

USOA Underwater Hockey Committee Meeting Minutes

10/27/20 by Megann Largent

- 1) Call Meeting to Order @510 PST
 - a) Committee Members Present: Karen Thullner, Kurt Allen, Megann Largent, Paul Byrne, Andrei Savu, Eric Straily arrived about half-way through
 - b) Non- Committee members: Carol Rose, Don Mathews, John Kulsa
- 2) General Assembly/Member Discussion. 15 minutes.
- 3) Items added to agenda:
 - a) Carol - Historical USOA items - 5 trophies are missing.
 - b) Kurt - KT's succession & how to proceed
- 4) Approval of Agenda. Approved
- 5) Approval of September Minutes. Corrected spelling of September, approved.
- 6) Financial Secretary/Treasurer's Report No financial report sent by Wendy.
 - a) Request that some funds be put in a CD or other interest bearing account.
 - i) Carol states that the request is to be brought to Thursday's meeting as all money belongs to USOA.
 - ii) How much money do we have? About \$35,000
 - (1) Need to assess amount of liquidity to determine amount we can put into a CD
 - (2) Is it okay for us to be "making money" on our money as we have tax-exempt status?
 - (a) Carol says yes
 - (3) KT encourages we get the financial statement and review at the next meeting before moving forward
- 7) Director's Reports (Bold indicated we need someone to fill the role)
 - a) Rules Director - Don Mathews
 - i) Treaties of UWH fouls have been edited. Changes will be made and then the next step will be to put on Facebook page for review for clarity internationally.
 - b) Referee Director – John Kulsa
 - i) Training Database development - thinks he has found a way for database to talk to USOA website for the tracking of referee experience
 - c) Referee Training Coordinator - **Position Vacant**
 - d) Development Director – **Position Vacant**
 - e) Regional Directors
 - i) Northeast – Jennifer Biener
 - ii) Northwest - **Position Vacant (ask Paul)** USOA NW Regional Director is desired. We are hoping it could be the same person for both the USOA and UWH committee. Paul to follow up on his duties.
 - iii) Southeast – Patrick Partington
 - iv) Inland – Damir Djidic

- v) Southwest – **Position Vacant (ask Dan and Paul)**
- vi) Women’s – Brigit Grimm
- vii) Men’s – **Position Vacant**
- viii) Collegiate – Ben Holtzman
- ix) Juniors – Gustavo Pesce
- f) National Teams Coordinator – **Dave Boutcher**
- g) Competitions Director – **Jennifer Whitman**
- h) Safety Director – **Position Vacant**
- i) Marketing - **Carolyn Erdman**

Old Business:

- 8) CMAS UWH Commission positions. Coach and Development are still open.
- 9) COVID-19 status; pools opening.
 - a) Collaborate with UWR on ways pools are opening.
- 10) 1,000 UWH players by the end of 2022.
 - a) New player orientation and video
 - i) Video powerpoint with audio voiceover.
 - b) Meet-up key words
- 11) Focus on Regional Tournaments for smaller crowds.
 - a) Fill Regional Director positions
 - b) Regional Potluck in all regions the last weekend in September (+/- 1 week)
Aka everyone is playing hockey in the USA at the same time.
 - c) CMC’s - last weekend in January (+/- 1 week)
ACC’s - Mid-March
PCC’s - Mid-October
These tournaments will focus on club teams.
Elite divisions could run the same weekend, but focus is on club teams.
 - d) Additional regional tournaments.
- 12) Nationals and club tournaments requirements.
 - a) Use Rostering off Sports Engine to ensure clubs.
- 13) Expand use of Sports Engine with UWR.
 - a) Tournaments and user friendly
 - b) Rostering
 - c) Kurt and Anush to give Dan an overview of the site.
 - i) Follow with Sports Engine and Dan.
- 14) USOA Meetings and Election
 - a) President - Karen Thullner; Treasurer - Wendy Okafuji
 - b) All proposed by-laws passed
 - c) Next USOA General Membership meeting will be March 11, 2021
- 15) Increasing awareness of UWH in a COVID-19 world.
- 16) How to get more people to volunteer?

