**AGENDA**

**UAHA REGULAR MEETING**

Date: February 10, 2020

Location: Maverik Center, Salt Lake Room

Regular Session: 7:00 pm

Guest Self-Introductions

Approval of January Meeting Minutes

1. Shelly made a correction for Dewey regarding State Tier Tournament dates. Jason motioned to approve the minutes, Carole seconded. The vote was unanimous.

Roll Call:

**Present**: Derrick Radke -President, Jason Empey -Executive VP Carole Strong -VP Discipline, Steve Picano – VP Disabled Hockey, Shelly Strahan -Secretary, Dewey Reagan- VP Travel; Jill Day -Treasurer;

**Conference Call**: Jeff Squibbs (parent), Courtney Miller (girls hockey), Chuck Dorvil (Asst Coach Lightning, L Grizz, Grizzlies)

**Absent**: Patty Bigelow -Youth VP, Wendy Radke -Safe Sport Coordinator, Wayne Woodhall -Utah Coach in Chief, Jared Backstrom- Goalies, Brian Murray -Web Master, Douglas Anne -VP Girls/Women, Michael Strahan -Utah ADM Coordinator, Mylisa Graham VP HS; Emily Rains – VP Adult Hockey

**Public Attendees**: See attendance sheet

**Regular Business**

1. New Applications for Organizations (2):
   1. Utah Hockey Club: Michael Kime spoke. The Utah Hockey club idea started because of a non-profit that was created in March 2019 to raise money and awareness for hockey in Utah. When Beau Bertinolli took the U of U coaching position, they saw the opportunity to align a youth organization with the University of Utah hockey program. The mission is to try and create an “end to end” organization. The parents and the players will play for the organization that offers what they really want. The goal is to get more kids signed up under USA Hockey. Beau Bertinolli spoke as well. He mentioned that the goal was to be more inclusive in youth hockey, and that he has seen many kids left behind over the years. Morgan Morietti also spoke about the girls hockey program in conjunction with the Utah Hockey Club. She mentioned that very few facilities have a dedicated girls locker room, and that it was a nationwide problem. The university has been working on allocating resources for both the mens and womens hockey team, and she wants to bring that to girls youth hockey.
      1. Board Questions: Doug Anne: asked what this improves within Utah Hockey, and why not just funnel more effort into working with the Lady Grizz, the existing girls organization. Michael Kime (UHC): Said that he reached out to Lady Grizz, and was never able to meet with them. He said that they have the base to create girls hockey, and that they have the resources to create more hockey in the state of Utah. Derrick Radke: Obviously more kids would be great, but if you are going to find them, why does the application start at 14U travel and Tier II, which is starting from the top, not building from the bottom? What would prohibit you from working with other organizations to meet the mission that you’ve set to grow hockey in this state? Michael Kime: They didn’t want to compete with the Lightning at the lower level youth age groups. The Lightning is doing a good job with hockey at that level, so why change it. There needs to be a continuum so that the kids in SL County program have a place to progress past rec at 12U. Beau Bertinolli said that he would want to spend a lot of time working with 6U to 12U and to have his University players help with those teams. Beau said he worries that the county kids are locked into a little bubble where they don’t realize that they have opportunities beyond the 1 day a week rec program that they are in. Steve Picano: asked Tim Bywater if he has educated his SL County rec families that he coached about opportunities outside of ISI/County hockey. He asked Michael Kime what he as planning to do to give back to the Lightning program and help with that. Tim Bywater: said he absolutely educated families on his team, but that kids often have a hard time leaving one program and integrating into another. Michael Kime: said that they would not be part of the Lightning program, but that they would absolutely work with the program as much as possible. Jason Empey: Asked if they believed that there were not enough existing opportunities for the players that we already have. Michael Kime: said that statistically, there are plenty of programs, but that there are different values and programming for each organization, and there needs to be an opportunity for parents to vote with their wallets and their time. It needs to be a competitive business model. Jason Empey: does it not dilute the potential pool that is out there already? Michael Kime: I don’t think the market lets that happen. Kids will opt out of one organization and move to another, so it won’t dilute the pool overall. Jason Empey: asked why is UHC’s product better than others? Michael Kime: said it isn’t better, just different. Tim Bywater: shouted out Shannon Schmidt’s county program, he is just concerned that Shannon’s program ends at 14U, and he wants to see that continue on into a travel program that works with the Lightning.
