



UAHA Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: April 8th, 2024

Location: Maverik Center Ice Arena Conference Room

Regular Session: 7:00pm

1. Roll Call:

Present:

In the room: Ryan Bonham (President), Chuck Dorval (Vice President), Ryan Chaffin (Secretary), Robyn Eyre-Long (VP Discipline), Courtney Miller (VP Girls), Tim Odell (VP Travel), Dana Combs (VP High School), Tyler Mugford (PC), Frank Vatrano (Lady Grizz), Erin Drexel (Lady Grizz), Steve Picano (Lightning), Jacob Hickman (Provo)

Via Zoom: Adam Bailey (Treasurer), Jeff Tibbles (PC), Kristi Davis (Ogden), Adam, Don McFarland (Ogden), Jeff Kite (Jr Grizz), Mariko Rollins (Ogden), Tanner Ingalls (VP of Adult/Disabled).

2. Approval of March Meeting Minutes (Addendum A): Motioned by Tim, second by Robyn. Passed unanimously.
3. Growth and Retention: Shannon resigned. Ryan B. will send out an email requesting candidates. Will be reviewed and voted on next meeting.
4. Girls Tier 1 Amendment (Addendum B): Discussed during last month's meeting. Ryan B. reviewed the policies stated in Addendum B for those in the room. Robyn proposed adding Girls as a separate section, not updating the existing language to be for Youth and Girls. Kristi Davis pointed out that there is an exclusion on the pyramid stating female teams do not use the pyramid. Proposed to remove that sentence. Adjusting outline paragraphs to address both youth and girls. Motioned by Courtney to approve as discussed, second by Dana. Tim clarified about billeting. Ryan B. confirmed same rules would apply. Chuck recused. Passed unanimously with one recusal.
5. Growth of Girls Programs (Ryan B.): Currently, UAHA rules do not allow girls travel teams to travel outside of the state. Mariko noted that girls on co-ed teams in Ogden would like the opportunity to play on all girl teams in tournaments in addition to their co-ed commitments but may not be able to afford playing for the Lady Grizz. Kristi Davis added that there are girls that are not comfortable in co-ed but are at a travel playing level. She continued that the Lady Grizz only roster 10-15% of the girls in the state. For the State to get to the outlined pyramid numbers, additional girls travel teams will be needed. Ryan B. asked if any Lady Grizz reps in attendance wanted to speak. Frank V. asked what ages we were discussing? Kristi noted they skate girls 6U and up. Ryan B. raised concerns about those girls' teams pulling players from other orgs and diluting the Lady Grizz. Kristi noted that they took a team to Salmon for a tournament, and it was lower level of play, so they

don't feel like they would be taking away from the Lady Grizz. Ogden grew from ~30 girls last year to ~60 girls this year. Frank V. added that they see 10U as development and 12U they take to tournaments, but the Lady Grizz sweet spot is 14U, so if orgs were pushing girls to Lady Grizz at the higher levels, it could work nicely. Chuck noted that we had a structure like this in the past, roughly 7 years ago, and they ended up all merging together to the Lady Grizz anyway. Robyn shared that Shannon had suggested running a "Lady Grizz" team out of Ogden for those girls. Courtney shared that Arizona is in a similar place and have the united girls' teams with feeder teams in various cities. Ryan B. likes the idea of having other orgs work with the Lady Grizz to make this happen. Jacob H. pointed out that there are some great out of state tournaments that lower skilled teams could play at and our rule limits that. Ryan B. noted that our policies state that only the Lady Grizz can travel out of state. Kristi shared additional details about what they do for girls in Ogden and discussed that they are focusing on growth and retention in Ogden. She does not believe having a Lady Grizz team in Ogden fits their desires. They enjoy traveling to tournaments in Salmon, ID and Victor, ID for rec/Travel B level. Don M. (who helps coach in Ogden) noted that they have nine girl's players on a 14U co-ed team, and most of them are first year players. They haven't seen that kind of interest in the past. He noted that it's hard to get good competition in-state for these girls. Courtney noted that her vision is that Ogden could keep doing what they are doing in conjunction with the Lady Grizz. Erin D. asked how does low skill and low funds translate to a travel team? There was general agreement across the room. Ryan B. restated his concern that if we open girl's travel to everyone, we will negatively impact the Lady Grizz. We need to find a hybrid solution where organizations can work together. Ryan B. reminded everyone that this is just a discussion, nothing is being voted on. Tim proposed having Courtney (as VP of Girls) to put together a committee and discuss this further with the girls.

