

USOA Underwater Hockey Committee Minutes

Sunday, February 16, 2024

8-9:30pm (EDT), 7-8:30pm (CDT), 6-7:30pm (MDT), 5-6:30pm (PDT)

Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82094751113?pwd=NVhDYUxXK3ISUkE2OUdUUWwwcUZ3dz09>

Meeting ID: 820 9475 1113

UWH Committee Members:

Beven McWilliams, Chair(2023-2025)

Jacqui West, Vice Chair (2023-2025)

Molly Banks, Secretary(2024-2026)

Eric Myers, Financial Secretary (2023-2025)

Jesse Hocking, Member at Large (2024-2026)

Paul Byrne, Member at Large (2023-2025)

Michael Riccitelli, Member at Large (2024-2026)

1. Call to order: 7:04 PM (CST)
 - a. Committee members present: Paul, Jacqui, Michael, Molly, Beven
 - b. Non-committee members present: Helene, Don, Agnes, Kim, John, Eric Straily, Cheryl.
 - c. Approval of agenda (1 min): Approved.
2. Discussion and approval of January minutes (1 min): approved.
3. Michael: Bringing Bob on board as financial support (will be pro bono and not an official member of the USOA UWH committee) - will be introduced in March meeting and in full swing by April.
4. USOA harassment policy and continuing issues (follow up leading up to nationals).
5. Petition for USA Development team to go to Colombia
 - a. Elite teams want developmental teams to go to Colombia.
 - i. Pros: increase level of hockey in US + continue to expand scope for teams for the Worlds competition in 2027.
 - ii. Cons: Might inhibit masters teams from sending a team if there aren't enough numbers to form a team.
 - b. Get a sub-committee put together to better understand what's going on (USOA + representation from USA teams) – Email to USA team representatives (Molly, Beven, Jesse).
6. USOA Funding:
 - a. Gear covered by USOA: clothing uniform
 - b. Players cover: Swimsuits + caps
 - c. Still looking for Development Fund document (lays out how development would be

used) "Development Fund Policy" - Ask KT

7. National Trophy production update from Michael (3 min): Michael's contact: \$2,500 (material + labor). Including the metal editions – estimate = \$3,000. He needs a go ASAP to get it done before Nationals. No magnets – all screwed together. **APPROVED**.
8. Financial secretary/Treasurer's report - Eric Myers/Melody (3 min):
 - a. Total balance as of November 30: \$38,560.79
 - i. Draft for how to request funds from the committee
 1. Requesting formal process: (forms drafted by Jacqui) + Michael has ideas to be discussed next month.
 - Either written or verbal
 - Statement of needs/products/descriptions
 - Use of funds
 - How it would benefit USOA
 - Who will benefit from the funding request
 - Help with insurance?
 - Some acknowledgements of USOA funding
 - etc.
 2. USOA swag/drip/tchotchke's discussion: Using funds for items at nationals. USOA appreciation. A booth at Nationals? To be discussed later.
 3. Kristen Lee from Eugene club requested \$1000.00 to help host a tournament due to increase in pool costs. **APPROVED**
 4. Uniforms for Qualifiers.
 - b. **Rules Director** - Don Mathews (5 min):
 - i. Version 13 of the rules should be published sometime after February 8. They will be used for the Qualifiers. (the only thing that wasn't approved was the change in age for Masters. It will remain the same).
 - ii. Version 14 will have rule requests considered that we were not able to address in version 13. Improvement needs to be made that requires a lot of debate and thorough analysis. This version won't be available until 2026. Some fundamental changes expected:
 1. Player equipment. (Most notably sticks, snorkels and masks)
 2. Corner rule.
 3. Protests – we need clarity on what can be protested during a game.
 - c. **Referee Director** - John Kulsa (5 min):
 - i. Reaching out for interest for USA Worlds refs. Beven sending out letter of application.
 1. Need to be prequalified before the tournament.
 - Currently 4 active Level III refs – any additional refs looking to be Level III will need to be certified and then added to the list. To be discussed more in the meeting on the 18th and list must be turned in sometime in Jan/Feb.

ii. Addressed new rule: electronic communication from coaches to players is not allowed. Voting in progress – then to national federations. – to be discussed further in next meeting. We need to send 3 refs.

iii. UPCOMING REF TRAINING:

1. Level 1 at PNW Cup.
2. Level 1 + 2 at Nationals.

d. **Nationals Team Coordinator** – Helene Soleil (5 min):

1. Entry opens on the 31st of 2025 and closes March 15th 2025.
2. Team declaration July 1st.
3. Team costs are going to be more expensive than Australia.
4. Team committee working on suit and cap designs.
5. Using Argentina puck (waiting to be officially confirmed).
6. Pool bottom: tile exactly like Medellin pool (large tile).
7. Pool depth: 3M deep.

e. **Youth Development Director** - Agnes Debrunner (5 min):

i. under 24 boys sent a questionnaire for interest for players and coaches for Quebec City (location potentially might change).

