

UPPER VALLEY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

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 Monthly Board Meeting Wednesday, February 18th 7:00 – 9:00 pm via Google Meet

Attendees: Bethany, Will, Allison, Dana, Dan, Cherry, Jen

Approval of January Minutes

The January meeting minutes were reviewed. With no changes or objections, a motion to approve was made and passed unanimously.

16U Swarm Fall Proposal (with Hanover/Woodstock)

- Strong interest from families across all four local high schools for a fall 16U option.
- Anticipated large group of players.
- New England Girls Hockey League (NEGHL) participation for Hanover remains uncertain for 16U girls.
- Consideration of:
 - Independent schedule or Vermont-based competition.
 - Even a limited number of games are seen as valuable.
- Emphasis on providing a local option to maintain player development.
- Potential to include 2012 birth-year players transitioning to high school.
- Ice considerations:
 - Prioritize securing Union Arena ice early.
 - Additional ice may be used for parity sessions.
- Coaching candidates were discussed.
- Proposed structure:
 - 1–2 practices per week.
- Action item:
 - Send survey to current Swarm families to assess interest.

Board Vote:

Motion to accept the 16U proposal made by Allison, seconded by Dana. Approved unanimously. The board will move forward with implementation.

Age Group Updates

- **14U:** Scheduling issues have been resolved. Head coaching change for 14U Blue. All teams are preparing for the state tournament.
- **12U:** Season nearing completion. Final games this weekend. Dan's team finished 2nd; Dana's team finished 4th.
- **10U:** Managing concussion-related matters. Season wraps this weekend; teams advancing to state tournament.
- **8U:**

Integrity * Respect * Teamwork * Fun

UPPER VALLEY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

- One off-ice concussion reported.
- Teams attending BAHA this weekend (two house teams and two travel teams).
- Storm Academy concludes this weekend.
- Action: Request player development recommendations from Jay (repeat Storm Academy vs. advancement).

Coaching Coordinator

- Request summary update from Allison.
- Recommendation (Dan):
 - Announce coaches at the same time as team selections.
 - Follow-up communication from head coaches shortly after roster announcements.
- Surveys:
 - Mid-season survey deemed essential.
 - Keep mid-season and end-of-year surveys separate.

Registrar

- No update.

SafeSport

- No update.

NHAHA Representative Update

- Monthly meeting held last week.
- Grant funds have been received by the state treasurer.

Treasurer's Report

- Plan to proactively submit a request to the Byrne Foundation.
- Goal: secure a matching contribution to maximize fundraising impact.

Fundraising

- 12U Tournament:
 - Increase availability of hot food and baked goods.
 - Recommendation to be conservative with purchasing.
- Financial update:
 - \$1,600 spent on gift cards; \$1,500 in revenue to date.
 - Estimated net: approximately \$500 in concessions for the season.

Golf Tournament:

- Crown Point Country Club is unavailable.
- Proposed location: Lake Morey Resort Golf Club on Friday, May 15.
- Positive outlook on participation.
- Action items:

UPPER VALLEY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION

- Begin promotion immediately (“Save the Date” in next newsletter).
- Will to confirm deposit requirements.

Board Vote: Approved unanimously.

Girls Development

- “Pink at the Rink” event:
 - 26 participants.
 - Photos uploaded to Google Drive.
- One remaining girls’ skate is scheduled for next week.
- Strong participation in pink jersey purchases; Allison tracking orders.
- Action: Order larger jersey sizes for next season.

Scheduler

- Challenges noted at 14U level; key learnings identified.
- Need for less scheduling flexibility moving forward.
- Concerns raised about lack of good-faith coordination from other organizations.
- Will pursuing relief from related fines.

Equipment

- Plan to order additional small nets and goalie sticks.
- Hold off on major equipment purchases until summer.

Marketing / Social Media

- Denise was recognized for excellent work managing communications and social media.

Concussions

- Action item: Develop a formal UVHA concussion policy over the summer.

14U Playing Policy Discussion

- Reviewed proposed updates.
- Question raised regarding potential bylaw changes.
- Feedback process:
 - Board members to submit suggested revisions (especially Section 3).
 - Will has shared a draft with Woodstock for input.
- General consensus:
 - Favor Allison’s approach (Option 1) with added approval clause.
- Next steps:
 - Continue discussion via email.
 - Target completion by end of month.

Tryouts

- Registration to open within 1-2 weeks.

Integrity * Respect * Teamwork * Fun

UPPER VALLEY HOCKEY ASSOCIATION |

- Tryout fee confirmed at \$100.
- Committees to be formed.
- Evaluation committee to meet with coaches this summer to refine the process.
- Discussion points:
 - Improving on-ice evaluation methods.
 - Adjusting evaluator positioning during sessions.
 - Increasing parent education around tryouts and player development expectations.

Annual Meeting

- Open positions:
 - Vice President
 - Treasurer
 - Two at-large board seats
- Scheduled for March 18 at 7:00 PM.