shall belong to the Wingsuit Flying discipline, and are judged exclusively by the still photograph and video.

3.8.36.1 General Requirements for Flocking Formation Records

3.8.36.1.1 Break-Off Altitude: Break-off procedures must begin no lower than 3,500 feet AGL.

3.8.36.1.2 All persons must be flying main parachute canopies.

3.8.36.1.3 All formations must be in a vertical orientation, to the satisfaction of the judges.

3.8.36.1.4 Formations are judged using a standard grid downloadable from the FAI Website.

3.8.36.1.5 Each individual grid space is a square defined by four (4) interior 90° angles.

3.8.36.1.6 Using suitable software, the grid (in a graphic file) will be overlaid over a digital photograph of the formation to evaluate the record performance.

3.8.36.1.7 The grid may be sized and rotated to best fit the formation while maintaining a constant aspect ratio.

3.8.36.1.8 For formations of 40 and smaller, all persons (their body) must be within their designated flying space in the grid. No part of their body, equipment or canopy may be visible outside the lines of their designated space; however, touching a line is allowed.

3.8.36.1.9 For formations larger than 40, no more than 10% of persons (rounded to the nearest whole number) may have a part of their body visible across the grid line of their designated flying space.

3.8.36.2 Record Types and Definitions

3.8.36.2.1 **Largest Canopy Flocking Formation**

* The record performance is the number of persons in a flocking formation

3.8.36.2.2 **Largest Sequential Canopy Flocking Formation**

* The record performance is the number of persons in a flocking formation to complete a sequence of two or more flocking formations, giving a separate record performance for each number of formations completed.

* In consecutive formations, at least 75% of the persons must move to a new designated flying space in the grid.

* After the group has completed three different formations, the group may elect to return to the first formation and repeat the sequence.

3.8.36.2.3 **Largest Night Canopy Flocking Formation**

* This type is identical to Largest Canopy Flocking Formation, but performed at night per the definition of Night category (3.7.3).

3.8.36.3 Record Certification Procedures

Pre-Attempt

3.8.36.3.1 A written plan describing the formation(s) and transition(s) to be attempted and the persons involved, including names and USPA membership numbers, must be submitted in advance to the Judges. The formation(s) must be completed as described with all named persons in the formation, but need not be slot-name specific.

Post-Attempt

Judges will review and certify the record based on the following provided evidence:

- 3.8.36.3.2 One (1) still photograph of the completed formation, with all canopy flyers clearly visible, to which the grid will be applied. There is no restriction on the number of still photographs provided, but the evidence of completion of any one formation in the attempt must come entirely from *one* photograph.

- 3.8.36.3.3 One (1) continuous video of the jump without break or interruption that shows the continuity of the performance, and that all participants or their equipment intersect a single vertical plane at the moment of completion of formations to the satisfaction of the judges.

All video and photograph evidence provided to the judges shall be included in the claim documentation submitted to USPA. The overlaid grid on the still photograph must be included as well.

Ch3: 3.7.3 Night – best performance achieved by any team between the end of evening civil twilight and the beginning of morning civil twilight.

• This category shall only be applicable to CF/FS large formation, sequential large formation, full-break large formation, WS no-grip large formation, ~~and~~ WS gripped large formation, **and Largest Canopy Flocking Formation records.**

B. Executive Committee

The Committee was chaired by Sherry Butcher. Present were the following members:

Sherry Butcher - President

Josh Hall – Vice President

Jack Pyland - Treasurer

Ray Lallo - Secretary

Randy Allison – Chairman of the Board

Melissa Nelson – Member at Large

Staff Advisor: Albert Berchtold

1. **501c3 Consolidation and separation from 501c4 business.**

The following motion is the result of a forward-looking governance discussion focused on protection and clarity of USPA’s affiliated 501(c)3 charitable entities.

Motion 42: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to accept the following resolution:

Resolutions for USPA Board of Directors

WHEREAS, this Board has concluded that it may be desirable to restructure USPA’s affiliated 501(c)(3) charitable entities, the United States Parachute Team (Inc.), the United States Parachute Team Trust Fund and the U.S. Skydiving Safety Foundation, in order to reduce those entities’ reporting burdens, improve their ability to avoid unfavorable “private foundation” classification under federal tax laws, potentially expand the number of qualifying 501(c)(3) activities undertaken by a 501(c)(3) affiliate of USPA that may be funded by tax-deductible donations, and facilitate more robust fundraising for the USPA’s 501(c)(3) affiliates;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to encourage USPA’s management to explore and evaluate a possible restructuring of USPA’s 501(c)(3) affiliates, working with legal counsel.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that

1. USPA’s management is authorized and encouraged to explore and evaluate a restructuring of USPA’s affiliated 501(c)(3) entities, with assistance of legal counsel, including a review of:
 - a. Legal compliance requirements and best practices for USPA’s 501(c)(3) affiliates;
 - b. Formalization of contractual relationships between USPA and its 501(c)(3) affiliates;
 - c. Potential formation of a new Section 501(c)(3) charitable corporation to be known as the **U.S. Skydiving Foundation** and potential merger, asset transfer and/or dissolution of or by one or more of USPA’s existing 501(c)(3) affiliates;
 - d. Trust document and donor restrictions addressed to the United States Parachute Team Trust Fund; and
 - e. Consideration of additional 501(c)(3) activities that potentially could be undertaken by one or more 501(c)(3) affiliates of USPA.
2. USPA’s management is authorized to submit to this Board’s Executive Committee a proposed governance structure for a new U.S. Skydiving Foundation (and to activate that entity upon approval by the Executive Committee) as well as proposed action by the boards of directors of the United States Parachute Team (Inc.) or the U.S. Skydiving Safety Foundation or by the Trustees of the United States Parachute Team Trust Fund relating to a proposed restructuring of the USPA’s 501(c)(3) affiliates.

2. Strategic Planning

The committee discussed a strategic planning proposal presented by Darcy Strategic. The plan includes the following five areas.

1. An assessment of the organization’s current value, impact, long-term viability, operational efficiency, and value to members as perceived and reported via individual surveys by its members, staff, and Board.
2. An analysis of the strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities suggested by the assessment phase.
3. Development of a clear vision for where the organization wants to go in the next five years and what it needs to get there.
4. Translation of that vision into a finite set of actionable, measurable goals that will:
 - Allow USPA Board and staff to prioritize their time and resources

- Greatly reduce work for the sake of work, or excessive focus on non-strategic distractions, by deciding what the board is not going to do to keep focus on what it needs to do to achieve the identified goals.
- Balance the staff and Board's focus between the tactical, day-to-day activity of the USPA and its bigger-picture strategic aims

5. A broad strategic roadmap for how to achieve the goals, and in what timeline to prioritize each goal identified.

The following motion resulted.

Motion 43: FB: Passed Yes-18 No-2 AB-1

Move to approve The Strategic Planning Proposal for the USPA at the cost of \$16,500.00 from Darcy Strategic.

3. Executive Director Review

The committee discussed the annual performance review of the Executive Director. The following motion resulted.

Motion 44: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to approve a 3.5% base salary increase for the Executive Director effective with the next pay period.

4. Legal Update

The Executive Director provided a legal update. No action required.

5. Change of host and venue for 2026 Nationals Accuracy competition

The full board discussed a venue change for the 2026 USPA Nationals Accuracy competition from Skydive Perris to Skydive Phoenix. The change was put forward to accommodate requests from the majority of accuracy competitors. A bid from Skydive Phoenix was reviewed by the board, and the following motion resulted.

Motion 45: FB: Passed Yes-18 No-0 AB-2

Move to approve the change of host, venue, and cost for the 2026 Nationals Accuracy competition to Skydive Phoenix. The dates of the competition remain the same.

6. PIA update to the USPA Board

PIA President, Roberto Montanez, addressed the full board. He reminded the board of the 2026 First Regular PIA meeting February 19-21, 2026, in San Diego, California. Roberto encouraged USPA to share Technical Standard 138 information regarding parachute packers to drop zones. He reported that even though the proposal was not accepted by the FAA yet, the program can be adopted as continuing education for all packers currently working under the supervision of riggers. Roberto also confirmed the dates and location of the 2027 PIA Symposium to be

February 8-11, 2027, in Cincinnati, Ohio, which immediately follows the USPA winter board meeting February 5-7, 2027, at the same location.

C. Finance and Budget

The Committee was chaired by Jack Pyland. Present were the following members:

Randy Allison
Dave Grabowski
Bob Mehl
Scotty Woods
Amy Chmeleki (Advisor)
Lee Schlichtemeier (Advisor)

Staff Advisor
Albert Berchtold

1. Review 2025 / Financial Documents

Discussion: The committee received and reviewed the report named **USPA Draft Executive Growth Summary (2025 vs. 2024)**, which summarized key financial and operational growth indicators.

The report noted that:

- **Balance Sheet and Net Assets:** Net assets increased year over year, driven primarily by Dues and investment appreciation rather than operating surplus, reflecting overall balance sheet growth.
- **Investments:** Investment balances increased during the period, supported by market performance and transfers from operating cash into long-term investments.
- **Cash Position:** Operating cash declined during the year. While sufficient for current operations, the report identified cash levels as an item for continued monitoring.
- **Revenue Growth and Operating Results:** Total operating revenue increased compared to the prior year, with growth largely attributable to membership dues pricing changes rather than broad-based operational expansion. Operating expenses also increased, reflecting staffing and capacity investments.
- **Membership Dues:** Membership dues remained the primary revenue driver, with increased revenue resulting mainly from dues rate changes rather than membership volume growth.