      2. Audience Questions: Jeff Graham (Eagles): mentioned that he met with Michael Kime prior to the meeting. He said that the top down approach doesn’t work, and that you need to start at the bottom with the younger players in order to grow the program that way. The Eagles work with DCYHA (Wind) already. He said that he would love to see Beau and his players out working with all of the organizations, not just the SL Lightning/County. Steve Metcalf (Wolves): said he doesn’t see a whole lot of objection to UHC integrating with the Lighting program that already exists. He said he thinks the issue comes in with them starting off and having the Tier level programs at 14, 16 and 18. The numbers right now don’t support that, as the existing teams have had a hard time forming with the numbers that exist right now. Another Tier II organization would also have an effect on the Tier I organization in the state. Ice time is pretty tight right now, including the Maverick center, and another organization coming in would have to take ice from another organization. Damon (WCR): said everyone is already being displaced, and February has been a disaster for getting enough ice for the existing organizations. How will UHC not displace WCR at the Maverick Center when there isn’t enough ice to go around already? He said he believed that according to the bylaws, and existing team couldn’t be displaced on their ice by a new organization. Shannon Schmidt (Lighting/SL County): Salt Lake county took over the rec hockey in SLC in 2000 because the existing organization (SLAHA) was so poorly managed that the county felt that they needed to take it over. He assured everyone that no one was taking over the Lightning or the county. He said he would love to have help from the U of U with coaching, but they have not even begun to discuss how that would look. He said that existing organizations that have county ice would not lose that ice, either. Shannon said he isn’t opposed to rebranding the county program, but it will still be run by Salt Lake County. Davis Mulholland (Jr Grizz): said that he has been helping the Jr Grizz for 5 years now. He doesn’t have a player in the Grizz program, he does it because of what the organization did for his son. He said his only goal each season is to do what is best for the kids every time. He said his job is to make better hockey players, and if that means moving to WCR Tier I or going out of state, so be it. He said he thinks that having high level coaches and university programs coming in and helping organizations with coaching and support is a fantastic idea. He then summarized some facts from his previous letter (see attachment below). Damon (WCR): wanted to point out that there are only 3 players on the 16U Tier I team that are not from Utah, and that they have players from Alpine to Logan on the team. Jeff Graham (Eagles): he mentioned that the Eagles 18U were helping to prep the 16U Tier I team prep before last weekend, and that the organizations do work together at the Tier level. He also wanted to know if it was a situation where Beau’s existing team would be brought over as a 14U Tier II and then they would try to come up with a 16U and 18U team. Beau Bertinolli: he told Jeff Graham that the U of U will not limit themselves just to county ice. They are willing to help whoever asks, the county youth program just happens to be in their back yard. Michael Kime: asked if everyone things that every kid who could be playing Tier II is playing Tier II?
   2. Utah Girls Hockey Association: Shannon Schmidt: The existing Lady Grizz organization is asking for their own affiliate number so that they can function as a separate organization, rather than having to go through Utah Girls Hockey. Shannon said that the Lady Grizz want to promote A and Tier Hockey for girls from 14U to 19U (maybe 12U if they can make that work). He said that opinions vary on whether it is better for girls to play girls only or continue to play with boys. There are limited programs for girls in the intermountain west in general, not just Utah. Steve Metcalf asked if girls could play rec with the boys and play on a girls travel team and Derrick and Shannon both said yes. Derrick said that as long as the number of teams are small, he doesn’t know if they need their own sub affiliate. Shannon said that he felt that they needed to have a voice in Utah Amateur Hockey that being an affiliate would bring them. Derrick said he didn’t know if that representation would change if for some reason they didn’t have a sub affiliate.
   3. Both organization applications will be voted on in March, along with the other applications to the board for teams next season.

