



**United States Parachute Association Winter Board Meeting
Orlando, Florida | February 23-25, 2024**

MEETING AGENDA

Call to order by the President
Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting
Adoption of the agenda
President's report
Alternative motions of the full board
Interim actions of the Executive Committee
Treasurer's report
IPC Delegate report
Executive Director's report

1. Old business
2. New business
 - A. Selection of dates for the Summer 2025 meeting
 - B. Closed Session

Committee reports
Competition
Executive
Finance & Budget
Group Member
Membership Services
Governance
Regional Directors
Safety & Training
Adjournment



UNITED STATES PARACHUTE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Orlando, FL – February 23-25, 2024

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sessions and Times subject to change.

Thursday, Feb 22

All directors arrive

Friday, Feb 23

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Plenary Session (Adopt agenda, approve minutes of prior meeting, selection of dates for summer 2025 meeting, old business, new business)
10 am	Break (President/Treasurer/Executive Director/Special Agent reports)
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch (provided in Harbor room)
1 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Committee Meetings - Membership Services, Group Membership
3 p.m.	Break
3 p.m. – 5 p.m.	Committee Meetings - Safety & Training, Competition
6:00 p.m.	General Membership Meeting
Gold Medal & Lifetime Achievement Awards Presentations	

Saturday, Feb 24

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
9 a.m. – 10 a.m.	Committee Meetings - Safety & Training, Competition
10 a.m.	Break
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Committee Meetings – Governance, Finance & Budget
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch (provided in Harbor room)
1 p.m. – 2 p.m.	Regional Directors Meeting
2 p.m. – 3 p.m.	Committee Meetings – Governance, Finance & Budget
3 p.m.	Break
3 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Plenary Session

Sunday, Feb 25

8 a.m. – 9 a.m.	Executive Committee Meeting
9 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Committee Meetings - Safety & Training, Competition
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.	Plenary Session
12 p.m. – 1 p.m.	Lunch (provided in Harbor room)
1 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Plenary Session
3:00 p.m. – 4 p.m.	U.S. Skydiving Safety Foundation/U.S. Parachute Team Trust Fund/U.S. Parachute Team, Inc. Meeting
4 p.m.	Adjournment



COMPETITION COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Consent Agenda – housekeeping/non-controversial items
2. Nationals Registration System Update – IT
3. Update from *The Usual Suspects* on simplifications and other improvements to how the National Championships are structured. - Nelson
 - a. Early registration discounts
 - b. Winds
 - c. Maximum number of jumps/day
 - d. Discuss remote panels
4. Report on recent & future USA bids for International Competitions – Rees
5. Competitor/Judge Disciplinary Process proposal - Rees
6. U.S. Team Management Appointments for 2024 - Smalley
7. Bids for 2025 USPA National Championships & Collegiates
8. Adoption of 2024 ISC Rule Changes as needed - Rees
9. Intended Deviations document describing where we differ from ISC intentionally - Rees
10. Chapter 1 – National Championships
 - a. Jury Procedures Updates – Connell
 - b. Change who approves the start of competition - Smalley
 - c. Re-jump Conditions Updates - Connell
 - d. Changes to Chief Judge appointment procedures – Raymond
 - e. Clarify what events/event-classes are eligible for application of “the Gorka Rule”
 - f. Clarify what conditions warrant classification as Guest Competitor/Team vs. not being allowed to enter.
 - g. Discuss mandatory Judges’ Conference (as in SC5 4.3.2)
 - h. Updates to video requirements if not already in ISC updates
11. Chapter 2 – Judges
 - a. Changes to minimum qualifications and term limits for Chief Judge eligibility – Raymond
 - b. Establish judge database to store data on key roles & training USPA judges have done (Principal, EJ, CJ, CJT). Rees
 - c. Add JX-administered evaluations to the list of ways to avoid National Judge rating expiration. - Rees
 - d. Clarifications on judge compensation – no double-dipping or travel days when no travel is required. - Rees
 - e. JX SP Appointment for Alix Raymond
12. Chapter 3 – Records
 - a. Clarification on VFS Large Formation Sequential Rules – Connell/Fry
 - b. Mini Records Document or addition to SIM to provide guidance to S&TAs - Rees
 - c. Filing requirements for National records set by U.S. Team at FCEs – Rees
 - d. Move most of the remaining absolute records to the Speed Skydiving discipline.
 - e. Require payment with record claims by the 30-day deadline (State & National)