2. 2025 Financial Ratios

The committee reviewed the U.S. GAAP financial ratio spreadsheets prepared for the **2026 Winter Board of Directors Meeting**. After examining the related workbooks, it was determined that no anomalies were identified. The review was conducted for oversight purposes.

3. EV Charging Station

The committee reviewed two reports documenting the beginning activity at the EV charging stations. Ongoing monitoring will continue to follow activity.

4. Investment Documents from Janney

The committee reviewed the quarterly investments report from Janney and discussed who wanted to be on the distribution list of the reports.

5. Review the non-operational investment Statements

A quick review of the investment managers report showed continued growth of around 7%. The committee determined that no change was necessary at this time.

6. 2026 Interim Budget Review and Approval

The Committee reviewed and found no need to adjust the accepted interim budget, which resulted in the following motion:

Motion 46: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent
Move to accept the (electronically) attached interim budget titled “USPA 2026 Budget Draft” as the 2026 USPA Operation Budget.

D. Governance

The Committee was chaired by Ray Lallo. Present were the following members:

- Randy Allison
- Brian Naiman
- Angie Aragon
- Mike Mullins

Joshua Hall (Advisor)

Staff Advisor:
Albert Berchtold

1. Director vacancy rewrite.

The committee discussed updating the language in the Governance Manual 1-1 Constitution and By-Laws, Article III-Board of Directors, Section 5 Vacancy. A motion resulted from the discussion. In the event of a director vacancy, the committee wanted to ensure that membership engagement was present and, when needed, also affords an option for the organization to continue to conduct business as usual without a process that impedes day-to-day operations.

Motion 47: FB: Yes-11 No-5 (by name David Grabowski, Chuck Akers) AB-2
Move to replace the current language in the Governance Manual 1-1 Constitution and By-Laws, Article III-Board of Directors, Section 5 Vacancy to read (Pending legal review):

A. If a Regional Director seat becomes vacant within 2 years after the seating of a new board, the runner-up from the previous election may fill the Regional Director vacancy provided they received at least 75% of the votes of the vacating Regional Director.

B. If a National Director seat becomes vacant within 2 years after the seating of a new board, the candidate who received the next highest vote total after the eight elected will have the opportunity to fill the vacancy, provided they received at least 75% of the votes of the candidate who received the eighth highest number of votes in the National Director Election. If the candidate with the ninth highest number of votes declines, the vacancy may be filled by number ten, and so on, provided they meet the above criteria. If the next highest candidates did not receive the required minimum vote, or if the vacancy occurs after 2 years, the seat will remain vacant until the end of the current term.

C. If the runner-up from the previous election did not receive at least 75% of the votes as described in A and B above, the vacancy will be filled for the remainder of the term by a majority vote of the current BOD. That election will take place at the meeting wherein the vacancy becomes a matter of official business.

D. In any event, if the vacancy is a Regional Director, the President will appoint from the current board, a temporary replacement within 15 days until the above process is completed.

2. Bylaw legal review and recommendations.

At the previous board of directors' meeting, the committee requested that staff have an expert review of our current By-Laws. The Executive Director contacted Nisha Thakker to conduct the review. The committee reviewed in depth the recommendations of Nisha and accepted the suggested revisions.

1-1



Constitution and ~~By-Laws~~

Article 1.

1. Constitution ~~Name and Purposes~~

1. The name of the corporation is United States Parachute Association, Inc., hereinafter referred to as USPA.
2. The purposes for which USPA is formed are as follows: To encourage unity among all persons interested in skydiving; to promote safety in all skydiving activities in the United States, to sanction skydiving competitions; to document officially all national and world skydiving records set by citizens of the U.S., to promote and encourage the study and knowledge of skydiving among the membership and the public at large; to cooperate with all government agencies connected with aeronautics or aeronautical activities; to compile information regarding the science of skydiving and to edit, publish, and disseminate the same; to select and train the United States Parachute Team for world competition.
3. The principal office of USPA is in Fredericksburg, Virginia, or as otherwise directed by the USPA Board of Directors (BOD); USPA may have such offices, either within or without the State of New York, as may be designated from time to time by resolution of USPA's Board of Directors (the "Board"), one of which may be designated as USPA's principal office.
4. USPA shall maintain a registered agent and an office of the registered agent in the State of New York.

By-Laws

Article ~~2.1~~ Membership

Section 1: Type

- A. Regular Membership
 1. Annual Membership
 2. Lifetime Membership
- B. Temporary Membership
- C. Honorary Membership
 1. Annual Honorary Membership may be conferred by the BOD Board for significant contributions to skydiving.
 2. Honorary Lifetime Membership may be conferred by the BOD Board upon distinguished individuals who have made outstanding contributions to skydiving and, in particular, to USPA.
 3. Honorary Lifetime Office may be conferred by the BOD Board upon individuals who have distinguished themselves as pioneers and leaders in the skydiving field and, through personal sacrifice, have dedicated themselves to USPA.
- D. Group Membership is available to skydiving centers, clubs, and schools.

Section 2: Requirements

Any individual or group interested in skydiving is eligible for membership, except that the USPA Executive Committee may declare any individual or group ineligible for membership ~~and the applicable USPA Regional Director may declare a group ineligible for membership~~ for causes consistent with ~~those set forth in Article I, Section 6. A. of these Bylaws~~ as grounds for censure, suspension, or expulsion ~~as set forth in these Bylaws~~. Such denial shall be subject to review by the BOD Board. Upon submission of a proper application for membership and upon request, any individual or group so denied eligibility for membership will be granted a hearing before the BOD Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Written notice of this meeting will be given to the individual or group at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. Following such hearing, a ma-

majority vote of the ~~BOD~~ Board present at that meeting will decide the matter. Application for membership shall be in such form as prescribed by the ~~BOD~~ Board.

Section 3: Voting Powers

Voting powers shall be vested solely in ~~R~~regular ~~M~~members. ~~Each Regular Member shall be entitled to one (1) vote.~~

Section 4: Delinquencies

Notification of failure to pay indebtedness, other than dues, to USPA, when due, shall be sent to the delinquent member within thirty (30) days following USPA notification of the delinquency. If the said indebtedness shall not have been paid within thirty (30) days after mailing of the notice, the membership of said individual or group shall be terminated.

Section 5: Reinstatement

Any individual or group whose membership has been terminated for indebtedness or nonpayment of dues may reapply for membership in the same manner as new members after payment of indebtedness.

Section 6: Disciplinary Action

- A. Any member may be censured, suspended or expelled by the USPA Executive Committee, with such action subject to review by the ~~BOD~~ Board, for causes including but not limited to transgression of basic ethical principles of USPA as detailed in ~~the~~ these Bylaws/Constitution, By-Laws; and policies of USPA. If requested, the member shall be granted a hearing before the ~~BOD~~ Board at its next scheduled meeting. Notice in writing shall be given the individual at least thirty (30) days in advance. A majority vote of the ~~BOD~~ Board where quorum is present shall decide any action on the matter.
- B. Under a reciprocal agreement with the Canadian Sport Parachuting Association (CSPA), USPA respects and honors disciplinary actions of the Board of Directors of the CSPA and accepts the due process procedures of the CSPA as satisfying those guaranteed in subparagraph A above.
- C. Under a reciprocal agreement with the Brazilian parachute association, Confederação Brasileira de Paraquedismo (CBPq), USPA respects and honors disciplinary actions of the Board of Directors of the CBPq and accepts the due process procedures of the CBPq as satisfying those guaranteed in subparagraph A above.

Section 7: Dues And Assessments

Each member shall pay dues as prescribed by the ~~BOD~~ Board.

Section 8: Meetings of the Members

- A. General Membership Meetings (GMM) may be called by the ~~BOD~~ Board, the USPA Executive Committee, or the USPA President. A minimum of one such meeting shall be held each calendar year.
- B. A quorum of the general membership shall be 10% of the total membership. The total membership count used for this quorum shall be the number of eligible voters as of a date that occurs at least 10 days prior to but not more than 50 days prior to the published GMM. Regular members are entitled to vote either in person or by proxy at the meeting. Except as otherwise provided by law or by the Certificate of Incorporation or these Bylaws, the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the members.
- C. Notice of an annual meeting shall be provided to all voting members at least thirty (30) days' prior to a GMM. Notice may be provided in writing, orally or by any other method permissible by law.
- D. A special meeting of the members may be called by the President, the Executive Committee, or twenty-five (25%) of the members holding voting rights. Special meetings of the members, if any, shall be preceded by at least one (1) day's notice to all voting members of the date, time, location, and purpose(s) of the meeting. Notice may be provided in writing, orally or by any other method permissible by law. Only business within the purposes outlined in the notice may be conducted at a special meeting of the members.
- E. The Board may elect to hold any meeting of the membership to take place by means of conference telephone or by other means by which all participants are able to simultaneously hear each other during the meeting, vote on matters submitted, pose questions, and make comments; such participation shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

A:

Section 8: Renewal

Individuals or groups may apply annually for membership renewal in a manner prescribed by the BOD or USPA Executive Director.

Article II—Association Meetings

Section 1: Membership Meetings

General Membership Meetings (GMM) may be called by the BOD, the USPA Executive Committee, or the USPA President. A minimum of one such meeting shall be held each calendar year. A quorum of the general membership shall be 10% of the total membership. The total membership count used for this quorum shall be the number of eligible voters as of a date that occurs at least 10 days prior to but not more than 50 days prior

to the published GMM. Regular members are entitled to vote either in person or by proxy at the meeting.