**Section Reports:**

o High School VP, Mylisa Graham: She sent an update to Derrick, as she could not attend. The HS playoffs are off and going All board members and UAHA members are invited to come watch. They are on track to finish before the Tier playoffs. The all-star team plays on Feb 13, and the skills competition is that date as well. We are still first on the waiting list for the national tournament.

o Girls/Women VP, Doug Anne: America’s showcase girls HS select team is good to roster. Tryouts have happened, they were looking at around 18 girls and a couple of goalies, and they are working out commitments right now. There should be a team of 15 and 2, with the opportunity to get a couple more girls. Last weekend was the USA Hockey women’s symposium, it was the first of its kind. There were reps from the NHL and USA Hockey. The director of the women’s national team for team USA stayed at the symposium the whole weekend. Morgan Morietti said that she was very impressed with the symposium. She gave a brief summary of the symposium. Morgan said that she wants to mentor two female coaches who want to coach women’s hockey over the next year. Doug mentioned that he also wants to put together not just a try it for free for girls, but put together a group of girls who can get together multiple times before the start of the next season.

o Adult VP, Emily Rains: Absent

o Youth VP (House/Rec), Patty Bigelow: Absent

o Travel VP (Tier), Dewey Reagan: State Tier tournament is set up and ready to go. Dewey will be out of town, he asked other board members to attend. Derrick said that he was happy to be the contact for that weekend. The state tournament is March 6, 7 and 8, 2020. Everything is set up and ready to go. All Tier teams need to get their score sheets in to Dewey so that he can do the home and home verification for the 20 games, and so that he can do the seeding for the tournament.

o Disabled VP, Steve Picano: Try Sled Hockey for free had 18 participants. There is a game coming up this spring, and they need to find officials, as officiating is different. He wants to try and get more try it for free sessions this spring and summer. State Camp has many registrations, and about 95% of the girls players can register this year. The 06 birth year boys are already on a waitlist, and the only group that is light on players is the 03 boys. Derrick asked Steve to send a draft schedule to the board so that they know when things are happening. Shannon Schmidt asked if the board can rename State Camp to State Evaluation or something, and make sure that age groups are on the fliers for next year.

o CEP, Wayne Woodhall: Absent

o ADM, Michael Strahan: Nothing to report.

o SafeSport, Wendy Radke: Wendy attended the USA Hockey winter meeting. USA Hockey has decided on a new background screening and a new policy. The vendor is NCSI, which is the same vendor Utah is already using. Start date will be 04/01, so Utah needs to shut theirs off mid-March. Volunteers who screened 19-20 do not need to screen for 20-21. Carole recommended that it be posted on the webpage, to help get the message out. The cost for duplicate background checks will be 30.00 instead of 18.00. At the March meeting, there will be some proposed language for the Policies and Procedures to have the person doing the background screening pay the 30.00 and then get reimbursed by their org, not the other way around. People who have flagged background checks will get sent to USA Hockey, not to the Utah Safesport Coordinator. They are asking for previous appeals that our board has approved, so they don’t have to appeal again next year. For next year, there needs to be a list of coaches, volunteers and members before the season begins for each organization. Safesport training will still be required yearly, for all volunteers. All players who will turn 18 during the year will still be required to do Safesport for next year. UAHA also needs to consider a parent class for parents who are out of control.

o Registrar, Cathy Anderson: Absent

o Web Master, Brian Murray: Absent

o Discipline, Carole Strong: There are a number of match penalties for 601e3. There are a number showing up at the HS level. Carole proposes that there be a mandatory 30 day suspension regardless of when the hearing was held, and then the disciplinary committee can add more time if needed. She would like to see it added to our policies and procedures for next year. Michigan and Wisconsin have strong penalties for this. Michigan has minimum 60 days suspension. Derrick said that because it was not a votable item on the agenda, it cannot be voted on tonight. It will be added on to the March meeting. Carole went to the January HS board meeting. She talked to all the trustees and wants all the coaches to know that they have the authority to bench players, make them skate ladders, etc. to curb language and other problems before it gets to a match penalty.

o Treasurer, Jill Day: The tax return is completed.

o Secretary, Shelly Strahan: Nothing to report.

o Exec. VP, Jason Empey: Jason thanked everyone who showed up to present and discuss during the board meeting tonight.