United States Parachute Association Winter Board Meeting
Orlando, Florida | February 23-25, 2024

13. Chapter 4 – USPT & Delegations
 - a. Updates to U.S. Team Contract – Grabowski
 - b. USTTF Bylaws – Rees/Pyland/Schlictemeier
 - c. Update to minimum performance requirements in SP - Rees
 - d. Update to U.S. Team Composition in SP - Rees
 - e. Rewording of the “Same-Team rule” w.r.t. alternates - Rees
14. Chapter 6 Nationals Site Selection
 - a. Simplification of International Competition Bidding requirements by U.S. hosts
 - b. Updates to standard Letter of Agreement and accompanying forms – Smalley
15. Chapter 7 - Collegiates
 - a. Discussion of how to improve video pool performance – Rees
16. Chapter 8 - Accuracy Landing
 - a. Re-jump situations - McManus
17. Chapter 9 Formation Skydiving
 - a. MFS Dive Pool Changes – Rees/Malchiodi
18. Chapter 10 Canopy Formations
 - a. Re-jump situations – Michaels
 - b. Re-sync core language with ISC rules
19. Chapter 11 Artistic Events
 - a. Clarify “Start of Competition” w.r.t. the 48-hour rule
 - b. Changes to Intermediate execution and camera deductions
20. Chapter 12 Canopy Piloting
 - a. Re-name classes for consistency with other disciplines
 - b. Discussion of safety, how to recognize unsafe flying, and consider rewording of yellow/red card conditions.
 - c. Intermediate (Advanced) - class records - Windmiller
21. Chapter 14 Wingsuit Flying
 - a. WS Test Event Proposals



**United States Parachute Association Winter Board Meeting
Orlando, Florida | February 23-25, 2024**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Compliance Discussion (tentative)- RL/JM
2. Legal Status Update- AB
3. General Membership Meeting Format- AB



FINANCE AND BUDGET COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Eliminate \$60 check to board members (Luke A)
2. Consideration of Lifetime Membership fee restructuring (AB)
3. 2023 auditor appointment (AB)
4. Update, finalize and approve 2024 Budget
5. Discuss membership dues and change/update /increase current policies
6. Review capital expenditures planning
7. Review of ISHOF support
8. Review annual legal budget vs. past legal expenses for possibility of “Legal Defense Fund”
9. Accept update to USPA’s Trust Fund to closer meet current policies with Uniform Trust Code
10. Explore travel policy for board members



GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Voting eligibility and board candidate qualifications (AB)
2. 1-6 amendments (RA)
3. 1-6 addition for administrative action (AB)
4. Application for discovery (RL)
5. Values Statement and Instructor Code of Conduct (RL)
6. USPA violation investigator (on retainer or limited staff position) (RL)
7. Proposed By-Laws Change to 1-1: Constitution and By-Laws, 2. By-Laws, Section 2: Requirements (RL)
8. Revisit Motion 38 of the Winter 2023 BOD Meeting (RL)



GROUP MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Discussion of SMS (Safety Management System)
2. Discussion of USPA-hosted International Affiliate Drop Zone Operators Conference
3. Add to the GM Pledge and BSRs a reminder of when insurance takes effect:

Discussion: There is some confusion in the field regarding the timing of when the USPA's third-party liability insurance takes effect. This is due to the wording in the GM Pledge that students do not need to be a USPA member until they have been cleared for self-supervision. As a result, some locations mistakenly believe that third-party liability insurance covers this gap in membership.

