



Mission: The “Upper Valley Hockey Association” mission is to introduce the youth of our area to and promote the game of hockey, so that every child in the program can enjoy a positive experience through encouragement, skill development and character building while creating a passion for the game

## UVHA MEETING MINUTES November 16th, 2022 – 8:00 PM

### 1. Approval of Minutes- Approved

### 2. Monthly Reports

- a. **Coaching Coordinator** - Will reported his plan to fix and follow-up on any outstanding coaching requirements. Kylie was able to add the missing coach requirements to rostered coaches. They both discussed the coaching requirements for the Housemite kids who are older than 8U. Kylie and Roni decided on a plan to be able to roster all of the athletes we have that are outside of the age bracket. The board also discussed at length how to police the coaching requirements and coaches being on the ice who are not approved. Will is going to talk to one or two Mite coaches about how important this is and how to hold people accountable.
- b. **Safesport Coordinator** - Terence did the SafeSport report report for the month of October and is on top of it.
- c. **NH State Representative** - Brock reported that there was a meeting last week. They are folding the 8U rules into the other rules and Brock hopes that this will hold teams more accountable for cancellations. Tier movement was discussed at that meeting at length. The first weekend in December is the deadline for moving tiers. NHAHA reinforced the late cancellation policy, and talked about GameSheet rosters. Reminder: If the iPad doesn't work, do not try and put it in manually. You are supposed to use a paper and take a picture and send it. It gets put in behind the scenes. Finally, the 12U tournament we are hosting will have increased fees from what Brock sent last month.
- d. **Girls Development** - The board discussed using the girls development as a general skill development session. The group thought it would be a slippery slope to be opening it up to all players. The board discussed how we could improve numbers at the girls development sessions. Kylie posed the idea to open it up to other skaters outside our teams. The board decided to try creating a way to register with us and come to girls skate. Brock will create a way to register for free because they will have to in order to be insured.
- e. **Fundraising** - UVHA decided to skip wreaths and any holiday fundraiser this year. The event committee will get going on planning for the 12U tournament we are hosting and the skate-a-thon.
- f. **Registrar** - Kylie reported the results of our Try Hockey for Free. We had 8 kids registered; 3 no shows and 5 showed up. At the end, three kids actually ended up registering for Storm Academy. Kylie was able to put together goodie bags for the kids who attended. For the future, the association should purchase some flat blade sticks and 10” or smaller gloves to have on hand for next time. The board also discussed birth certificate verification and getting going on that process..

- g. **Scheduler** - Josh is hoping the tier movement is finally slowing down. Brock asked Roger about the vetting process for Tier movement because we have seen teams that are too strong for a tier. Roger suggested that Brock might have more success reaching out to NHAHA about it if he is seeing an issue with a team inside a tier.
- h. **Equipment Manager** - Roger gave an update on the fall gear orders. He is finding some drawbacks to having the on-going online store but so far, people have been happy with it. Roger talked to Monkey Sports and that order is on track to be delivered at the end of the month. He is waiting to hear back about the credit amount for Monkey Sports. For the sock order, most socks have been picked up. Hillary did order some extra that we will have on hand. Will has not received an invoice from the sock company yet.
- i. **Treasurer** - Brock filed the taxes and met the Nov 15th deadline for the year end in June. We have over \$300,000 in the bank account but we have not paid for October ice time yet so that balance will begin to decline quickly as the bills from the town arrive. We have added support for one extra tournament each year per team.
- j. **Marketing/Social Media Manager** - Once Girls Development registration is up and running, we should begin to advertise for this skating opportunity. We also need to advertise for our next Try It For Free day.
- k. **Safety/Concussion** - No Update

### 3. New Business

- a. **Coach Reimbursement**- The board discussed what to reimburse people for and how much. The USA Hockey registrations and coaching clinic cost \$46 and \$55 dollars respectively. Kylie felt reimbursements should be done at a time to hold people accountable to staying with us for coaching for the whole season. The board decided that reimbursements could be filed after January 1st of the year and that \$100.00 reimbursement per year would be appropriate. Will is going to make a reimbursement form for people to fill out.
- b. **Outstanding Tournament Scheduling** - We still need to schedule tournaments for 10U1, 10U2, 14U2 and Travel Mites. Brock will reach out to those coaches.
- c. **Storm Academy Marketing** - Kylie and the board discussed adjusting Try Hockey for Free Day. Kylie is going to apply to change the date to either January 7th or December 18th to better coincide with the start of the winter session of Storm Academy. She will complete and submit a special event sanction form. Marketing for this day was discussed and Brock floated the idea to pay for Facebook marketing in December.
- d. **UV Partnerships** - Brock reached out to Woodstock. We are trying to answer the questions “What does the future look like for Upper Valley hockey? Is there a possibility of local tournaments?” Josh Obar expressed feelings that the 14U discussion was of most importance because of numbers across the region, as well as coaches in our association at that level next year. Brock wants to be more proactive about this instead of waiting it out like we did last year with the U14’s all coming to us. He thinks a collaboration at one age group will be a good way to get started with change in the Upper Valley hockey landscape.
- e. **Tryout timing and process** - A general discussion about spring vs. fall tryouts was had. Several board members posed important questions that would need to be answered if we switched to a spring tryout. Tom Daniels wondered how a spring tryout would affect kids who have huge development gains during the off season. He also wondered how it would work for new kids moving to the area. Roni shared his experience from other organizations and how they deal with these situations. Roni was in support of the spring tryouts for making the jersey situation easier. Will Meyer was also in support of spring tryouts. Other associations are having tryout fees and having players sign contracts so

- they don't jump ship. The majority of our board did not feel comfortable having kids sign contracts. This discussion was tabled until next month.
- f. **Refund Discussion** - The board has handled the 10U refund issue they had been dealing with. Kylie will send the final email.
  - g. **Dartmouth Game Opportunities** - Jen is going to send team parents the information for Dartmouth so that each team can coordinate and time to attend.
  - h. **Future Meeting times** - Most of the board was in favor of a later start time and decided to keep meeting times at 8pm for future meetings.
  - i. Before ending the meeting, a few other topics were covered. Someone noticed that there are no ice packs in WABA and that we need to purchase first aid kits for the coaches to have. Josh suggested putting one in the puck bin and he is going to look into if there is a med kit in the building. The board is going to talk to the town about going in on a bleed kit and med kit together. Buying more game pucks and possibly ones with the Storm logo on it was also discussed and Will is looking into it.

#### **4. Meeting adjourned at 10:10pm**