o President, Derrick Radke: Fees went up 50 cents per youth player. The district Policies and Procedures will be updated soon. The Rocky Mountain District has appointed Doug Ritter as the safety coordinator. He needs a volunteer from each affiliate to help update the concussion management protocols. The Rocky Mountain Tournament fees have been announced. Each team pays an entry fee, instead of gate fees for people coming to watch the tournament. Youth 14 Tier I will pay 1800, 15 1900, 16 1900, and 18s 2100. Girls Tier I is 1400, 14 Tier II is 1700, 16 is 1900, and 19 is 2100. There are two district directors up for election. Derrick will send that info to the orgs any day now. At the affiliates presidents meeting, Safesport was discussed, and some affiliates discussed their zero tolerance policies for abuse officials. There is a goaltender development coordinator program. We do have a goaltender coordinator in this state, but we have not supported it financially. There is also a new membership portal. It has a tracking mechanism as you register, so it can tell you where you are in the application, and what Safesport and background checks you have done. It will also tell you where you are in coaching registration. The new registration portal is in beta testing, and Emily Rains has used it. It will be able to incorporate all of the data that USA Hockey has in the portal into the registration. They are also working on a scoring system that uses the USA Hockey data so that suspended players and unauthorized coaches won’t show in the scoring.

o Audience Input

• Next Meeting, March 2, 2020

• Open Discussion (If Time Allows)

Derrick motioned to adjourn, Dewey seconded. The meeting adjourned.

• Adjourn (Goal of 9:30 pm)

**Relevant attachments from section A., subsection a. Regular Business:**

To whom it may concern,

We are writing today in regard to the proposal before the UAHA board for an additional hockey organization within the state of Utah. Our understanding of the proposal feels misleading, it indicates that there is no Utah youth hockey program that allows players to participate in a single organization from 6U through 18U tier hockey. The DC Wind/Eagles program has been offering a developmental pipeline that has resulted in a program where a player can enter at age 6 and complete in recreation or travel play through age 18. Even with this convenient pipeline, players and families choose to either stay with the DCYHA program or leave for another program for a number of reasons.  The Jr. Grizzlies and Park city have a similar pipeline and all the other programs feed into Utah High School Hockey which supports a High School Select Showcase team (girls and boys).

   The proposal appears to offer a women’s program as its flagship team and it discusses a co-ed team as a novel and innovative approach not offered elsewhere.  While presented as unique, the co-ed model has been offered by every Utah youth recreation hockey program.  The desire for a pathway for girls to participate in collegiate hockey at the University of Utah is understandable; however, there is no need to establish a new tier level program for boys in order to build that pipeline for the girls.  That is where the purpose of this proposal needs further scrutiny.

   Of most concern is the desire of this group to enter the Tier level arena immediately.  It is observed that Utah is able to sustain three 14u, three 16U and two 18U Tier II level teams with the current numbers of in-state talent.  At these same age divisions, there has been intermittent success at the Tier I level.  The complexities around the decision of players wanting to pursue out-of-state training and play has not been solved by the existing Tier I or Tier II programs.  A new program in the Utah landscape does not seem to have any new attraction that suggests it will be more successful at retaining in-state players. The existing 14u, 16U and 18U Tier and Travel teams will not benefit from spreading that talent to a second Tier I team or any additional Tier II teams.  If there is a plan to add this level of team when the state’s player numbers grow substantially in these age groups, it would be wise to provide the additional opportunity when the numbers warrant such expansion.  There is no data-driven rationale in the proposal that supports the need for additional teams in the 14u, Midget Minor (16U) or Midget Major (18U) divisions at this point in time. Additional concerns include the shared ice resources in the community.

1) The Park City Miner Tier II Teams must buy ice outside of the PC Ice Arena

2) The Utah Jr. Grizzlies must buy ice outside of the Cottonwood Heights Arena

3) The Utah Golden Eagles must buy ice outside of the South Davis Recreation Center

    The impact on the current Tier teams being able to sustain the ice existing ice contracts is in jeopardy, according to this proposal. Ice rinks are a shared resource in Utah. The availability of ice times, during reasonable hours, for youth participation is already challenging. A new set of Tier teams operated by a cast of volunteers is not supporting the existing hockey structure but rather it strains the current structure.  Any new program in the Utah youth hockey environment should support and complement existing programs, not compete with them, as this proposal indicates it must do in order to acquire adequate ice times.

    This proposal does not offer player numbers or growth data to support its claim that it will grow Tier I or Tier II hockey; rather the proposal states that if it is approved, it will result in a shift of the pool of eligible players from the existing programs to this new Tier program. The proposal is in idea stage. There is no data to support the player numbers in the skill level needed for an additional set of teams at the Tier or travel divisions.

