



NWBA Board of Directors

STANDARDS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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Function of the Board

As outlined in the NWBA Bylaws, the NWBA Board of Directors shall represent the interests of the NWBA membership by providing the NWBA with policy, guidance and strategic direction. The Board shall oversee the management of the NWBA affairs, and the Executive Director shall oversee the day-to-day management of the NWBA. The Board shall select a well-qualified Executive Director and empower the Executive Director to manage a staff driven organization with effective Board oversight.

In addition, the Board performs the following specific functions, among others:

1. implements procedures to orient new Board directors, to educate all directors on the business and governance affairs of the NWBA, and to evaluate Board performance;
2. selects, compensates, and evaluates the Executive Director and plans for management succession;
3. reviews and approves the NWBA's strategic plan and the annual operating plans, budget, business plans, and corporate performance;
4. sets policy and provides guidance and strategic direction to management on significant issues facing the NWBA;
5. reviews and approves significant corporate actions and effective governance;
6. oversees and reviews the financial reporting process (financial statements, annual reports, audit and control policies), communications with stakeholders, and the NWBA's legal and regulatory compliance program;
7. approves and reviews capital structure, financial strategies, borrowing commitments, long-range financial planning, and selects independent auditors;
8. monitors and properly protects the NWBA's assets;
9. ensures that the Board and management are properly structured and prepared to act in case of an unforeseen corporate crisis;
10. makes interpretations and decisions on matters not covered by the published NWBA Policies and Procedures, and communicates those decisions to the NWBA membership; and
11. presents an annual "State of the NWBA" report at the Annual Assembly.

"There is so much to love about the sport especially the opportunities. Once I found wheelchair basketball every door opened for me."

Christina Schwab,

Women's Head Coach, Whitewater and 5x Paralympian (3x Gold Medalist)

Legal Responsibilities

The NWBA is a nonprofit organization, and tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The NWBA, as a nonprofit, holds public trust. As a result, the NWBA and board members are subject to strict ethical guidelines and public scrutiny. Board members must meet three well-established legal standards of conduct when carrying out board responsibilities. They are:

Duty of Obedience ensures that operations and resources are aligned to fulfill the mission. Programs and services must support the mission. This relates directly to upholding the “public trust.”

Duty of Care requires responsible financial and legal stewardship when making board decisions and taking action.

Duty of Loyalty requires sole commitment to the best interests of the organization. For example, board members cannot “self-deal” or use their board position for personal gain. Complying with the Duty of Loyalty also means that a board member cannot favor the interests of a particular stakeholder group above the overall interests of the NWBA. For example, a coach who serves as a board member can and should voice the perspectives of fellow coaches in board discussions. But when voting, that coach must consider all relevant factors, including other constituent voices, and vote for and act on what is best for the entire organization.

“Go as far as you can see, and when you get there, you’ll be surprised by how much you learned along the way and how much further you can see. And then you keep going, keep going.”

Dr. Timothy Nugent

Ten Governing Standards

Understanding board responsibilities is fundamentally important. Understanding how to perform them is equally important. The following governing standards are listed in no particular order. Board members are expected to perform them all.

1. **Understand and execute board responsibilities**, while respecting the authority and responsibility of the chief executive.
2. **Lead strategically with a forward focus**; collaboratively with the chief executive, set strategic direction and high-level priorities.
3. **Do not micromanage** by getting caught-up in day-to-day details; respect the chief executive's authority to lead and manage the NWBA.
4. **Commit to the best interests of the entire NWBA**, vote and act responsibly for the NWBA and all its stakeholders, not exclusively for one stakeholder group.
5. **Support board decisions** once they are made.
6. **Honor confidentiality** requirements and commitments.
7. **Behave ethically**, taking care to disclose and act appropriately on any conflicts of interest.
8. **Behave courteously**; communicate succinctly and respectfully; listen attentively to others; proactively encourage and seek to understand diverse viewpoints.
9. **Regularly attend and prepare** for board meetings and activities.
10. **Serve as NWBA advocate**, speak well of the NWBA and other board members.

MISSION STATEMENT

In our pursuit of excellence, the National Wheelchair Basketball Association provides qualified individuals with physical disabilities the opportunity to play, learn and compete in the sport of wheelchair basketball.

Ten Basic Board Responsibilities

The major responsibilities of nonprofit boards are listed in Robert T. Ingram's acclaimed book, "Ten Basic Responsibilities of Nonprofit Boards, Second Edition." His book, published by Board Source, is generally accepted and widely used.

1. **Determine mission and purposes.** Boards create and periodically review a statement of mission and purpose that is relevant in the current environment and appropriately serves its primary stakeholders.
2. **Select the chief executive.** Boards reach consensus on the chief executive's responsibilities and undertake a careful search to find the most qualified individual for the position.
3. **Support and evaluate the chief executive.** Boards ensure that the chief executive has the moral and professional support needed to further organizational goals.
4. **Ensure effective planning.** Boards must actively participate in an overall planning process and assist in implementing and monitoring plan goals.
5. **Monitor and strengthen programs and services.** Boards determine which programs are consistent with the organization's mission and monitor their effectiveness.
6. **Ensure adequate financial resources.** Boards make sure the organization has the resources needed to fulfill its mission.
7. **Protect assets and provide financial oversight.** Boards assist in developing an annual budget and ensuring that proper financial controls are in place.
8. **Build a competent board.** Boards articulate prerequisites for board candidates, orient new members, and periodically and comprehensively evaluate their own performance.
9. **Ensure legal and ethical integrity.** Boards are ultimately responsible for adherence to legal standards and ethical norms.
10. **Enhance the organization's public standing.** Boards clearly articulate the organization's mission, accomplishments, and goals to the public, and garner support from the community.

VISION STATEMENT

NWBA is the model sport governing body - we lead, we inspire, we win.