



Mission: The Upper Valley Hockey Association is a volunteer run association whose mission is to introduce the youth of the greater Upper Valley to the game of hockey, so that every child in the program can enjoy a positive experience through sportsmanship, teamwork, integrity, and respect for all individuals, while developing a love for the game.

UVHA MEETING - Minutes November 15, 2023 6pm

Meeting began at 6:03 pm on Google Meet.

Meeting Attendees: Will Meyer, Brock Barton, Jen Callahan, Dana Wright, Tom Daniels, Megan O'Neil, Allison Mancuso, Cherry Sullivan, Nicole Demers, and Bethany McLeman.

Approval of Minutes from October- Brock Barton motioned to approve the minutes and that was seconded by Dana Wright. The motion passed and the minutes from October were approved.

Monthly Reports

Coaching Coordinator/Registrar- Jen and Allison are still working on all the locker room volunteers and getting them officially approved. Will took attendance at Storm Academy and proved everyone who is registered is out there. Brock asked about the December deadline and if coaches know about it. Allison will double check and send a follow-up email about coaching accreditations.

Safesport Coordinator - No update

NH State Representative - Will went to the monthly meeting on Tuesday night. Much of the meeting was about tier movement. Will Meyer provided background on the situation and how the decision was made with NHAHA. The official 10U tier movements were communicated to 10U families today. Will and the executive board feel that our teams are now playing in the right grouping of teams. Dana is working on scheduling for the new games and will help the Black and Silver teams find additional games for the empty slots they now have. Brock wants to make sure that we keep the 10U home ice slots and fill them with Vermont teams. Will did not get much clarification about the 8U full ice team and what that will look like. Will is going to sit down with Dan Hall and Marc Gattie to work through how to get some full ice games for our 8U kids. He said we need to send a reminder to team parents that games need to be uploaded at the end of the game. Brock suggested that we make a sign for the scorers box that reminds officials about curfew rink status and making sure to upload the game. Jen should send out training for volunteers to team parents again.

Girls Development - Tom Daniels reported that he is not sure we are going to be able to have girls development skates this year due to lack of numbers. The board agreed that we want this program to happen but we need to advertise that it exists and the why behind it. Jen will send emails of all registered females to Tom Daniels so that he can gauge interest from those families.

Fundraising - Jen Callahan gave an update on the concession stand. She received feedback from three families that thought it was a great idea, no one else replied to the email. Running the concession stand this winter will be in place of our traditional holiday fundraiser. Will said the booster club will let us use their coffee maker and other appliances. Allison offered to help with tasks to get this up and rolling and Cherry did as well.

Scheduler - Dana Wright reports that it's been busy for him with all the re-tiering. He is having an issue with Avareo but will talk with Josh. Will suggested that Dana could also reach out to Kevin.

Equipment Manager - Will Meyer sent a follow-up today to the contact for the gear and heard that things are starting to ship today and tomorrow. Will is still chasing three practice goalie jerseys.

Treasurer - Brock Barton reports that we were approved for the ADM grant through NHAHA. The board had talked about using this money for quick change pads and new barriers. Allison would like 2 sets of quick change pads as a priority, with barriers coming second, and also asked for new cones. Brock also stated that the tax return was due today (11/15/23) and that was submitted on time.

Marketing/Social Media Manager - Tom Daniels would like more content for posting. Jen is going to distribute Tom's contact information to team parents to get them to send directly to Tom.

Safety/Concussion - Will reported that every head coach has their med kits. Dana hasn't ordered more but is going to order two more kits, one for the rink and another for Housemites.

After monthly reports, the board moved on to other current topics...

Girls 3 on 3 Thanksgiving Tournament - Brock had received some email interest and questions but no one signed up. We will need more advanced planning to pull this off next year and then it could be something really great. Brock will make a last ditch effort this week and ask for responses by Sunday. He will let the board know the final fate. If the tourney doesn't happen, we need to find use for the ice slots over Thanksgiving weekend and will offer them to each team as a full ice practice slot.

Neck guard policy (https://www.usahockey.com/news_article/show/1290230)- Will asked for a discussion on the proposed new legislation from USA Hockey. He reported that at the NHAHA meeting he heard everyone was 99% sure USA Hockey was going to mandate neck guards in January. There is a regulation for these devices (a circle with a little hammer in it). Everyone on the board was in favor of adapting this policy as an association. The board will work on official legislation to be passed.

14U Update- Brock Barton gave a 14U update about adding HHA to the collaboration. Gave an overview of where they are in the process. HHA had a long discussion at their meeting last night. Cherry asked for clarification about why we lose kids at 14U. We agreed to 3 years of partnership with Woodstock. No one objected and gave Brock permission to continue with conversations. He is scheduled to talk to Woodstock on Friday.

Middle School Hockey Tournament- This is a tournament for middle school age kids to play for their town team in a "Bean Pot" type tournament to encourage local moral and development of high school programs. Will was asked to find a Hartford Coach. Will thought Jay Z and Tom Daniels suggested asking Kelly. Will is going to reach out to them.

Scheduling Platform for Referees- Will reports this is up and running. We are sharing Hanover's platform with them for this season. Will is making sure games that are added or deleted are being sent to Justin each week. We are paying officials and processing payments through that platform.

Tournament Fees for 24-25 season- President Will Meyer proposed we increase the tournament fees for each team because the average tournament is \$1400-1500 now. The board agreed to come back to this at the end of the season.

Travel mite home games/full ice- Will reports that the 8U coaches need to find more home ice slots for travel mites. Scheduler Dana Wright reports they have lots of unused slots and counted 12 in the schedule currently. Will Meyer proposed that Dana and the 8U coaches sit down to talk about what ice is available to them once they have the rest of the GSL schedule.

Player Development Position- Will and Allison proposed having someone who is designated to focus on evaluating new kids at Storm Academy and helping to facilitate moving them up to the appropriate level; a "Storm Academy Coordinator". Ideally, this would be someone who is familiar with hockey development but also someone who can coordinate the movement of players. We need a better process to streamline the movement of kids to the correct level who enter late. This will be revisited in the off-season.

Try Hockey For Free - The board threw several dates around but didn't settle on one. We will need a few off-ice helpers. Will is going to circle back on this next week once we know parity play for 8U.

Bethany McLeman wanted to talk to the board about an opportunity for the 10U silver team. They were asked to play a scrimmage with the Concord Capitals on the ice prior to a Bruins Game at TD

Garden. They have already committed to this event and have pre-paid the \$8,000.00 to purchase the obligatory 50 tickets per team for the game. Tickets are \$160 for the event. Bethany asked if their team could fundraise on behalf of Storm to help families pay for the tickets. The board asked them not to reach out to the Byrne Foundation as they are a major donor for the Skate-a-thon and also passed along all the other local businesses who typically contribute. Bethany is going to work with Brock Barton if she has any financial questions.

Non-board members departed from the call

Refund Requests

Pipper (14U)- Approved 50% refund based on the refund policy. Unanimous vote.

Halls' (HM, TM, 10U) - Will read the Hall's email aloud to the board. A lengthy discussion ensued about the board's current refund policy and how that would relate to the Halls' situation. A final vote was taken on two options: 50% refund- 5 votes, 100% refund- 3 votes. The board will move forward with a 50% refund for all three registrations plus the difference between house mite and travel mite cost difference.

Colvert (TM)- Approved 100% refund based on the refund policy. Unanimous vote.

Placement Request (Carmichael)- Board policy is for play up requests to come from coaches. With the new tier placement, the teams will have better parity and hopefully more success. This request is denied.

Will Meyer adjourned the meeting at 8:19pm.