Section

2: Board Of Directors Meetings

A minimum of two regular meetings of the USPA Board of Directors shall be held each year. The BOD shall approve the date, time and location of regular meetings of the BOD. Special meetings of the BOD may be called by the BOD, the USPA executive committee, or the USPA President. Any one or more members of the BOD who is not physically present at a special meeting of the BOD, or all BOD members participating in a special meeting, may participate by means of a conference telephone or similar communications equipment or by electronic video screen communication. Board members shall be physically present at regular meetings of the BOD in order to participate, unless participation by conference telephone or similar communications equipment or by electronic video screen communication is permitted by the BOD. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a special meeting, or, if approved by the BOD, at a regular meeting, as long as all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and each director can participate in all matters before the BOD, including, without limitation, the ability to propose, object to, and vote upon a specific action to be taken by the BOD.

Section

3: Notice

Individual notice shall be sent to each USPA Director not less than 30 days prior to any regular BOD meeting. Special meetings of the BOD may be held with a reasonable number of days' notice. Notice in an official publication shall appear at least thirty (30) days prior to any GMM.

Section

4: Agenda

In the case of any regular BOD meeting, the USPA Secretary shall furnish each USPA Director with a proposed agenda at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Section

5: Rules Of Order

Roberts Rules of Order shall govern USPA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the By-Laws.

Article III—Board of Directors

Section

1: General

USPA shall be governed by its Board of Directors consisting of at least eight (8) USPA National Directors and up to twenty-two (22) members including the National Directors, Regional Directors, and officers. The Executive Director of USPA shall serve as a non-voting, *ex officio* member of the Board. Additionally, USPA Regional Directors shall be elected from each region. All USPA Regional Directors shall reside in the region from which they were elected throughout their term. Both USPA National and Regional Directors shall carry equal vote and authority. Members of the Board shall be Regular Members in good standing both at the time of election and for the duration of their term on the Board.

Section 2:

Term

All USPA Directors shall be elected for three-year terms and may be re-elected. They shall hold office until the election and seating of their successors.

Section 3:

Resignation

The resignation of any USPA Director shall be tendered to the Board.

Section 4: Removal From The Board Of Directors

- ☆ Members of the Board may be removed, with or without cause, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members entitled to vote at a meeting, where quorum is present or pursuant to Section 706 of the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law. A National Director may be removed from the BOD, by either:
- ±A. a majority vote of the general membership;
- or

Se

±:

~~a majority vote of the BOD, in consequence to any conduct consistent with those set forth in Article I, Section 6A or 6B or that constitutes a breach of his or her fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, or obedience as a National Director, which includes, but is not limited to:~~

- ~~a. fraudulent or dishonest acts~~
- ~~b. gross abuse of authority~~
- ~~c. violation of policies of the Organization adopted by the BOD~~
- ~~d. breach of confidentiality~~
- ~~e. failure to act in good faith when participating in deliberations of the BOD~~
- ~~f. actions resulting in demonstrable, material harm to the Organization through bad faith or active and deliberate misconduct or negligence~~
- ~~g. any other act or conduct similar to the above~~

~~3. Fifteen days prior to any special meeting of the BOD called for a vote of removal, each member of the BOD shall receive written notice specifying the charges against the National Director against whom such are directed, and a copy of such charges shall be served upon the National Director so charged, at least 15 days before such special meeting. Upon a National Director's removal, the vacant national directorship shall be filled in accordance with Article II Section 5.~~

~~B. A Regional Director may be removed from the BOD, by either~~

- ~~1. a majority vote of the regional membership that elected such Regional Director, or~~
- ~~2. a majority vote of the BOD, in consequence to any conduct consistent with those set forth in Article I, Section 6A or that constitutes a material breach of his or her fiduciary duties of care, loyalty, and obedience as a Regional Director, as described in Section A above.~~
- ~~3. Fifteen days prior to any special meeting of the BOD called for a vote of removal, each member of the BOD shall receive written notice specifying the charges against the Regional Director against whom such are directed, and a copy of such charges shall be served upon the Regional Director so charged, at least 15 days before such special meeting by providing notice as to such Regional Director as required by these bylaws. Upon a Regional Director's removal, the vacant regional directorship shall be filled in accordance with Article II Section 5.~~

~~B. The BOD Board may temporarily suspend any the authority of a Director against whom charges have been brought by taking a majority vote.~~

Section 5: Vacancy

A. If a Regional Director seat becomes vacant, the President will appoint from the current Board, a temporary re-placement Regional Director within 30 days. A permanent Regional Director will be selected by Special Election, or at the next scheduled election if the start of the next scheduled election cycle is within 120 days of the vacancy. The start of the next scheduled election cycle is defined as the date that is the deadline for submitting candidate's election materials to headquarters.

19%

- E. If a National Director seat becomes vacant, the position will be filled by a Special Election, unless there is a scheduled election cycle within 120 days of the vacancy.
- C. International members will not be allowed to vote in a Regional Director Special Election

Section 6: Quorum Meetings of the Board

- A. A minimum of two regular meetings of the Board shall be held each year. The Board shall approve the date, time and location of regular meetings of the Board. Special meetings may be called by the Board, the Executive Committee, or the President.
- B. Board members shall be physically present at regular meetings of the BOD in order to participate, unless participation by conference telephone or similar communications equipment or by electronic video screen communication is permitted by the Board. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at a special meeting or, if approved by the Board, at a regular meeting, as long as all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other at the same time and each director can participate in all matters before the Board, including, without limitation, the ability to propose, object to, and vote upon a specific action to be taken by the BOD.
- C. Individual notice shall be sent to each ~~USPA Director~~Board member not less than 30 days prior to any regular ~~BOD~~Board meeting. Special meetings of the ~~BOD~~Board may be held with a reasonable number of days' notice. ~~Notice in an official publication shall appear at least thirty (30) days prior to any GMM.~~
- D. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the ~~BOD~~directors then in office, ~~not counting absent directors who are members of the Armed Forces, but in no case shall the quorum be less than one third of the total number of duly qualified USPA Directors.~~ Directors who are present at a meeting but not present at the time of a vote due to a conflict of interest or related party transaction shall be determined to be present at the time of the vote for purposes of this Section.
- E. Except as otherwise required by law, the Certificate of Incorporation, ~~incorporation, these Bylaws, laws or other provisions of the Governance Manual, the vote of a majority of the directors present at any meeting where quorum is present at the time of the vote shall be the act of the BOD~~Board, ~~if a quorum is present at such time. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the BOD~~Board may be taken without a meeting if all members of the ~~BOD~~Board consent to the adoption of a resolution authorizing the action. Such consent may be written or electronic. If written, the consent must be executed by the director by signing such consent or causing his or her signature to be affixed to such consent by any reasonable means including, but not limited to, facsimile signature. If electronic, the transmission of the consent must be sent by electronic mail that sets forth, or is submitted with, information from which it can reasonably be determined that the transmission was authorized by the director. The electronic mail should state that the director intends transmission of the e-mail to be the director's signature, but failure to say so shall not invalidate a director's vote if transmission of the e-mail was intended as the director's signature. The resolution and the written consents thereto by the members of the ~~BOD~~Board shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the ~~BOD~~Board.
- F. Roberts Rules of Order shall govern USPA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not

inconsistent with the Bylaws.

Sec

tion 7: Action By Board

~~Except as otherwise required by law, the certificate of incorporation, these by laws or other provisions of the Governance Manual, the vote of a majority of the directors present at the time of the vote shall be the act of the BOD, if a quorum is present at such time. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the BOD may be taken without a meeting if all members of the BOD consent to the adoption of a resolution authorizing the action. Such consent may be written or electronic. If written, the consent must be executed by the director by signing such consent or causing his or her signature to be affixed to such consent by any reasonable means including, but not limited to, facsimile signature. If electronic, the transmission of the consent must be sent by electronic mail that sets forth, or is submitted with, information from which it can reasonably be determined that the transmission was authorized by the director. The electronic mail should state that the director intends transmission of the e-mail to be the director's signature, but failure to say so shall not invalidate a director's vote if transmission of the e-mail was intended as the director's signature. The resolution and the written consents thereto by the members of the BOD shall be filed with the minutes of the proceedings of the BOD.~~

Article IV—Officers

Sec

tion 1: General

The Officers of USPA shall consist of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers shall be members of the

~~BOD~~Board. The ~~BOD~~Board may elect additional officers as it deems necessary, and may hire an executive director. The USPA Executive Director may, in turn, hire an administrative staff.

Sec

tion 2: Voting

~~If a vote for any USPA Officers position is tied after two votes, then a coin toss by the President or the presiding officer, will determine the winner of that Office.~~

Sec

tion 3: Terms

The officers shall hold office for a term of three years and shall be elected by the USPA Directors at the first ~~BOD~~Board meeting following election. They shall hold office until the election and seating of their successors.

Sec

tion 4: Resignation

The resignation of any officer shall be tendered to the ~~BOD~~Board and may be voted on by the BOD at any regular or special meeting.

Sec

tion 5: Vacancy

If any vacancy shall occur in any office, the BOD shall elect a member to fill the unexpired term.

Section 6: Chairman of The Board

The ~~BOD~~Board may elect a chairman of the ~~B~~board. The person designated shall be selected for his or her experience and wisdom and shall give guidance and counsel to the ~~BOD~~Board.

