

# UWH Quarterly Newsletter

## WHAT HAS YOUR COMMITTEE BEEN UP TO?

Your UWH Committee has been working hard to update existing and create new documents. Some have been a collaborative process with other USOA sports, but most have been fresh starts on documents that we believe will become beneficial resources for the underwater hockey community.

Recently, the Committee passed a motion to create a distribution structure for the Development Fund. More details on this and information on how to apply for funding will be provided in the coming year.

The new plan for allocation of existing and incoming funds is as follows:

1. 50% to Development
2. 25% to Youth Development
3. 20% to National Teams/Worlds
4. 5% to Marketing and Administrative Expenses

There is one open seat on the Committee. Please reach out if you have an interest in joining the efforts to expand and improve underwater hockey in the US.

## CMAS VOTE - THE FUTURE OF THE WORLDS EVENTS SCHEDULE

On November 5th, the Representatives of the National Underwater Hockey Federations voted on the future of the Worlds Events Schedule. The resolution to implement a 4-year cycle with zone qualifiers in 2025, followed by separate

Australia	Yes	
Belgium	Yes	
Colombia	Yes	
Czech Republic	Yes	
Germany	Yes	
Hungary	Yes	
Indonesia	Yes	
Ireland	Yes	
Italy	Yes	
Japan	Yes	
Malaysia	Yes	
New Zealand	Yes	
Phillippines	Yes	
Poland	Yes	
Portugal	Yes	
Serbia	Yes	
Singapore	Yes	
South Africa	Yes	
The Netherlands	Yes	
Turkey	Yes	
Argentina	No	
Canada	No	
France	No	
Great Britain	No	
Spain	No	
Switzerland	No	
United States of America	No	

20 Votes  
(74,1 %)

7 Votes  
(25,9 %)

limited entry World Championship Finals and a Category B World Elite & Masters Championship in 2027 passed 20-7. This does not affect U19 and U24 Worlds Events at this time.

Worlds 2023 will be held in Gold Coast, Australia July 18-30. The US will be sending four teams: Men's Elite, Women's Elite, Men's Masters, and Women's Masters. The most recent report is that there will be approximately 47 teams in attendance. For more information about the tournament, visit the event website [here](#).



Photo by Yori Huynh PCCs 2022

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Battle at Altitude	January 28-29
U of I Tournament	Feb/Mar TBD
USA UWH Nationals	June 9-11

### IN THIS EDITION

- Hear more about the new UWH Development Fund distribution plan
- New Worlds Event Schedule coming 2025
- See where Nationals 2023 will be hosted!
- Review a brief synopsis of the Nationals 2022 Survey and what comes next
- Check out opportunities to further your knowledge:
  - ◆ Referee Training Program
  - ◆ SafeSport
  - ◆ ITA Anti-doping Series
  - ◆ Atlantis Sports Videos
- It's the time of year for USOA Membership Renewals!



## NATIONALS 2023

A bid has been officially accepted for our Nationals Tournament next year! The tournament will be hosted by the Minnesota Loons, June 9-11.

Check out the [Events](#) section on SportsEngine for more information.

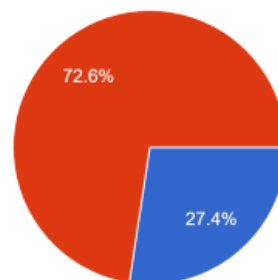
*Speaking of Nationals, some of you may be wondering what ever happened as a result of the survey you filled out at Nationals this year.*

## NATIONALS SURVEY RESULTS

The short answer is that the majority supports Nationals becoming a club-centric tournament in an effort to better support development of the sport.

If you had to choose between these two options today, how would you vote?

73 responses



- USA UWH Nationals should remain open to any teams following the SCR that can be organized.
- USA UWH Nationals should begin moving toward a club-centric tournament and the SCR should be updated to reflect this.

### ADDITIONAL DATA POINTS

We saw a lot of commonality in regard to areas of success and areas of struggle. This is promising because it gives us a clear picture of where to focus our attention and efforts.

The majority of respondents shared that their **clubs thrive with friendships**, creating a welcoming environment, and participating in social events outside of practice. Other common successes were youth development and teamwork! We love to see this!

Many of you are experiencing difficulty when it comes to new player recruitment and having reliable pool access. This has often led to struggles with practice consistency and consequently skills development.

We are optimistic that we will be able to make significant improvements in these areas; especially with our continued partnership with Atlantis Sports.

We now begin the complex task of creating a plan that does just that! We are making full consideration of the various perspectives and are going to do our very best to build something that serves everyone. We don't want to leave the clubs still working on growth behind *and* we want to support high-level play that makes all of us better athletes. With that said, we believe in putting our best effort forward, giving it a shot, and then reassessing our blind spots so we can continue to improve.