Responses so far:

1. 17: U24 men
2. 10: U24 women
3. 9+: U19 men
4. 12: U19 women

ii. Email needs to be sent out for managers, coaches, and the steering committee.

iii. Update next month on managers, coaches, steering committees

di. **Competitions Director** - Eric Straily (5 min):

- i. Inter-Regional survey report
- ii. OCC's in March 8-9
- iii. Florida Cup Apr 26-27 (open to everyone but has to be a FL team to win cup)
- iv. San Diego Potluck May 17

- v. Nationals Denver June 20- 22 put together by Competitions Group (beta test) Group includes: regional directors (but they can find someone else to represent them).
- vi. ACCs Bid: Charleston – waiting on sending out call for other bids.

dii. Regional Directors:

- i. Northwest - Kim Riccitelli (2 min):
 - 1. Local small events with Canada
 - 2. Details were sent from Kim about updates and history of regional trainings, events, and processes that PNW has implemented for UJNW Club Team Cup May 17-18th 2025 St Helens, Oregon
 - Sanctioned event application received and under review
 - 3. looking for head ref for level 1
- ii. Southwest- Casey Nakamura (2 min):
 - 1. PCCS open for bids. In September- October
 - Possibly SoCal, Vegas or Phoenix pools
 - 2. “The OC Cup”(Irvine, CA) tournament set for March 8-9.
 - Format like PCC’s – Club tournament – not restricted to only California teams
 - 3. LA has new pool actually in LA(Echo Park)
 - Saturday morning practices are going on now
 - 4. San Diego planning Pre-Nationals potluck at the Plunge (May 17th 2025)
- iii. Inland - Cheryl Russell (2 min) :
 - 1. MSU tournament
 - 2. Uofl spring tournament
- iv. Northeast - Jenny Biener (2 min):
 - 1. Region needs help with player involvement
 - 2. Assisting prospective youth development in Delaware
- v. Southeast- Nicole Mazouch (2 min):
 - 1. Lucky’s Florida State Championship. Orlando April 26-27. Open for anyone, but to get the cup it must be a Florida Team.

Regional Director positions with term limits?

- a. Potential options:
 - i. Two 2-year term limits... but if there still is a vacancy, the term can continue.
- b. Define “regional director” to make it easier to fill vacancies.

- i. In progress (get write ups from current regional directors– outlining what they do).
 - ii. Regional director call potentially happening or subcommittee.
9. Call for Nationals bids (2 min)
 - a. National bids-
 - i. issues: University pools can't book pools until after swimming schedules are released (Feb/March)
 - ii. Denver – Will have to be Nationals location this year
 1. June 20-22
 - b. Send out call for bids for 2025 ACCs and PCCs also
10. CMAS 2025 World Qualifiers Update (5 min)
 - a. Redefine what the National team's coordinator does.
 - i. Still in progress
11. Old business (3 min):
 - a. Directors position updates (2 min)
 - b. Development, Coaching, Events positions need to be filled at CMAS level
 1. Licensing coaching possible – look for interest on being on the board – position has been open for years. Beven Will send out a letter to gauge interest.
12. Question about how we can define what a club is, what is a club player, etc.
 - a. UWH Committee can write things up and then send the proposed changes to USOA for an official vote for the 2025 Annual Meeting
 - b. Needs to get proposed changes before September 2025. Unless a special meeting can be called.
 - c. Michael, Jesse, Beven, Molly, see if special meeting can be called to get criteria for nationals 2025. Do the research and legwork for proposal.
 - d. Big picture hockey events, competition standards, club rules, criteria for high level events. What are the issues we can solve.
- 13. Next meeting will be discussed**

Action Items:

- *Putting together a sub-committee with USA Elite + Masters teams representatives: discuss development team + other discussions around qualifiers + worlds. (Molly + Beven)*
- *Development Fund: policy document still needs to be found (Contact KT).*
- *Bob will join as financial guidance next meeting as an introduction looking to be in full swing by April meeting.*
- *Next steps in getting the \$1000 to Kristen Lee ?*
- *Send out ref applications ASAP so that we can select the 3 USA refs. (Beven)*
- *Send out email trying to figure out coaches, steering committee (Molly)*

- *Eric + regional directors to start the Competitions Group for nationals.*
- *Approval for USOA sanctioning the PNW cup next meeting by USOA members*

Upcoming Events:

- Lucky Meisenheimer Florida Cup (Orlando, FL): April 26-27
- Orange County Cup (Irvine, CA): March 8-9
- San Diego Potluck (San Diego, CA): March 17th
- NW Club Team Cup (St Helens, OR): March 17-18th
- USA Nationals (Denver, CO): June 20-22

Meeting Adjourned: 8:33 PM (CST)