Section 7: President

The USPA President shall preside at all meetings of USPA and the ~~BOD~~Board; he or she shall enforce the ~~By-Laws~~ of USPA and perform all executive and other duties ordinarily pertaining to the office of president. The USPA President shall serve as an *ex-officio, non-voting* member of all committees unless otherwise specified.

Section 8: Vice President

In the absence of the USPA President, the USPA Vice President shall assume presidential responsibilities. In the event the USPA Vice President is not available, a temporary presiding officer shall be selected from the ~~BOD~~Board.

Section 9: Secretary

The USPA Secretary shall give notice of all meetings of USPA and of the proceedings at all meetings; shall have custody of the seal of USPA, and shall affix same to papers and documents as required; shall keep a register of the name and address of each member; shall notify members accepted into USPA; shall conduct such correspondence as is not conducted by the USPA President; and shall conduct such other duties as directed by the ~~BOD~~Board.

Section 10: Treasurer

The USPA Treasurer shall oversee the duties of the USPA Executive Director regarding his or her responsibilities to receive all monies payable to USPA and shall deposit same in a bank designated by the ~~BOD~~Board; shall have charge of all funds and securities of USPA; shall disburse funds as approved by the ~~BOD~~Board; and shall keep accounts of the financial affairs of USPA. An annual financial report shall be printed and be available to all USPA members.

Section 11: Delegation of Duties

The USPA Secretary and Treasurer may delegate their respective duties, but not their respective responsibilities, to a member of the USPA administrative staff.

Article V—Election of the Board of Directors

Section 1: Election Schedule

~~Triennial election of the BOD~~Elections ~~will~~ ~~will~~ be held every three years in accordance with the guidelines and dates located in the Election Section.

Section 2: Candidate Qualification

USPA HQ will review all submissions to make sure each candidate meets all qualifications, responsibilities and

deadlines in the Election Section. Those candidates meeting all requirements will be placed on the ballot. All candidates must be Regular Members in good standing at the time of nomination and for the duration of their term, if elected.

Section 3: Election of National Directors

Candidates for USPA National Director who have met all the requirements listed in the Election Section will be placed on the ballot. No limitation is placed on the number of candidates for national director. All members may vote for any number up to eight of the proposed candidates for USPA National Director. The eight candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be certified as USPA National Directors for the ensuing three years.

Section 4: Election of Regional Directors

Candidates for USPA Regional Director who have met all requirements listed in the Election Section will be placed on the ballot. No limitation is placed on the number of candidates in any one region. However, members may vote for only one USPA Regional Director candidate. Members, other than those currently living or serving overseas, may not vote for a USPA Regional Director candidate outside the voting member's region. The candidate in each region receiving the largest number of votes shall be certified as USPA Regional Director for the ensuing three years.

Section 5: Definition of Regional Areas

Regional areas for election purposes are defined as the fifty states of the Union subdivided as delineated, approved, published, dated by the BOD and published in the USPA Governance Manual.

Section 6: Eligibility to Vote

All current regular members at the time of the election are eligible to vote.

Section 7: Validation Of Ballots

Ballots will list all USPA National Director candidates and USPA Regional Director candidates for each region. Ballots marked with more than eight USPA National Director candidates will be declared invalid and not counted in the USPA National Director balloting. Ballots marked with more than one USPA Regional Director candidate will be declared invalid and not counted in that regional election. Paper ballots that do not contain the voting member's original signature will be declared invalid.

Section 8: Voting Deadline

All ballots must be received by the date and time specified on the ballot. Ballots received after said date will not be counted.

Article VI—Seal

The seal shall consist of a circular die with two concentric circles, between which shall be the corporate name of USPA. The State in which incorporation occurred and the year of incorporation shall appear in the center of the die.

Article VII—Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of USPA shall begin on 1 January and end on 31 December of the calendar year, unless otherwise determined by the Board.

Article VIII—Committees

Section 1: UsPa Executive Committee

The BOD-Board shall elect an executive committee composed of six members of the USPA Board of Directors. The USPA Executive Committee will consist of the USPA President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, one other BOD member, and the Chairman of the Board, all of whom have the right to vote on the USPA Executive Committee. The Executive Director shall be a non-voting, ex officio member of the Executive Committee. The USPA Executive Committee shall be authorized to act in place of the BOD between meetings of the BOD-Board, except on matters that under state law require action by the full BOD-Board, and shall be authorized to act on such matters as may be assigned to it by the BOD-Board. USPA Executive Committee actions are effective when taken (or the date properly specified by the Executive Committee) but shall require subsequent ratification by the Board.

Section 2: Standing Committees

The BOD shall establish the following standing committees:

Elected Committees:

- Executive
- Regional Directors

Appointed Committees:

- Competition
- Finance & Budget
- Governance
- Group Membership
- Membership Services
- Safety & Training

Article IX—Amendments

~~A. Proposals to amend the Constitution and By-Laws shall be submitted in writing to the BOD.~~

- ~~1. The proposed amendment must be included in the call of the meeting at which it is to be considered.~~
- ~~2. The proposal shall then be acted upon by the BOD at a full USPA Board of Directors meeting.~~

~~B.A. A two-thirds majority of the BOD-Board present may approve any amendment to these By-Laws except sections referring to size, composition, and election of the USPA Board of Directors-Board.~~

Article X—Indemnification and Limitation Of Liability

In almost all cases, members of the USPA Board of Directors are released of any legal or financial liability stemming from their actions as board members. The full policy on indemnification and limitation of liability appears as Appendix A.

A motion resulted from discussion and review.

Motion 48: FB: Yes-15 No-1 (by name Chuck Akers) AB-2 (by name Jack Pyland)
Move to accept the By-Laws revisions as provided by our attorney in the supplied document.

3. Board Make-up

Executive Director Albert Berchtold presented the following informational document discussing Board “Make-up” development. The committee reviewed the document and will form a Subcommittee/ to research and further develop this initiative. The initial members include Ray Lallo, Sherry Butcher, Josh Hall, Melissa Nelson, and Brian Naiman.

DRAFT

2.10.2026

To: Board of Directors

From: Albert Berchtold, Executive Director

RE: Board make-up development

In discussions with our attorney and other nonprofit association leaders, there are several areas the board may wish to consider improving our board and governance structure. Below are five items which are seen as concerning and not in line with best practices for nonprofit governance.

1 No Term Limits for board members – Term limits for board members are considered a best practice for nonprofits. Term limits aid in ensuring fresh perspectives, preventing burnout, allowing for skill upgrading, and effective succession planning. It allows for increased engagement and provides a structure for graceful exit for board members.

2. Board Size is too large – Our current board of 22 is considered too large and hinders efficient governance. It leads to difficult scheduling, slow decision making, and risks important decisions being shifted to an executive committee which risks leaving members feeling underutilized and unengaged. Ineffective Governance, logistic challenges, and administrative burden are common problems. Most experts recommend between 9-15. for agility and effective governance.

3 Lack of staggered terms – Staggered terms are considered a best practice to ensure institutional continuity on a board. It ensures that the organization retains experienced and knowledgeable directors who understand history and ongoing projects. This ensures stability and consistency and allows new directors to be mentored by incumbent members. It also reduces the risk of hostile takeover and supports long term focus of a board. In USPA’s situation, we have been fortunate to see 10-30% turnover on our board during our elections. But this has occurred organically, NOT because our governance ensures it occurs. We maintain our consistency and continuity by chance, not by design.

4. Lack of Nominations and Elections vetting process – USPA used to have an N&E Committee. It was absorbed into the Governance Committee. The role of this committee in the election process is primarily administrative. the committee was disbanded partially to remove the appearance of the “good ol boys” network. Best practice suggests that a N&E committee is responsible for identifying skill gaps on the board (finance, tech, legal) and proactively recruiting individuals who fill the organization's needs. They objectively evaluate candidates to ensure potential candidates align with the organization's values and have the time to commit. It was

suggested that an N&E committee should NOT be made up of current board members, but rather a group of community folks who could be charged with identifying skill gaps, vetting applicants and evaluating them against a skill matrix. (think people like DanBC, Ed Scott, Amy Spowart, Randy Allison) People with skydiving experience, as well as nonprofit management understanding and knowledge.

5. Election Policy hardcoded into bylaws – In review by our attorney, she highly suggested keeping the high-level board makeup in our bylaws but suggested that the nuts and bolts of our election process did not belong there. The election process belongs in organizational policy documents.

Individually these are all challenges, but trying to solve them all at once may seem insurmountable. Especially when considering that some of these changes would require a full membership to enact as they have to do with board composition, and election process. There are certainly multiple ways to approach addressing the above-mentioned items. Below is one possible path for discussion to begin the conversation. If the board feels these items are worth addressing -

1. Summer 2026 – Board to decide if these are challenges, they wish to address in earnest. Draft position paper to identify challenges and end goal solution. A **Hybrid Board - Skill and Constituent based board**. This adjustment would be driven with a goal of creating a better board structure based in governance best practices, while respecting our historical desire for constituent representation. The end structure would be board which consists of 7 regional directors and 8 skill-based directors.

Need to confirm new desired final count for board members. Is it possible to maintain partial constituent model and reduce to less than 15 members? Will constituent board members also be vetted by N&E for skill set? Or would they remain popular vote?