    We suggest a counter proposal for the SL County programs and the other entities submitting this proposal to work collaboratively with the current Tier programs to strengthen the pipeline to the existing Tier programs rather than add a competing program into the mix.  It can be argued that there are a limited number of 16U and 18U division players who are able to successfully compete as a team when representing Utah at out-of-state tournaments.  To add another Tier team into the current pyramid would either be the demise of the existing Tier programs, or the development of number of under skilled Tier Midgets and Majors representing Utah. Those are both bad outcomes.

    The new program also fails to show it can do anything to offer any better opportunities to grow girl’s hockey, but in fact, it will only further impact the growth by pulling players away from the newly reorganized Lady Grizzlies program. The pipeline for the girls could be further solidified by the willingness of the women’s U of U program to participate in the Lady Grizzlies program. This seems to be the most logical and beneficial fix to this stated problem.

Thank you for your consideration,

DCYHA – Eagles Representatives

Anna Erickson

Brady Sessions

  Everyone,

I just would like to clarify a few things about this proposal as it relates to SL County Parks and Rec.

In no way is this new, proposed organization going to take over, take the place of or control any program run and managed by Salt Lake County Parks and Rec. Any inference to doing so is misleading and false. My involvement in this was to simply writer a letter of recommendation for two people that have big supporters of SL County programs. Beyond that, the rest is for UAHA to decide whats best for Utah Hockey.

The Salt Lake City Sports Complex will not be altering its existing ice agreements with its current customers to make room for any new programs.

The Utah Lady Grizzlies have no interest in changing the program structure that was approved by UAHA last spring. The ULG are looking forward to our second year as merged program and looking forward to officially joining UAHA.

I do request that UAHA remove the stipulation that a letter of recommendation for an existing affiliate is required for a new affiliate application. Seems pointless.

You won’t be hearing from me until next Monday when I represent the UGHA.

Thanks!

Shannon Schmidt

Ice Hockey Program Coordinator

Salt Lake City Sports Complex

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February 8, 2020

While there are always areas for improvement, we (WMAHA – Utah Jr. Grizzlies) believe the current house, travel and tier organizations are enough to meet the needs of the community and the players. The current organizations provide strong development and competitive programs at all age levels, enabling players to reach their potential and continue to grow.

There are currently three Tier II and one Tier I programs in the state.

1. Currently, the only tier ready age group within the proposed UHC is the 06 Wolves. This fact, coupled with the struggle the existing 16U and 18U programs have had to field teams, makes adding another tier program unnecessary. The Wolves program has been feeding the Tier I WCR 14U program over the past couple years, and as a result has made it difficult for the three Tier II teams to field full rosters. If there were three fully rostered Tier II 14U teams, they would also serve as feeders to WCR (the 14U Jr Grizzlies team has historically fed at least 3-4 players into 14U WCR each year, which I consider a successful development of our players. The same is true of PC, I believe).
2. Even though there are 3 Tier II programs approved in Utah, there has only been depth to create 2 Tier II programs at the 14U level since the Tier I program was created.
3. At the 14U level:
   1. 2019-20 – PC and Jr Grizzlies are the only 2 Tier II programs and PC has struggled a bit this season. The Eagles are approved but couldn’t field a Tier II team. Skill wise, if the 06 Wolves players played in the tier organizations, there would be enough to have two strong Tier II programs and possibly a third.
   2. 2018-19 – PC and Jr Grizzlies were the only 2 Tier II programs and the Jr Grizzlies struggled. 05 Wolves were 14U but almost every player was playing to feed into WCR in 19-20 and they didn’t want to split up. The Lightning had tier level players but elected to stay with a specific coach rather than try out for the three Tier II organizations.
   3. 2017-18 –Park City and Jr Grizzlies had teams but Eagles could not field a third as they went through a coaching change.
   4. 2016-17 – The last time there were 4 Tier II orgs – PC, Jr Grizzlies, Eagles and Outliers – PC, Jr Grizzlies, and Eagles had full teams, while the Outliers did not have a full roster.
4. At the 16U level:
   1. 2019-20 – 3 teams all playing well against each other.
   2. 2018-19 – 3 teams. PC and Eagles played somewhat competitively, with the Jr Grizzlies working to rebuild a third team.
   3. 2017-18 - 3 teams. PC and Eagles played somewhat competitively, with the Jr Grizzlies working to rebuild a third team.
   4. 2016-17 - 2 teams. PC and Eagles played somewhat competitively, with the Jr Grizzlies unable to field a team while going through coaching change.
5. At the 18U level:
   1. 2019-20 – 2 teams playing competitively. Jr Grizzlies unable to field a team due to talent level availability
   2. 2018-19 – PC was the only Tier II program fielded.
   3. 2017-18 – PC and Eagles were the only two associations to field a Tier II team.
   4. 2016-17 – PC and Eagles had a team, though PC was only team that truly played a Tier II season.

