

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*
 - . Rules Director - Don Mathews
 - a. Referee Director – John Kulsa -
 - b. Referee Training Coordinator - **Position Vacant**
 - c. Development Director – **Position Vacant**
 - d. 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
 - e. National Teams Coordinator – **Dave Boucher**
 - f. Competitions Director – **Jennifer Whitman**
 - g. Safety Director – **Position Vacant**
 - h. 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
 - 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.
 - . Tournaments and user friendly
 - a. Rostering
 - b. 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*