2. Fall 2026 – Create Proxy Vote to the full membership to be included with 2027 election. The proxy vote would remove the operational level details currently included in the organizations bylaws and place them into an organizational policy (as suggested counsel #5). The high level board construct would remain in the bylaws as recommended by counsel. The explanation would include the position paper and intended path forward for the organizations board structure and election process to be executed once the election policy was within purview of the board to amend (this would discuss resolution of items #1-#4 above).

3. Summer 2027 – Board election is conducted with current process, along with proxy vote.

4. Winter 2028 – GMM Meeting Motions to include proxies are voted and new process is put into place for the following election in 2030. This would provide three years for the creation of an N&E committee made up of non-board members, recruitment, skill evaluation, and presentation of new skillbased board nominees for voting by the membership in 2030.

E. Group Membership

The Committee was chaired by Brian Naiman. The following members were present:

Mike Mullins
Paul Gholson
Angie Aragon
Chuck Crinklaw
Staff Advisors
Michael Knight
Ron Bell

1. Discuss USPA/CSPA Membership Reciprocity

Recent examples show U.S. jumpers being required to purchase CSPA membership in Canada despite existing reciprocity, while Canadian jumpers are sometimes told to join USPA when visiting U.S. drop zones. In most cases, this appears to stem from misunderstandings by drop zones or manifest staff—often related to insurance coverage knowledge—rather than policy. CSPA has taken steps to mirror USPA third-party liability coverage for members jumping in the U.S., including aircraft damage riders, but acceptance remains inconsistent.

Drop zones retain the right to set their own requirements, making ongoing education and communication the primary available mitigation. Executive Director Albert Berchtold is already working with the ISC on a “Skydive Atlas” to clarify international credentials and insurance coverage.

The item will be reviewed, and communication from staff to members and group members will be sent once the skydive atlas is complete.

2. Discuss expanding the requirements for new and/or renewing Group Memberships.

No discussion.

3. Discuss opportunities for collaboration with the PIA DZO Committee.

PIA has formed an ad hoc DZO-focused committee, chaired by Abbie Mashall, to explore ways PIA might support drop zone owners in areas not currently addressed by USPA. The discussion focused on awareness of this effort, potential overlap with USPA group member programs, and the possibility of future liaison or coordination while avoiding duplication of roles.

USPA Group Membership Committee Chairman Brian Naiman plans to attend the PIA committee meeting.

4. Brainstorm and discuss potential avenues for USPA to better support Group Members.

Other items were discussed on the agenda which covered this topic.

5. Discuss options for supporting more effective communication with GM DZ’s and key DZ staff by USPA staff and Regional Directors.

Issues have been identified with outdated, generic, or bouncing email addresses in group member records, resulting in ineffective communication with DZOs and managers. Discussion included improving data hygiene, validating contact information during renewals, cleaning up inactive emails, and exploring opt-in distribution lists for DZOs and S&TAs while respecting preferences for manifest-based or shared inboxes.

6. Discuss options for improving the Drop Zone Operator’s Conference.

Attendance remains limited to roughly 25% of group members, prompting discussion on perceived value, cost, travel burden, scheduling, content freshness, and networking benefits. While in-person interaction is highly valued, ideas included evaluating content relevance, promoting new and compelling topics, leveraging existing safety tools, and recognizing that full participation is unlikely despite improvements.

7. Discuss improving awareness of underutilized group member benefits.

Several existing benefits are not widely known, including PR support for DZ events, media assistance following fatalities, and access to the DZ Safety Inspection Checklist. The proposal was to clearly document these benefits in the Group Member Manual to better communicate value and ensure drop zones know how to access available support. The following will be added to Group Membership Manual Section 1-3.A.

- Access the Dittoe PR support via George Hargis in the Communications department.
- Access to James La Barrie for help managing the media in the event of a crisis.
- Access to the DZ Safety Checklist, which was developed by the Safety and Training Department.

and will remove Section 1-3. A. 3 “Eligibility to sell USPA Introductory Individual Memberships, to cover skydivers with low-cost third-party liability insurance. (U.S. Group Members only).”

8. Discuss an update on ADS-B privacy legislation and current advocacy efforts.

The Pilot and Aircraft Privacy Act has been introduced in both the U.S. House and Senate through advocacy led by the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, with support from congressional sponsors. The bill is currently in committee and is unlikely to pass as a standalone measure, instead potentially being attached to larger legislation. Opposition is expected from companies generating revenue through ADS-B data use, while support has notably come from National Transportation Safety Board Chair Jennifer Homendy, who has stated that monetizing ADS-B data was never its intended purpose and may negatively impact safety. Parallel momentum is occurring at the state level, particularly in Arizona, where similar legislation has already advanced through two committees, suggesting state-level efforts may have a higher likelihood of near-term progress.

Staff will continue to communicate with members and group members when appropriate to voice support for legislation blocking ADS-B monetization legislation.

F. Membership Services

The Committee was chaired by Melissa Nelson. Present were the following members:

Luke Aikins
Josh Hall
Amy Chmelecki
Jeannie Bartholomew
Dave Grabowski

Staff Advisors:
Stephanie Seidel
Jen Sharp
George Hargis

Also in attendance: Sherry Butcher, Luke Jones (staff), Patrick Anderson (staff)

1. Update on Protection and Sharing of Digital Member Information (DMI, aka API)

Dr. Sharp reported that Merit was acquired by new owners and renamed Aspire. Staff has since been coordinating with Aspire to support the transition. Aspire plans to move from an API connection to an automated SFTP transfer, with the specific criteria and schedule to be determined.

The committee then briefly reviewed the total number of API calls recorded in 2025, then the committee approved three requests for APIs, after assurance that their setups complied with our sharing policies:

- Kaden Reese of EZDZ Manifest, who requested the simple Membership Data API
- Phillip van Coller of Jumpmaster, who requested the single send, opt-in API that members can explicitly share with his system
- Noah Clarke, who will work with Dr. Sharp on an upcoming group member feature that will extend the Membership Data API to include the drop zone's student data, such as progress on the A license card, category quizzes, and SkydiveSchool lessons. Regarding the latter, the committee approved the read-only new API feature on a limited basis, withholding final approval until after more updates on the project at the next meeting.

2. Update on New USPA Website Features

USPA staff members George Hargis and Luke Jones provided an update on the ongoing uspa.org redesign, outlining major goals and timeline. The project focuses on improving user experience

for the site’s wide audience, from first-time visitors researching skydiving to examiners and S&TAs who use the site regularly.

The Technology Department is working on usability improvements, including a more mobile-friendly header, updated menus, simplified user profile pages, improved login recovery (including phone number recovery), and an “always-on” chat supported by a closed AI system that can route requests to staff. Concurrently, the Communications Department is streamlining navigation based on analytics and redesigning the home page to highlight frequently-sought content and improve outreach to prospective skydivers, media, and the general public.

Staff reported the reorganized home page is scheduled to launch by April 1 and is currently ahead of schedule. Following the update, Jones and Hargis discussed ways the Board, particularly the Membership Services Committee, can assist in promoting event and course coverage through uspa.org and *Parachutist*, a major initiative for 2026. Communications staff aims to expand awareness of this service among group member drop zones, course instructors, event organizers, and the membership overall.

3. Archiving Board Meeting Videos

Pursuant to the committee’s assignment at the prior Board meeting, research was conducted regarding the potential advantages and challenges associated with recording and distributing Board meetings to the membership.

The review included nonprofit governance best practices, legal considerations related to recording and consent laws, confidentiality obligations of board members, risk management implications, and administrative impact. Resources examined addressed fiduciary duties, treatment of recordings versus official minutes, discovery and litigation considerations, and differences between public-body open meeting requirements and private nonprofit governance structures.

Findings indicate that while recordings may enhance accessibility, they also introduce legal, operational, and confidentiality considerations that would require careful policy development and legal review prior to implementation. Nonprofit governance guidance consistently emphasizes that approved written minutes remain the official and legally recognized record of board action.

The committee also noted that USPA has provided virtual attendance options for Board meetings since 2020, offering members an opportunity to observe proceedings in real time.

No motion was presented at this time.

4. Non-USPA Awards

The Chair, Ms. Nelson, recognized the recent non-USPA award recipients that came from the committee’s virtual interim meeting:

- FAI Gold Medal (William “Bill” Morrissey)
- FAI Leonardo da Vinci Diploma (Kirk Verner)

The committee noted these honors with appreciation for the continued visibility and impact of USPA members on the international stage.

The committee also discussed potential nominations for several upcoming non-USPA awards, including the FAI Paul Tissandier Award, FAI Group Diploma, FAI Sabiha Gökçen Medal, the Frank G. Brewer Trophy, and the NAA McDonald Distinguished Statesman and Stateswoman of Aviation Award.

The committee will bring forward nominations to the appropriate governing entities as applicable. Updates will be provided, respectively.

5. Service Awards

The committee held a 90-minute, closed, pre-meeting to vet and discuss the USPA Service Award nominees as well as discuss non-USPA awards. As a result, the in-person award deliberations were more efficient and productive.

The following award nominees were approved by the MSC and per SIM 3-3 are presented to the full board for endorsement.

a. USPA Lifetime Achievement Award

Motion 49: FB: Pass Unanimously

Move to award Randall Ottinger D-6041, the Lifetime Achievement Award.

b. USPA Gold Meritorious Award

Motion 50: FB: Pass Unanimously

Move to award William “Bill” Morrissey D-156, the Gold Meritorious Service Award.

c. USPA Regional Achievement Award

Motion 51: FB: Pass Unanimously

Move to award Yan Xia D-38020, (International Region) the Regional Achievement Award.