In our opinion, there should be the three existing Tier II programs, as well as each of these organizations’ Travel teams. Each season, if we are doing our work right, first year players from the Tier II teams should either be improving to a level that they make the WCR team (99% of WCR players will typically be 2nd year players in their age group) or remain with the Tier II program. Thereby, WCR is a combination of 2nd year players from the Tier II organizations plus recruited out of state players, and each Tier II program is a combination of: 1) returning players from the prior year, 2) 2nd year players properly developed from the Travel teams, and 3) 1st year players.

WMAHA and the Utah Jr. Grizzlies are committed to growing hockey in Utah and would welcome the opportunity to partner with the members of UHC under our current tier structure to accomplish our common goal.

Davis Mullholand

Hockey Development Director

WMAHA – Utah Jr Grizzlies

To whom it may concern: After discussion with the board of the Summit and Wasatch Counties Amateur Hockey Association (Park City Ice Miners), and after reading the letters from both DCYHA – Eagles and the WMAHA – Utah Jr. Grizzlies, we felt the need to express our thoughts and concerns of the proposal for an additional organization and more teams to be developed under that proposal. To our knowledge, Utah Amateur Hockey Association developed their “pyramid” to develop strong competitive teams at the Tier 1 and Tier 2 level in the state of Utah. It specifically narrows at the top, allowing less teams at the higher levels to create a funnel to drive the top players and talent to try out for these teams. To make this pyramid successful, we feel UAHA should have a process to monitor existing USA Hockey registration numbers in the state of Utah by birth year. In addition, UAHA would meet with each organization to monitor their success at tryouts, their ability to field a full team of competitive players at each age level after tryouts, and their ability to compete with these teams each level/age group outside the state of Utah. In doing so, this should provide them with the information to see if there is a need to add additional teams at the top half of the pyramid. Our concerns were outlined very well by Davis Mullholland in points #1 - #5 of his letter. The existing organization who already have Tier 2 and Travel teams have struggled on and off the last couple of years with fielding full, competitive teams after tryouts. If every year, organizations are not successful in putting together these teams, then the pyramid is too wide at the top. Numerous times through Davis’s examples were organizations not able to do this. Adding additional teams at both the Tier 2 and Travel level will only make this more difficult in the future. Tryouts will no longer be tryouts as talented players will be spread thin. There will be no need to hold tryouts as there will not be enough players to even put a full team together.

In addition, Davis outlined the struggle to fill teams in birth years with higher numbers. Although 2006 and 2007 have higher numbers of players, UAHA should also take into account the recession in 2008 where the birth number of children in general declined dramatically. This is seen both in general and through the USA Hockey registration numbers. If you track the birth numbers in the United States, the number of children being born per year since 2008 have continued to decline. This means less kids to play youth sport, i.e. less kids signing up to play hockey. So, although the state might have the ability to fill the Tier 1 and existing three Tier 2 teams with the 2006 players and possibly with the 2007 players, this will only become a challenge again as the 2008 and 2009 players come up through the age groups. Adding more teams now will only exacerbate the existing problems organizations are already feeling when trying to fill teams.

We feel, if and only if the existing organizations with Tier 1, Tier 2, and Travel teams can successfully roster a full team of competitive players after tryouts (not through the summer as coaches are patching a team together) for a period several years, should UAHA even consider looking at adding another organization to the pyramid, especially at the top half of the pyramid.

Sincerely,

Mike Adamek

Hockey Director

Park City Ice Miners (SWCAHA)

Park City Ice Miners I [www.pciceminers.org](http://www.pciceminers.org)