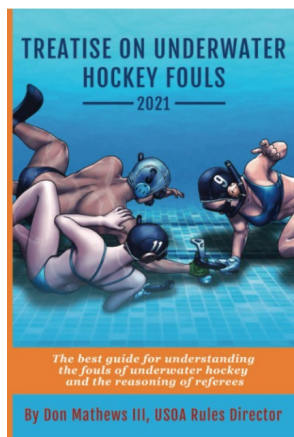
We are deeply appreciative of all of you that took the time to respond to this survey; especially those that provided a lot of thoughtful responses in the free text space at the end.

More outreach is planned for the first quarter of 2023 - please let a committee member know if you'd like to participate in further conversations. Our intention is to present the new proposed Nationals Tournament structure and implementation timeline at next year's Annual Meeting.

## EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

New plans and policies only make up part of the work needed to continue developing underwater hockey in the US. Invest in expanding your skills and knowledge by checking out some of these resources.

### REFEREE TRAINING PROGRAM



This year has seen remarkable progress in the area of referee education and development. We are so thankful to our Rules Director, Don Mathews, in collaboration with our Referee Director, John Kulsa, for the countless hours that they have put into writing the Treatise of Underwater Hockey Fouls and creating the USOA Referee Training Program. At the end of 2021, the Treatise of Underwater Hockey Fouls had been published in English, Spanish, and French. To date, it has sold more than 85 copies.

These two also represent the US at the CMAS level as Referee Committee Director and US Representative for College of Referees, respectively. Three cheers for their hard work and dedication to improving this sport!

The sequential multi-level referee training program is still in progress. The Basic Rules Course is completed and more class dates will be scheduled and announced soon. There is an exam which you may take without attending a scheduled class if you'd like to test out of this course and move into the Level 1 Course.

A Referee Clinic, offering Level 1 and Level 2 courses, will be held at Veteran's Memorial Aquatic Center in Thornton, Colorado on January 27, 2023. You can sign up using [this form](#).

In the meantime, brush up on the basics of the court layout and referee positioning using these [videos](#) and grab a copy of the Treatise on Amazon. (Don't forget to use the [AmazonSmile](#) to have a percentage of your purchase total donated to the Underwater Society of America, Inc.!)

Check out the [Referees Page](#) to find more information about the Referee Training Program. You will also find helpful rules documents and can access your Referee Log Book to document your progression to higher levels of refereeing.



Photo by Yori Huynh - Yorfman Photography

### SAFESPORT TRAINING

The U.S. Center for SafeSport is a non-profit organization codified by Congress to develop and enforce policies, procedures, and training to prevent abuse and misconduct in sport environments.

Athlete safety is incredibly important to us as well. We recommend all referees, coaches, and club leaders complete the Core training. This training is especially encouraged for anyone working with youth players.

Sign up for [SafeSport Training](#) and complete the self-led course at your pace. The certification is valid for one year and you can choose your own start date at the time of enrollment.

### ATLANTIS SKILLS VIDEOS

Check out Atlantis Sports' [Beginner Skills Videos](#) to view a breakdown of some basic skills. They have additional skills videos in progress, so you may want to follow their YouTube channel.

### ITA ANTI-DOPING WEBINARS

CMAS follows the rules set by WADA on prohibited substances before and during competitions. The [prohibited list](#) is updated annually as needed and is effective on January 1st. These guidelines are ones that drive USOA's policies as well, so we should all take the time to be familiar with these rules.

The International Testing Agency (ITA) offers a Clean Sport webinar that speaks to anti-doping practices.

You can [sign up for a live webinar](#) or [review the recording](#) on your own time. Certificates are offered for completing a full webinar series; we will update you prior to the next series start date.

## **DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR USOA MEMBERSHIP**

A friendly reminder that USOA Memberships are based on a calendar year and need to be renewed to remain in good-standing with USOA.

This is our primary source of income, so encourage your teammates to register as well. This ensures we have the best opportunities to financially support development!

Registration is required for attending any USOA sanctioned event. It also ensures your coverage for facilities that require liability insurance. Give yourself the peace of mind and register now for 2023.

## **FINAL WORDS**

---

Thank you to everyone who has donated their time, ideas, and energy to furthering underwater hockey this year.

We wish you all a safe, happy, and healthy holiday season!



Sincerely,  
Your Committee  
Megann Largent, Chair  
Kurt Allen, Vice Chair/Secretary  
Eric Myers, Member at Large  
Shawn Berg, Member at Large  
Ariel Leung, Member at Large  
Brandon Burr, Member at Large