Motion 52: FB: Pass Unanimously

Move to award Rick DeShano D-18067, (Mideastern Region) the Regional Achievement Award.

Motion 53: FB: Pass Unanimously

Move to award Claude Wilson D-3083, (Central Region) the Regional Achievement Award.

Motion 54: FB: Pass Unanimously

Move to award Mark Farrell D- 6549, (Central Region) the Regional Achievement Award.

Motion 55: FB: Pass Unanimously

Move to award Shwetaben Parmar C-51806, (International Region) the Regional Achievement Award.

G. Regional Directors

The Committee was chaired by Paul Gholson. Present were the following directors:

Ray Lallo
Luke Aikins
Randy Allison
Paul Gholson
Joshua Hall
Charles Crinklaw
Jack Pyland
Jim Rees
Michael Wadkins
Bob Mehl
Dave Grabowski

Staff Advisor
Albert Bechtold

1. Regional Director Email List

Dr. Jen Sharp introduced a new feature enabling the Regional Director or an S&TA to send emails to all S&TAs in the region.

2. Assisting RDs on social media

Public Relations and Social Media Director George Hargis introduced a plan from HQ to develop and assist the Regional Directors in better communication with members on social media. This would include the development of a Regional Director social media page and associated support.

3. DZ Safety Checklist

From Group Membership, a plan to distribute a “DZ Safety Checklist” supplied by HQ to group member DZs was made available to the Regional Directors. It was recommended this checklist be offered as a tool to the DZ to improve the safety culture and ensure a DZ is covering all the bases in terms of safety.

H. Safety and Training

The Committee was chaired by Michael Wadkins Present were the following members:

Ray Lallo
Charles Crinklaw
Luke Aikins
Paul Gholson

Angie Aragon
Scotty Wood

Matt Yount (Advisor)
Mike Mullins (Advisor)
Brian Naiman (Advisor)
Jack Pyland (Advisor)
Bob Mehl (Advisor)

Staff Advisor
Ron Bell

1. Discuss amending the tandem BSR about 90-degree turns.

Discussion: This item was brought forward from the Tandem Examiner standardization meetings. The level of flight by 100 ft concept was presented to the committee for consideration, and there seems to be support for 200 feet rather than 100 feet. Also, the time per second was considered a possible tool to ensure compliance. After a detailed discussion, the committee felt that this criterion was not needed at this time.

Motion: Move to change SIM Section 2-1.G.C.8 to read “Any person making a tandem skydive may not perform a turn of more than 90 degrees below 500 feet AGL, and must be stabilized onto final by no lower than 100 feet AGL.”

2. Discuss a proposal to update existing language in TI Renewal verification.

Existing: “Within the previous six months, have completed a full review of all tandem emergency procedures, including a demonstration of responding properly to each malfunction with the use of a training harness.”

Discussion: The discussion centers on adding or revising recurrency language to require tandem instructors to review all emergency procedures, demonstrate proper malfunction responses with simulated handle pulls, student harnessing, verify gear checks, and hook-up procedures per manufacturer guidance. After discussing the new criteria, there is concern that requiring the use of a training harness may not reflect actual field practice, as many drop zones conduct reviews verbally or through simulation without hanging instructors in a harness. Suggested revisions include adding more flexible language, such as “preferably” or “with simulated handle pulls.” Additional concerns were raised about the importance of communicating any new expectations to the field through a webinar before the upcoming implementation.

Motion 56: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to update the tandem six-month emergency procedure review to include student harnessing, gear checks, hook-up procedures and standard operating procedures as specified by the manufacturer of the equipment being used.

3. Discuss if one FJC could be used to renew all instructional ratings.

The concept of instructors having to repeat an entire 4-6-hour FJC just to complete the 30-minute method-specific portion needed for additional rating renewals needed to be clarified for rating holders. If they're already completing the required 15 method-specific jumps, they're actively demonstrating proficiency with that method in real training scenarios. Requiring multiple full FJCs to renew multiple ratings seems unnecessary when the renewal standard is already being met through method-specific jump requirements.

Discussion: The discussion reflects that examiners and instructors already conduct category-based, method-specific training and evaluation during student progression jumps, and that current practices already meet the intent without a separately structured method-specific FJC requirement. The proposal would clarify language to align with how training is conducted in the field and simplify administrative verification. The change is viewed as a cleanup that better reflects existing operations rather than creating a new requirement.

Motion 57: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to allow the conducting of any method of an FJC to meet the renewal requirements for all current instructional ratings that a member holds.

4. Discuss inconsistency between two passages within SIM 2.1.G.6.b. specifically, who may participate in group freefall jumps involving students on solo equipment, ensuring the requirements are internally consistent, unambiguous, and not practical to apply in the field.

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Motion 51: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to change SIM 2-1.G.6.b. to read “The maximum number of participants in any skydive that includes a student on solo equipment is four. Students must not form the majority of the group, must be cleared for self-supervision and have successfully demonstrated the skills of ISP Category G. All other participants must be a current USPA instructional rating holder.”

Should we have also changed:

Part a. Student freefall training for group freefall jumps must be conducted by either a USPA Coach or a D-license holder approved to make coach jumps by their S&TA, under the supervision of a USPA Instructor, and;

How can all other participants be a USPA instructional rating holder if S&TAs can approve D-license holders to work with students?

Discussion: The discussion centers on revising existing BSR wording that currently contains overlapping or unclear phrasing, which may lead to multiple interpretations depending on how it is read. The proposal would simplify and clarify the language—specifically regarding supervision and D-license-related requirements—to ensure consistency in application and enforcement. While the change is viewed as a necessary cleanup to remove confusion, there is acknowledgment that the field may initially push back due to long-standing interpretations of the current wording.

Motion 58: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to change SIM 2-1. G.6.a to read “Student freefall training for group freefall jumps must be conducted by a USPA instructional rating holder under the supervision of a USPA Instructor, and;”

5. Discuss adding similar terminology to the BSR as the FAA does in the FAR 91.3 as follows: SIM chapter 2-1.A.4

Discussion: The committee reviewed proposed language addressing deviations from BSRs that occur due to in-flight canopy emergencies. After discussion, the committee determined that adding a new mandatory reporting requirement to the BSRs was unnecessary and could create enforcement complications. Instead, the committee approved adding advisory language to the general section of the IRM, encouraging reporting of such incidents in accordance with the SIM’s incident reporting guidance. The intent is to reinforce a safety culture and transparency while avoiding creating an additional regulatory requirement.

Motion 59: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to add to the IRM general section “In an emergency requiring immediate action, a jumper may deviate from applicable BSR to the extent necessary to address that emergency. Such incidents should follow the reporting procedures in the SIM incident reporting recommendations.”

6. Angle flying recommendation proposal. (Nicolas Lesser and Melissa Nelson)

Discussion: The committee noted that the presenter for the Angle Flying recommendation proposal was not present. Despite the absence of the presenter, the committee agreed that the topic itself has merit and warrants further review.

The committee decided to form a small working group to evaluate the proposal in more detail. The purpose of the group will be to assess whether additional clarification, guidance, or educational material related to angle flying could be appropriately incorporated into existing USPA publications.

No formal action was taken beyond establishing the intent to review the topic further and develop recommendations, if appropriate, for future consideration.

7. Discuss a XRW SIM recommendation proposal. (Niklas Daniel and Melissa Nelson)

Discussion: The committee received a presentation from Nicholas Daniel regarding the potential addition of guidance for XRW discipline.

Nicholas provided background on the evolution of the discipline, noting that what was once viewed as a niche or stunt activity has grown in participation and technical development. As equipment and skill levels have advanced, the activity has become more structured and more common in organized events and training environments. He emphasized that his interest is focused on safety, education, and providing basic operational guidance rather than promoting competition or expanding privileges.

The committee established an XRW sub-committee with Jeannie Bartholomew as the lead, along with subject matter experts chosen by her to gather data, review existing practices, and draft potential language for consideration in the SIM Chapter 5. There was general agreement that the movement forward should be measured and research-based, to provide experience-based education and guidance to the members who are interested in participating in XRW.

The goal will be for the sub-committee to review its findings and to determine whether a formal proposal or draft guidance should be developed for future consideration.

8. Discuss whether live wet training for the B-license should be updated, limited, or replaced with instructor/S&TA endorsements.

A drop zone owner with decades of experience argues that B-license wet training requirements are outdated. He notes that the original training was designed for older gear (round, mostly non-steerable mains and front-mount reserves). He believes current live wet training offers little value, as only the first person entering the water experiences realistic conditions, while others simply struggle with a soaked harness and canopy. He recommends allowing B-license applicants to receive dry water-landing instruction from an instructor or S&TA, reserving live wet training only for intentional water jumps, beach jumps, or PRO rating requirements.

Discussion: The proposal suggests that live water training may be outdated, arguing that modern equipment reduces the original risks associated with round mains and front-mounted reserves, and that in-water drills provide limited additional realism after the first participant. However, multiple members expressed strong opposition to removing the requirement, citing the value of experiential learning, the prevalence of water hazards nationwide, the importance of panic management, swim capability awareness, and real-world fatality history. The discussion reflects a broader consideration that practical water immersion training continues to provide measurable safety benefits compared to classroom-only instruction or endorsement-based alternatives.

9. Discuss clarifying the terminology in SIM chapter 2.G.4.C.(5)

Manufacturers have asked whether this BSR now allows under-18 licensed skydivers to be on the front of a tandem. For example, if a jumper earns an A-license at 16, does that mean the manufacturer's minimum-age limits no longer apply—simply because the person on the front is a licensed skydiver rather than an unlicensed student? If so, they would like to have the BSR changed to remove the word student from this BSR.