Proposed Motions:

Move to add to the Group Membership Pledge a note on the 7th bullet point of the Group membership Pledge "Reminder: All students (except tandem students) who are not current regular or temporary members of USPA are not covered by USPA third party liability insurance, regardless of where they are in their training program."

Move to add to SIM section 2-1.E "Reminder: All students (except tandem students) who are not current regular or temporary members of USPA are not covered by USPA third party liability insurance, regardless of where they are in their training program."



MEMBERSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Insurance claim report (Ms. Seidel) (closed session for this agenda item)
2. Technology update report (Ms. Sharp)
3. Sport Promotion Sub-Committee (SPSC), status report (Ms. Nelson)
4. International Affiliate Country Association Program, status report (Mr. Berchtold)
5. USPA attendance at Oshkosh Airshow (Mr. Berchtold)
6. USPA Service Awards and FAI and NAA Service Awards (MSC Chair)



United States Parachute Association Winter Board Meeting
Orlando, Florida | February 23-25, 2024

REGIONAL DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

1. USPA Violation Form (PDF fillable)- RL



SAFETY AND TRAINING COMMITTEE AGENDA

1. Discuss changing the gear check BSR (2-1.G.1.d.) language. Tandem examiners seem to think that the wording does not consider the upper and lower attachment points for the tandem student harness, which cannot be attached before boarding the aircraft.
2. Discuss if we should change terminology so that a candidate should have the most current versions of manuals now because the most current version is always available on the website or Amazon for printed versions.
Proposed Motion: Revise the current guidance, advocating that course candidates should possess the latest edition of the course manuals.
3. Discuss adding tandem methods BSRs and recommendations
 - a. Adding a BSR that prohibits wingsuit tandems.
 - b. Adding a BSR that lower laterals must be attached for landing.
 - c. Discuss adding guidance that new tandem instructors should not jump any tandem canopy that is smaller than 330 Sq. Ft.
 - d. Discuss changing the number of front rides required for a Tandem Examiner rating.
4. Discuss re-wording section 7, section summary note, to be more consistent with current requirements.
Currently Reads:
NOTE: All intentional off airport parachute jumps require a certificate of authorization (FAR 105.21). Submit FAA form 7711-2 with the local FSDO to obtain a certificate of authorization. Any jumps made without a certificate of authorization may not be covered under USPA third-party liability insurance.

Suggested Update:
Note: For all intentional off-airport jumps, USPA recommends submitting FAA Form 7711-2 with the local FSDO to obtain a certificate authorization (FAR 105.21). To be covered under USPA third-party liability insurance, the off-airport drop zone must comply with USPA Basic Safety Requirements and all applicable state and federal laws.
5. Discuss if it is time to implement a mandatory canopy size.
6. Discuss adding an option for continuing online education provided by USPA through online training modules that could be done in lieu of the rating renewal seminar.
Proposed Motion: Instruct staff to modify the rating renewal requirements to incorporate an online continuing education option. Also, update the definition of 'Rating Renewal Seminar' to ensure it is consistent with the level of continuing education provided by the online option. (to be implemented 1/1/2025)
7. Discuss options to clarify an issue of foreign and USPA ratings being utilized outside the US.
Example: Polish instructor doing a night tandem. As a USPA instructor working in Poland, they could not take the student at night. Currently, if they only hold a rating in Poland, they can. But if they ALSO hold a USPA rating, they technically cannot.
A caveat is that it would allow them to pick and choose which rating they are using at any time, which could be a can of worms.



United States Parachute Association Winter Board Meeting
Orlando, Florida | February 23-25, 2024

Motion: Move to amend SIM 2-1.A.1. from "...but must comply with the USPA BSR when instructing student skydivers." to "...but must comply with the USPA BSR when instructing student skydivers unless the instructor simultaneously holds the appropriate instructional rating issued by the country where the jump is completed, in which case, they must follow the rules applicable to that rating as outlined by the issuing body of that rating."