New Business:

- 17) World’s 2021 Canceled

- a) Andrei - some players are wanting some money back on payments they've made thus far. KT hasn't had anyone ask and would like to know who. Andrei says Wendy was notified and was going to make an agenda item
 - i) This will be brought to Thursday's meeting.
- 18) Paul update on Seattle Play
 - a) How did they manage to convince their pool to get time?
 - b) The team drafted a Return to Play contract that stated what they will do to minimize risk. Ranked themselves as moderate risk and provided a safety plan. Included phrasing to hold the facility harmless should anyone contract COVID.
 - c) Paul sent email with their document for an example.
- 19) Nationals 2021?
 - a) Roger Bacon is asking for planning purposes.
 - i) They would like to host.
 - ii) We plan to revisit this early next year; check in month by month with a target of March for a decision.
 - iii) There is a low probability we will be able to have a large scale tournament by June.
- 20) Resignation of Karen Thullner as USOA UWH Committee Chair to assume duties of USOA President. KT has been elected USOA President (HOORAY!) but this means she is resigning from her duties on the UWH Committee (sad)
 - a) Succession plan for Vice Chair
 - i) Kurt will take over as Chair since he is sitting Vice Chair. We need to elect a Vice Chair replacement. UWH Committee rules do not specify this process but USOA bylaws do so we will follow those.
 - (1) Eric will take the position of Chair if no one else would like it.
 - (a) Kurt will keep Chair for next 6 months.
 - (2) Paul nominates Eric for Vice Chair. Eric accepts nomination and will continue Financial Secretary duties in addition.
 - (a) Moved & Approved
- 21) Historical USOA items: there are about 5 trophies that are missing. Carol and Charlie Mathews are going to be sourcing them. (Fair Play, PCCs x3, Dan Wilkins, Nationals, maybe more) We need to find these trophies and determine what we do with this type of thing. Perhaps the History of Diving Museum in Florida?
- 22) USOA website is needing someone to spearhead updating documentation on who is playing.
 - a) Kurt volunteered. KT will connect Kurt and Timmy.
- 23) Sports Engine
 - a) KT is encouraging people to check out Sports Engine during this downtime
- 24) Meetup Update
 - a) Andrei sent out an email with pricing.

- b) If we have “clubs only” it makes more sense to just stick with standard accounts.
 - c) If we have a National buy-in, we should consider Meetup Pro
 - i) This is good for monitoring growth and attendance
 - ii) However, it is difficult to make it work for smaller clubs due to cost
 - iii) Regional might make more sense... 3 groups per account.
 - iv) Kurt will send out some numbers Andrei has compiled to team leaders
- 25) Eric would like to revisit the 2017 rule change that was brought up at the last meeting
- a) Definition of “club” and “current member”
 - i) A group of UWH members who are playing at least twice a month...
 - b) KT emailed most recent version of the rules, but this language isn’t included
 - c) It was drafted but never approved by USOA
 - d) There is a possibility that it was passed at the committee meeting prior to Nationals 2017, but then never brought to USOA.
 - e) After some discussion, it appears it wasn’t passed at the committee level due to impracticality of tracking and monitoring if people are meeting the minimum frequency of play requirements.

Next meeting: November 24 , 2020

Adjournment: 621 PST

USOA Underwater Hockey Committee Meeting Minutes

9/22/20 by Megann Largent

- 1) Call Meeting to Order *501 PST*
 - a) Committee Members Present: *KT, Kurt, Megann, Paul, Andrei, Daniel, Eric*
 - b) Non- Committee members: *Carol*
- 2) General Assembly/Member Discussion. 15 minutes.
- 3) Approval of Agenda. *Approved unanimously*
- 4) Election of officers. *Eric objects to assignment of 1 year term on the grounds of procedure and term limits; requests 2 year term.*
- 5) Approval of August Minutes. *Approved unanimously*
- 6) Financial Secretary/Treasurer’s Report *Not presented*
- 7) Director’s Reports (Bold indicated we need someone to fill the role) *Directors absent, no reports*
 - a) Rules Director - Don Mathews
 - b) Referee Director – John Kulsa -
 - c) Referee Training Coordinator - **Position Vacant**
 - d) Development Director – **Position Vacant**
 - e) Regional Directors