6. Elections Update (Ryan C.): Ryan C. provided an update on the process and nominees that have accepted their nominations. Ryan B. noted that for the role of President, our rules state that the nominees must have served on the board within the past two years, but that the board can approve exceptions. He then invited Tyler Mugford to take a few minutes to speak to why we should grant an exception. Tyler noted that hockey gave him everything he has and wants to give back. Because of work, it's hard for him to give back via coaching, and he feels serving on the board is a great fit for him. He played junior hockey in Canada, then played at Cornell, and had a short pro career at the amateur level. He understands the game and business side and wants to help; he knows he doesn't know everything but feels he can work along the side of a group of people that want to grow the game in our state by building a positive culture around hockey. Whether it's as President, or another role, he wants to be involved. Ryan B. asked if Tyler was not elected as President, would he be interested in serving in another role. Tyler said yes. Ryan B. brought up Geoff (who was not present). He was a past President, but not on the board within the past two years. Chuck further explained the situation with both nominees not having served on the board within the past two years. Motioned by Chuck to approve both nominees for President. Second by Tim. Dana asked for the bios to be sent. Chuck will send all bios out. Passed unanimously. Jacob H. asked to clarify what happens with Provo's votes. Ryan B. confirmed Foster's approved org controls Provo's votes for this election. Ryan B. turned the time over to Jacob H. (VP of Youth nominee). He has played hockey since he was a kid and has helped start and grow orgs in Utah. His professional background is in human development, and he looks at how to develop kids and applies that as a coach on the ice and looks to contribute that as well to the board in steering hockey in Utah in the right direction. Tim asked for Jacob's

input on youth hockey leagues in the state over the past few years. Jacob feels it needs to be systematized. He feels UAHA can facilitate a systematic league at various levels beyond just a tournament at the end of the year. The board doesn't need to dictate it, but can empower a committee to do it. Ryan B. turned the time over to Don M. (nominee for Secretary). He's been involved in hockey in Utah since the 90s. His primary focus on hockey has been on the developmental side because that's where his kids have played. They have the passion for the game and love playing it but haven't looked to play it at a higher level. His desire to get involved in the board stems from his work, where he focuses on continual improvement in large organizations, and deploying affordable youth hockey across the state. His work includes writing long reports, so he feels confident at taking meeting minutes. Ryan B. reviewed the voting process and noted that Chuck will email out the details.

7. One Administrative Position Per Person: Ryan B. shared that he believes we need to pass a bylaw that limits people to one administrative role with UAHA. Robyn asked about positions appointed by District. Ryan B. said those should be included, meaning if someone holds any of those positions, they should not hold another position. Adam B. asked to clarify if our policies or bylaws allow for one person to hold two voting positions, and currently it does. It doesn't explicitly prevent it. Tanner added we should move that direction because we have more and more people interested in being involved. Adam B. agrees with limiting voting positions, but not necessarily other roles. Chuck agrees that voting positions should be limited to one. SafeSport and Registrar have a lot of power and he's concerned about the appearance of conflict in those two positions, but he doesn't see that in other roles like referee in chief or goalie in chief. Ryan B. noted that we haven't had issues there, but we likely would. Ryan B. and Chuck agree that keeping it simple across the board is ideal.