8. Discuss adding buddy checks to SIM section 5-4. (Chuck Akers)

Proposed: (adding parts a and b)

SIM section 5-4 PRE-JUMP SAFETY CHECKS AND BRIEFINGS.

A. EQUIPMENT PREPARATION IS ESSENTIAL

4. Students progressing through the training program and all experienced jumpers should review all of the items on these lists to familiarize themselves with the wide range of details.

- a. Additionally, it is highly recommended that every jumper, regardless of experience level, engages in a mutual gear check with another qualified jumper. This peer-review process is an essential safety-verification step to identify and rectify any oversights or errors in equipment preparation.
- b. The practice of mutual gear checks cultivates a culture of collective responsibility and vigilance, enhancing safety standards in skydiving activities.

Proposed Motion: Move to add to SIM section 5-4.A.4. "a. Additionally, it is highly recommended that every jumper, regardless of experience level, engages in a mutual gear check with another qualified jumper. This peer-review process serves as an essential safety verification step to identify and rectify any oversights or errors in equipment preparation. b. The practice of mutual gear checks cultivates a culture of collective responsibility and vigilance, enhancing safety standards in skydiving activities."

9. Discuss consolidating the requirements for converting non-USPA tandem ratings to USPA Tandem instructor ratings.

IRM T-1.F. CONVERTING A MANUFACTURER OR FOREIGN COUNTRY'S TANDEM RATING TO A USPA TANDEM INSTRUCTOR RATING

Proposed Motion: move to change IRM section T-4.F. to read:

1. All persons must meet the following requirements:
 - a. Have or have had a Coach rating; otherwise, they must attend a Coach course and earn a Coach rating.
 - b. Have logged at least 15 tandem jumps in the previous 12 months and met the manufacturer's currency requirements for the last 90 days.
 - c. Completed items 1-3 and 5-12 on the USPA Tandem Instructor Rating Course Proficiency Card.
 - d. Submit a current manufacturer (recognized by the USPA) or foreign aero club tandem rating, Tandem Instructor Rating Course Proficiency Card, medical certificate and rating fee to USPA Headquarters for processing.

10. Discuss the motion that passed the winter meeting 2023.

Firstly, the title of IRM Section A-1.4, "Candidates who have met all the following requirements may attend the USPA AFF Instructor Rating Course," includes a criterion regarding "good judgment and integrity throughout ... the course." This appears to be misplaced and would be more fitting in a section that addresses conduct during the course. Therefore, it should be relocated to a more relevant section, such as where course conduct is discussed.



**United States Parachute Association Winter Board Meeting
Orlando, Florida | February 23-25, 2024**

Secondly, the requirement of demonstrating "good judgment and integrity" is currently specific to the AFF course. However, these qualities are universally important across all instructional courses. It's advisable to expand this requirement to encompass all courses. This can be done by removing it from IRM Section A-1.A.4.f and integrating it into all instructional methods in their "What is required to pass this course?" section.

Previous change:

Winter 2023 Motion: Move to add IRM section A-1.A.4.f. "demonstrated good judgement and integrity throughout the rating course". (Passed by unanimous consent)

IRM A-1.B.4 or 5.:

4. Candidates who have met all the following requirements may attend the USPA AFF Instructor Rating Course:

- a. reached the age of 18 years
- b. holds or has held any USPA instructional rating
- c. must have held a USPA Coach or Instructor rating for at least 12 months, or have least 500 jumps
- d. issued a USPA C license
- e. logged six hours of freefall time
- f. demonstrated good judgment and integrity throughout the rating course**

Proposed Motion: Remove IRM section A-1.A.4.f. and insert similar terminology into all rating methods in their "What is required to pass this course?" section.