SIM Section 2.G.4.C.(5). All ~~student~~ tandem skydives must be conducted in accordance with the specific manufacturer's age requirements for the tandem system used for that jump.

Discussion: Manufacturers requested clarification because the current wording could be interpreted to restrict age limits only for "students," potentially allowing underage licensed jumpers to use tandem equipment contrary to manufacturer limitations. The proposed change would remove the word "student" so that any manufacturer-imposed age requirement applies to anyone using the equipment, regardless of license status. The intent is to align BSR language with manufacturer risk policies, avoid conflicting interpretations, and ensure compliance with equipment-specific age restrictions without establishing a universal USPA age requirement.

Motion 60: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to remove the word “student” from SIM Section 2.G.4.C.(5).

10. Discuss a proposed new BSR requiring Tandem Pilots to be equipped with a hook knife on all tandem skydives.

There have been accidents and fatalities with Tandem Students where a Hook Knife carried by the Tandem Instructor, and a Hook Knife in the aircraft accessible to all occupants, may have prevented the accident.

It has been observed on many occasions that Tandem Instructors are not carrying Hook Knives even though they were originally installed on the equipment.

Hook Knives are of minimal expense compared to the cost of not having one when needed.

Discussion: The proposal is driven by recent entanglement incidents and documented cases where hook knives prevented fatalities. Several international organizations already require hook knives for licensed jumpers, and manufacturers have recently reinforced similar equipment requirements. The intent is not to legislate every possible use scenario, but to ensure availability during emergencies such as a reserve line overs, aircraft entanglements, student harness complications, or in-aircraft hazards. The motion specifies that tandem instructors must carry a readily accessible hook knife, and that each aircraft used for skydiving must also carry one accessible to the pilot and occupants. Additional guidance and training language would be developed for inclusion in the IRM to ensure proper instruction on use.

Motion 61: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to add the following under BSR 2-1-M Parachute Equipment: “6. On all Tandem skydives, the Tandem Rating holder must be equipped with a readily accessible hook knife capable of severing Type 7 nylon webbing (or its equivalent). All aircraft used for skydiving must carry the same capability hook knife, readily accessible to the pilot and occupants.” (effective June 1, 2026)

11. Hear and discuss a report from the Canopy Task Force.

Update will include:

1. A "Sport PLF Training Curriculum." The goal of the program is to improve PLF training techniques and improve awareness that practicing PLFs can reduce injuries on landing for jumpers of all experience levels.
2. C and D License canopy skill recommendations.
3. Proposed updates to the CEPs

Discussion: The committee heard a summary report based on incident statistics showing that many serious injuries occur during landing, and that higher-license holders are increasingly injured while attempting advanced canopy maneuvers. The task force recommends reintegrating and emphasizing PLF training as a foundational skill, incorporating it into canopy emergency

procedures, and expanding guidance beyond the First Jump Course to include B-license canopy courses and a combined C/D-license canopy progression based on measurable skill outcomes rather than fixed jump numbers. Additional updates include refining “stab-out” terminology and drills, encouraging structured harness-turn instruction, and developing supporting online training modules and coach guidance materials. No motions are requested currently; the committee seeks feedback and intends to refine implementation details with the goal of incorporating appropriate elements into the 2027 SIM and IRM. Approval pending summer BOD meeting 2026.

12. Discuss a motion brought forward by a group consisting of representatives from several tandem manufacturers.

Discussion: Initially, the proposed language was presented for consideration to be added as a BSR under Chapter 2, L. “Extraordinary Skydives”. In the spirit of compromise, the committee discussed the importance of why the manufacturers wanted the BSR and how the association could support them without it being a mandate. After serious consideration, the committee felt that the proposal should be implemented in the SIM as a recommendation rather than a mandatory requirement. Additionally, the committee would replace “must” with “should,” making it advisory in nature and aligning with the committee’s intent to balance manufacturer concerns with USPA’s role in representing membership. Members emphasized maintaining a cooperative, bridge-building approach. Placement was discussed under Chapter 4.3 (specialized equipment) and adding parallel references to the IRM.

Motion 62: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to add to SIM Chapter 4-3. N. Tandem Equipment “USPA provides recommendations for tandem student training jumps. Activities conducted outside those recommendations fall beyond the scope of the SIM and are not covered by USPA guidance. Drop zones and instructors who choose to perform such jumps should seek appropriate expertise, use specialized training, equipment, and support, and establish procedures specific to the activity. Those procedures should be approved by the manufacturer of the equipment being used before the jump is conducted,” and add similar language to the IRM.

13. Receive an update on the Ground Trainer sub-committee's progress.

Discussion: The committee continued discussion regarding the proposed Ground Instructor Rating concept, including both the “sunset” group (currently rated instructors who can no longer meet air requirements) and the “sunrise” group (newer candidates entering the instructional pathway).

This item was presented as informational only, with no action requested at this time. The goal remains potential inclusion in the 2027 IRM, allowing time for further discussion and refinement.

There was broad conceptual support for creating a pathway for the sunset group. Members acknowledged that experienced instructors who can no longer meet physical air requirements but remain fully capable of teaching ground material represent a legitimate and recurring need. Several directors expressed comfort by moving forward on that portion of the proposal.

The sunrise portion generated more debate. Concerns were raised about maintaining instructional standards, ensuring proper mentorship, and preserving the standardization value of the existing coach course. Some directors emphasized the importance of in-person evaluation, structured feedback, and examiner oversight. Others noted that the proposal would increase real-world instructional exposure compared to the current model and that guiding instructor standards and examiner sign-off authority would remain intact.

It was clarified that:

- No action is being taken at this time.
- Examiner feedback has been mixed, depending on the setting and discussion format.
- The proposal continues to evolve based on feedback from examiners, instructors, and S&TAs.
- The committee may consider separating the sunset and sunrise components if that helps move consensus forward.

This remains an ongoing development discussion, with additional refinement and field input expected before any formal proposal is brought forward.

14. Receive an update on the Night Tandems sub-committee's progress.

Discussion: The sub-committee presented their findings and research to the S&T committee. They reported that there is a significant liability of exposure to the association and DZOs if the night tandems were to be conducted with students. The sub-committee felt that there should be no further consideration of implementing night tandem jumps within the group members' DZs.

15. Receive an update on the ERC sub-committee's progress.

Discussion: The committee reviewed feedback from a focus group, the recent standardization meeting, and a pilot one-day ERC workshop involving prior ERC participants. The discussion centered on improving accessibility and support during the two-year ERC qualification window, particularly given the wide range of candidate experience levels. Strong support emerged for tying ERC ratings to standardization meetings to reduce cost and travel burden, splitting the ERC into phased components, and adding online modules as a blended supplement (not a replacement) to in-person training. Suggestions included building an OCM sandbox environment for practice, developing an online evaluator course to strengthen evaluation skills early in the pathway, and continuing to align ERC content with actual examiner duties, following the recent shift from FJC requirements to required evaluations. No motion was requested; this was an informational update and discussion.

16. Receive an update from the Tandem Exit sub-committee.

Discussion: A refined aircraft step prototype was presented by Director Mike Mullins that eliminates sharp corners, exposed right angles, and protruding crossbars that have contributed to previous tandem hang-ups or entanglements. The proposed design features rounded, recessed geometry and added vertical support to reduce the risk of harness or drogue bridle entanglement during exit. Additionally, a modified tandem harness configuration was discussed, intended to improve leg position stability and reduce the likelihood of student harness entanglements on the step during exit.

The discussion acknowledged prior incidents involving step hang-ups and harness-related complications and emphasized that the proposal is not a reinvention of existing systems, but a refinement aimed at mitigating known snag points. Key considerations include obtaining appropriate STC or field approval for aircraft modifications, coordinating with manufacturers before endorsing design changes, and confirming that any harness alterations remain within regulatory limits for master riggers. The committee agreed that further collaboration with manufacturers and technical experts is necessary before determining the next steps.

17. Receive an update from the Tandem PRO rating sub-committee.

Discussion: A draft proposal was presented for board review, with an emphasis on giving directors time to read a short executive summary and provide feedback rather than taking motions at this stage. The submitter reported consulting multiple highly experienced stadium demo jumpers (including military and demo team backgrounds), who broadly advised against tandem jumps into retractable-roof venues and high-walled/“bowl” stadiums due to turbulence and complex airflow in the landing area. The proposal recommends tightening standards by requiring higher experience thresholds for tandem stadium demos (e.g., USPA PRO rating plus a tandem endorsement, higher jump-number minimums, and recent currency), prohibiting certain add-ons like handcam, pyro, flags, and similar distractions, and limiting tandem stadium demos to lower-risk stadium types (e.g., open-end configurations) while excluding retractable roofs and high bowls.

The discussion also raised the need for a clearer, enforceable definition of “stadium” and “high bowl” to avoid loopholes and inconsistent interpretation, especially where recent incidents involved obstacles and out-landings despite highly qualified participants. Additionally, there was serious movement in totally removing the stadium jumps altogether. Members noted that the current waiver process for level 2 and lower provides an important additional check and “second set of eyes,” and suggested any changes should preserve that safeguard while reducing last-minute waiver burdens by creating clearer, predictable criteria. The committee’s next steps include refining definitions, evaluating feasibility with the FAA, including manufacturers, and determining whether to continue developing the proposal into a formal motion.