- i) Northeast – Jennifer Biener
- ii) Northwest - **Position Vacant (ask Paul)** *Northern California, Oregon, Washington, Boise - any players express interest? Not at this time. Paul recommends USOA sends email to a few people in regions needing regional directors to distribute to club members to stoke interest.*
- iii) Southeast – Patrick Partington
- iv) Inland – Damir Djidic
- v) Southwest – **Position Vacant (ask Dan and Paul)** *Southern California, Arizona, Nevada, New Mexico, Colorado. Eric says some members have expressed interest in passing. Will proceed the same as above.*
- vi) Women's – Brigit Grimm
- vii) Men's – **Position Vacant**
- viii) Collegiate – Ben Holtzman
- ix) Juniors – Gustavo Pesce
- f) National Teams Coordinator – **Dave Boutcher**
- g) Competitions Director – **Jennifer Whitman**
- h) Safety Director – **Position Vacant**
- i) Marketing - **Carolyn Erdman**

Old Business:

- 8) CMAS UWH Commission positions. Coach and Development are still open. *Karen attended CMAS meeting last Saturday.*
- 9) COVID-19 status; pools opening. *It is pool specific, active UWH and UWR teams scattered across country. Carol would like pools that have successfully opened to write out what works and what doesn't to help others along. Anyone want to help collect info from other teams? Andrei recommends sending inquiry out through Sports Engine.*
 - a) Collaborate with UWR on ways pools are opening.

New Business: The bullet points below were discussed at length in a highly interlaced conversation. The summary of what was discussed is as follows:

Currently about 280 players are registered members, likely double that when teams are playing.

We need to make dues required for all tournaments. We should set regional potlucks to be the same time of year every year to encourage play across the country. How do we achieve this? Making Sports Engine a central location for information and managing activities.

- *Eric pitches tiered membership to encourage more people to pay dues. Refused based on devaluing UWH. Need to get buy in from the club leaders, make it non-negotiable.*

Daniel proposes a three part plan.

- 1) *Create interest in the sport in general.*
- 2) *Centralized location for all information - Sports Engine. Make it user friendly!*
- 3) *Advertising.*

Andrei pitches USOA covers club meetup fees. Make the requirement a minimum # of registered members to have fees covered. Use language along the lines of "If you are a USOA recognized club" - updated rule on what qualifies a club from 2017.

MeetupPro - a group of groups! \$30/group/month every 6 months, \$35/group/month to month - hosts up to 20 groups. Regional Director would run these.

- *Andrei will look into pricing. - discounts for multiples? We will need to look into further how many clubs exist and how to best enable this function.*

Committee will need to address this in the budget in November. Maybe including Rugby and Spearfishing.

- 10) 1,000 UWH players by the end of 2022.
 - a) New player orientation and video
 - i) Video powerpoint with audio voiceover. *not presented, but mentioned as a tool*
 - b) Meet-up key words
- 11) Focus on Regional Tournaments for smaller crowds.
 - a) Fill Regional Director positions
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 - a) Use Rostering off Sports Engine to ensure clubs.
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 - a) Tournaments and user friendly
 - b) Rostering
 - c) Kurt and Anush to give Dan an overview of the site.
 - i) Follow with Sports Engine and Dan.
- 14) Upcoming USOA Meetings and Election (see notes from Ray Tucker)
 - a) USOA BOG and SC meetings are Saturday, September 26.
 - i) Emails were sent to chairs of clubs for proxies. *Carol states that the deadline has passed for applying to be a club proxy.*
 - b) USOA General Membership meeting is Saturday, October 24.
 - i) Ballots will be emailed to individual members on October 5. Ballots not mailed will be voted on by proxy at the meeting on October 24. Clubs will need to send in different proxies for this meeting from the September 26 meetings.
 - ii) Items on the ballot include the election of officers: President and Treasurer.
- 15) Increasing awareness of UWH in a COVID-19 world.
- 16) How to get more people to volunteer?
- 17) *KT to update USOA with current documents. Add Megann to access.*

Next meeting: October 27 , 2020

Adjournment: *633 PST*