11. Discuss cleaning up the language on how to use DE in the Getting Started section of the IRM.

Proposed Motion: Move to change IRM Section 1-4.C.3.b.(3) to read "Once a course candidate has completed the all-lecture portions to include evaluation briefings under the course director examiner, a designated evaluator who is an examiner in another method and has taught 5 rating courses in that method, may complete all evaluations upon the approval of the examiner who is the course director. The course director examiner must complete all required paperwork, rating certifications and ensure the timely completion of the course."

12. Discuss the implications of leaving the Firebird Omega tandem system in the IRM when the company is coming up with a new manual and recommendations on its system. Do we want to remove the system until



**United States Parachute Association Winter Board Meeting
Orlando, Florida | February 23-25, 2024**

we have reviewed their documentation and ensured it meets our requirements? Will we have a way to verify their manufacturer's ratings and the currency of their examiners?

Proposed Motion: Move to remove IRM T-1.A.6.c.(7) Firebird Omega (FO)

13. Get an update for the committee on the project's progress involving dive flow videos. (Jen Sharp and Nikko)
14. Get an update from the Canopy Taskforce. (Sherry Butcher)
 - New A license card
 - Discuss adding that a student must perform satisfactory PLF on any student landing as a requirement for an A license. This should be added similarly to the stand-up landing requirement on the A-license progression card.
 - Are we getting rid of the A-license proficiency card?
15. Get an update from the Tandem Canopy sub-committee. (Angie Aragon 10-15 mins presentation)
Proposed Motion: Move to approve the beta testing of canopy dive flows for new tandem instructor training
16. Get an update from Michael Knight and Ray Lallo on a medical-certificate option for tandems.
17. Discuss if tracking suits should be included in the 200 jump recommendations for wing suits.
Get a report from Angie Aragon from the Summer Board Meeting 2023: Come back to the Committee with terminology for a recommendation to be put in SIM sections 6-9. The sub-committee will investigate the need for a BSR.
18. Discuss Larry Hill's proposal to amend the age BSR. Mr. Hill proposes three possible scenarios that could better serve the organization regarding our age requirement:
 - Set the age in the BSRs to the age of consent and make it non-waiverable
 - Remove the age requirement from the BSRs and put it in the SIM where it would not require a waiver
 - Remove age from all USPA manuals
19. Discuss ERC appointment of Frank Carreras-DeWitz #67631.
Proposed Motion: Move to appoint Frank Carreras-DeWitz #67631 as an Examiner Rating Course Director.
20. Discuss and evaluate the process of approving new examiners. The current process may be deficient leading to safety problems and must be analyzed to ensure the training of competent and safe AFF instructors (coaches) by "quality" AFFI Examiners. (Rob Laidlaw)
21. Discuss a complaint submitted by Rob Laidlaw
"There appears to be a prevailing dissatisfaction among a majority of professional participants regarding the process, content, and overall objectives of the standardization workshops. This sentiment was particularly pronounced after the 'Reno 23' standardization meetings."

Waivers

22. Age waiver for Alyssa Schreffler #384532 (To earn a license)



**United States Parachute Association Winter Board Meeting
Orlando, Florida | February 23-25, 2024**

23. Restricted A license for Laurie Benoit #386356 (Tandem only)
24. Age waiver for Laila Pergande (non-USPA member – to earn a license)
25. Waiver to earn a B license without water training submitted by Jamey Griner #308579
26. Waiver for Jeffrey R. Whitt # 186602 to renew his AFF, Tandem and Examiner ratings due skydiving accident.
27. Age waiver for Sam Antonivich #375593 to earn USPA licenses at age 16
28. Waiver for Bram Clement for an AFF IRC with remote supervision using his DE for onsite course supervision
29. Discuss the extension or permanent approval of Sammy Vassilev's Las Vegas Strip temporary tandem waiver.
30. Discuss a waiver requesting permission to conduct USPA Instructional Ratings Courses at a non-USPA-Member Dropzone (Wisconsin Skydiving Center).