18. Discuss a proposal to add a recommendation in the SIM, IRM, and Glossary that cutaway handles be red, and reserve handles be silver.

The proposal recommends standardizing handle colors, red for cutaway and silver for reserve, to reduce confusion in high-stress or time-critical situations, including cases where one jumper may need to operate another jumper’s handles. Custom handle colors have become common, which may increase the risk of misidentification. The recommendation would not be a BSR, would require no enforcement, and would be implemented through committee and Board approval as guidance only.

Discussion: The committee revisited a proposal to standardize cutaway and reserve handle colors as a recommendation in the SIM to reduce confusion during high-stress situations. While there was general agreement that standardized colors improve recognition and consistency, concerns were raised about unintended legal and operational consequences of embedding the recommendation in formal doctrine—particularly for drop zones whose rental gear does not meet the suggested color scheme. It was noted that once included in official documentation, even advisory language may be treated as a de facto standard. As a result, there was support for

addressing the topic through an educational article or best-practices communication rather than placing it in the SIM, thereby promoting awareness without creating compliance concerns.

19. Discuss the attached safeguarding proposal and approve the Safety and Training department to work with We Ride Together to develop educational and training resources to support safer environments within our sport.

We Ride Together is a nonprofit organization that specializes in safeguarding education, policy development, and cultural change aimed at preventing sexual misconduct and abuse while supporting survivors. Their work focuses on helping organizations build clear codes of conduct, reporting pathways, education programs, and trauma-informed resources that promote safer environments and consistent accountability. Their model is designed to scale to any activity-based community where power dynamics, instruction, or close physical interaction exist.

Applied to skydiving, their role would center on adapting safeguarding principles to the realities of drop zone operations, instructor–student relationships, and the broader skydiving culture. This includes reviewing and strengthening policies, creating education and training resources for members, instructors, and operators, and supporting the development of reporting tools and survivor-focused resources that fit a decentralized, adult-participation environment. In this context, their work would be less about “sport oversight” and more about helping the skydiving community define, communicate, and reinforce what safe, professional, and respectful participation looks like across all levels of involvement.

The following video provides a clear example of the WRT’s approach to safeguarding and culture change work, showcasing the type of education and messaging they bring to communities to promote safety, respect, and accountability.

Discussion: Staff has engaged with We Ride Together, a privately funded nonprofit organization that provides free education and resources addressing sexual harassment, abuse prevention, and power dynamics in sport environments. The organization, founded by a parent advocate, works with national sport governing bodies and produces high-quality training videos and materials at no cost. They are currently reviewing USPA’s existing policies and steps already taken and will return with recommendations for further action, potentially including the use of their existing video content within instructor training, rating courses, seminars, and professionalism modules. The intent is to present formal recommendations for board review at the summer meeting. No action is requested at this time; this is informational to ensure board visibility into ongoing efforts.

20. Discuss adding a new Basic Safety Requirement that mandates all skydivers to follow the landing procedures established by drop zone management, unless exceptional circumstances require deviation.

Discussion: Committee members considered a new BSR requiring all skydivers to follow drop zone–established landing procedures unless unusual circumstances necessitate deviation. Proponents argued it would reinforce safety, give S&TAs/DZOs clearer authority to address willful noncompliance, and complement the group members' pledge by placing obligations on jumpers, not just DZs. Examples of canopy collisions and repeat offenders moving between DZs were cited as justification.

Opponents warned the rule could be weaponized in landing-area disputes, add subjectivity and workload for regional directors, and duplicate existing enforcement tools (S&TA authority, RD oversight, and 1-6 actions for endangering others).

The following motion was presented but withdrawn in plenary: Move to add BSR 2-1. J.4. Skydivers must follow the landing procedure specified by drop zone management unless unusual circumstances require deviation on that particular jump.

21. Discuss amending the Basic Safety Requirements to allow tandem student jumps during civil twilight, thereby extending legal jumping times beyond official sunrise-to-sunset limits.

Discussion: Committee members revisited a proposal to amend the BSR sunset restriction by allowing jumps through the end of civil twilight. Proponents argued that this change would align USPA rules with common practice at many drop zones, provide 20–45 minutes of additional jumping opportunity depending on location and season, and could be conducted safely with lights as already required by FAA regulations.

Opponents raised safety concerns, citing aviation data showing higher incident rates during twilight hours and warning that extending the BSR could encourage operators to push further into darkness. Several manufacturers also voiced opposition, stating they could not support the proposal due to safety risks.

Motion 63: FB: Yes- 5 No- 12 AB- 3

Move to Replace BSR 2-1. G.9 with: “All student jumps must take place between official sunrise and sunset, except tandem jumps with students may take place between the start of official civil twilight in the morning until the end of official civil twilight in the evening”.

Waivers

22. Discuss a waiver for a restricted B License for tandem jumping only for Sheryl Reiss #388475, who has completed 90 tandems to date.

Passed Summer meeting 2025:

Motion: Move to waive SIM Section 3-1. E.A License. 1.b.c.d. and e. to issue Sheryl Reiss #388475 a restricted A license to jump tandem only.

Discussion: She was issued an A license this past summer under the same restrictions, and similar motions have been approved in the past; these types of waivers help promote those who cannot jump solo to be part of our community.

Motion 64: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to waive SIM Chapter 3-1, B License requirements, except jump number and freefall time, to issue Sheryl Reiss #388475 a restricted B license for jump tandem only.

23. Discuss a waiver for a restricted A License for tandem jumping only for Brian Sanford #403198, who has completed 26 tandems to date.

Discussion: These types of waivers have been approved in the past and help promote those who cannot jump solo to be part of our community.

Motion 65: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to waive SIM Chapter 3-1, A-License requirements, except jump number, to issue Brian Sanford #403198 a restricted A license for jump tandem only.

24. Waiver for Fast Eddie Grantland #31959 to renew AFF rating restricted to ground training.

Discussion: A request was made to allow an instructor, injured and unable to perform air skills, to continue exercising ground instructional privileges. This follows past practice where instructors with limitations were approved under restricted ratings.

Motion 66: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent

Move to waive IRM section A-1.H.1.a.(1) to allow Fast Eddie Grantland #31959 to renew their AFF rating without meeting the jump requirement. He will have a restricted AFF instructor rating, limiting him to exercising his AFF rating to ground instruction only. This waiver will be reviewed and may be rescinded by the Safety and Training Director every two years.

25. Discuss an age waiver for Stephen Strother #358745 and his son Andrew Strother (age 16) to learn to skydive.

Discussion: Similar requests have been approved in the past for deserving young people who have parents who are skydivers and wish to be part of our great community.

Motion 67: FB: Yes- 9 No- 8 (by name: Dave Grabowski, Chuck Akers, Bob Mehl, Randy Allison, Jack Pyland, Scotty Wood) AB- 3

Move to waive SIM Chapter 2-1.D.1. to allow Andrew Strother #403253 to skydive at the age of 16 and obtain his USPA licenses.

26. Discuss a waiver for a restricted coach rating for Vincent Madron #381972, and Chris Phelps #364253 that allows them to exercise only the ground training privileges of a coach rating, without the jumping privileges; and to allow them to attend a Static-Line Instructor Rating Course with the possibility of earning a restricted SL-I without jumping privileges.

Discussion: The committee discussed the waiver request for the two candidates who were unable to complete the air portion of the coach course. After discussion, the committee agreed to approve a restricted coach rating limited to ground duties only. This allows them to assist with ground instruction and related coaching responsibilities but not perform freefall duties.

The committee felt it was premature to approve a static line instructor waiver at this time. The intent is to allow them additional time and opportunity to address the air evaluation deficiencies. If they later demonstrate sufficient improvement and still require further consideration, the Safety and Training Committee can revisit that request.

No static line waiver was granted as part of this action.

Motion 68: FB: Yes- 7 No- 11 AB- 2

Move to allow Vincent Madron #381972 and Chris Phelps #364253 each to hold a restricted Coach rating that allows them to exercise only the ground training privileges of a coach rating, without the jumping privileges.

27. Discuss Sammy Vassilev's proposal, who would like to request an extension to the original waiver to BSRs to conduct Tandem Jumps at night over the Las Vegas Strip and at my drop zone, Fyrosity, originally requested in Feb of 2023, extended in Jul 2023, Feb 2024 and Feb 2025 to continue R&D on performing tandem skydiving after sunset.

Motion: Move to extend Sammy Vassilev's waiver originally submitted and approved in February of 2023 until March 1, 2027, contingent on manufacturer approval.

Motion was withdrawn during the plenary.

Housekeeping

Staff directed to review revisions to the IRM and tandem proficiency cards to ensure consistency with current USPA tandem course standards.

Discussion: The committee identified misalignment between the tandem proficiency card and the IRM. As a result, the committee is directing staff to conduct a comprehensive consistency review of all tandem-related documents—including the IRM, proficiency cards, and associated materials—to ensure terminology, requirements, and standards are aligned across publications. The committee further determined that these edits are alignment-based and editorial in nature, do not constitute a “significant revision,” and do not affect the FAA’s June 3, 2002, acceptability letter for the USPA Tandem Rating Instructor Course, thereby maintaining continued alignment with 14 CFR §105.45.

13. Adjournment

Motion 69: FB: Passed by Unanimous Consent (Ms. Butcher)

The President adjourned the meeting at 4:15 p.m. on February 15, 2026.

Ray Lallo
USPA Secretary
Mountain Region Director