8. Tryout Update (Tim): Tim shared that the Tier committee met last week. What has been approved and posted in Wasatch Renegades tryouts. Their tryouts start this week and end on April 24th. Lady Grizz Tier 1 tryouts are April 19th and 20th. Tier II Lady Grizz and travel are April 26th and 28th. Youth travel tryouts follow. Timing is close together with some overlap but spread out. Steve P. asked about middle school ages. It depends on when birthdates are, but generally 10-14 years old (incoming 6th, 7th and 8th graders). Steve P. pointed out that there may be some conflicts between tryouts and middle school games. The tier committee has seen the tryout dates/plans and do not have any concerns about it.

9. Section Reports:

- a. High School VP, Dana Combs: Park City and Stars went to Nationals and had fun. Ryan B. asked Dana to follow up on penalties that were received, and to make sure those players sit the remaining time of those penalties. National had contacted Ryan B. about it. KJ Ice Barn in Cedar City has offered to donate ice for girls' hockey.
- b. Girls VP, Courtney Miller: Had a girl's clinic in Provo two weekends ago. Had about 17 girls come out. It was a lot of fun. Last weekend Ogden had their girl's hockey weekend in conjunction with the girl's tournament there. They held jamborees and clinics. 2011 Girls State camp is tomorrow night with 17 girls signed up. Utah Lady Grizz just got back from Nationals. Lost in a shootout in the quarter finals. Courtney is going to Utica, NY for the USA Hockey Girls Summit. Utah Lady Grizz tryouts are coming up.
- c. Adult/Disabled VP- Tanner Ingalls: Nothing to add.
- d. Youth VP (House/Rec) Foster Watabe: Not present.
- e. Travel VP (Tier), Tim Odell: For Youth Nationals, Park City and Ogden had teams competing. Congrats to those orgs and players for competing. State camp went well, nominations were

made, and all of the boys have accepted, waiting on a update on girls. Steve P. has done is part, is waiting on District to complete their process. The staff group was top notch and there were great discussions in the room when selecting nominations. Tim thanked Steve and Yvette Connelly for their work. Yvette is working with Adam to get the expenses paid. For State playoffs, one invoice is pending. Tim will submit receipt for the hats, which does not get billed to the orgs. Tim made some updates to the member agreement and sent it out to the membership committee for review. One update was adding a mutual indemnification clause based on feedback from organizations. Also added specifics around financial reporting. Tim plans to have it on next months agenda for approval.

- f. CIC/ADM, Michael Strahan: Not present.
- g. Goaltending Development Coordinator, Reid Jacobsen: Not present.
- h. Safesport, Wendy Radke: Not present.
- i. Safety Director, Alex Valez: Not present.
- j. Growth Coordinator, Shannon Bennett: Resigned.
- k. Web Master, Brian Murray: Not present.
- l. Registrar, Robyn Eyre Long: Patches are done and distributed. Reached out to orgs about Registrars and is planning a training to take place when the portal opens.
- m. Discipline, Robyn Eyre Long: Has received three (3) outstanding debit list submissions. Tomorrow is the deadline if any orgs have any outstanding debts. They will review them in committee, and then post them on the site. Those players cannot tryout and orgs cannot sign them if they are on the list. Letters will go out to those players after the committee reviews them. One youth match penalty (12U) in their last game.
- n. Treasurer, Adam Bailey: Updated financials showing budget versus actual are in the works. State Camp was almost exactly on budget. Once final invoices are in for State playoffs, they will bill the orgs. Foster/Provo is absorbing significant costs for WRHL. Our budget was \$10,000 and Foster showed Adam that it was closer to \$37,000. Foster is just billing the \$10,000 that was budgeted. Ryan B. mentioned we need look at our minority grant.
- o. Secretary, Ryan Chaffin: Nothing to add.
- p. Exec, VP, Chuck Dorval: Nothing to add.
- q. Past President, Derrick Radke: Not present.
- r. President, Ryan Bonham: Nothing to add.

10. Next Meeting, May 6th

11. Adjourn Meeting