

UVHA Board Meeting Minutes



May 17, 2017 ~ 7:00 PM

Kinney Pike Insurance, White River Junction, Vermont

1. **Attendance:** Sarah Morlock, Kylie Curtis, Ryan Ray, Roger Gillies, Alex DeFelice, Jason Spaulding, Scott Christian, Justin Barwood, Bill Mann, Matt Maher, Trevyr Young
2. **Meeting called to order:** 7:04 PM
 - a. The April 12th meeting minutes were unanimously approved, given they'll be edited to reflect a 9:49 PM rather than 10:49 PM meeting close (motioned by Ryan, seconded by Jason).
3. **Monthly Reports:**
 - a. **Webmaster**-Jason affirmed that registration is up and running. The June 1st early registration deadline listed on the website conflicted with the May 15th deadline approved by the Board. Because of this discrepancy, the Board will honor discounts for registrations up until the June 1st date listed on the website. Matt reminded the group that the website needs to be updated to list newly appointed positions (Mindy Dube as SafeSport Coordinator and John Morlock as Equipment Manager).
 - b. **Coaching Coordinator**-Jason and Alex will review the coaching surveys and address any concerns with specific coaches, as needed. They intend to share key highlights from these surveys at the pre-season coaches' meeting.
 - c. **Equipment Manager**-John and Bill are meeting at WABA tomorrow night to look through the returned jerseys and cross-reference Linda's report with their determination of jerseys that are missing and/or in need of replacement. Bill made clear that the jersey reorder should be placed well in advance of the season, rather than late in the summer, as was the case last season.
 - d. **SafeSport Coordinator**-Jason will inform NHAHA of Mindy's appointment as SafeSport Coordinator so that she can be informed of and prepared to attend any mandatory meetings.

- e. **Treasurer**-Ryan reported that at the close of the 2016-2017 season, UVHA accounts totaled just over \$106,000. He noted that the financial health of the association has steadily grown in the last five years. Sarah will research, clarify, and report back to the Board the IRS' 501c3 recommendation for an operating cushion (there was confusion as to whether it was one-and-one-half or three times annual operating budget). Ryan ordered a debit card. He's checking to see if the bank will waive the four dollar a month fee, given our nonprofit status. Ryan will begin preparing the 2016-2017 taxes in June.
 - f. **Fundraising**-Sarah has begun planning and recruiting volunteers for the Covered Bridges Half Marathon on June 4th. UVHA will again be covering water stop ten in Quechee. The CBHM needs to have a group of 15-20 adult/older children to adequately support runners at this station. The Storm currently has ten age-appropriate volunteers.
 - g. **Registrar**-Kylie reported that registration numbers are stronger than we've ever seen before at this point in the year. There are currently 94 total registered players: 18 Bantams, 17 Peewees, 24 Squirts, 21 Travel Mites, 12 House Mites, and two Termites. Kylie informed the Board that of the 94 total registrations, 14 have yet to make any payment. Kylie will contact these families to communicate that a \$100 deposit must be made prior to June 1st or they will forfeit the early registration discount and their player's roster spot. Kylie will later communicate to families who opted to pay offline that registration fees are to be paid in full by September 15th.
 - h. **Scheduler**-To be best prepared for tier declarations and the start of scheduling in August, Bill voiced the urgency in determining the number of travel teams we'll have this 2017-2018 season. Based on Justin's projection, we're likely to again have six travel teams, but this will be clearer by the June meeting.
4. **New Business:**
- a. **Storm Strength and Conditioning**-Jason presented the Board with information regarding opportunities for off-ice training with Nate Aldrich, Hartford High School's strength and conditioning coach. This past winter, a number of Storm Peewee players trained with him. Nate's expressed a willingness to offer a spring/summer, off-ice training camp for Squirt-Bantam aged hockey players at the HHS workout facility. Nate has already cleared this with HHS and is gauging interest. There would be an associated fee. Jason also shared that Nate may have interest in working with the Storm organization as a whole to offer pre-season/in-season training as an additional component of Storm programming. The Board agreed to disseminate Nate's summer training information to the

association when it becomes available, but opted to defer entertaining contracting Nate's services for strength/conditioning sessions at this time.

- b. **Spring Tryouts**-Scott Christian was present as a proponent of spring tryouts. He voiced that he and a handful of other coaches are in agreement that if the association wishes to push past the development ceiling and grow competitively, the UVHA should transition to a spring tryout. Scott reported that, to his knowledge, we're one of only three associations in New Hampshire to hold tryouts in the fall. He argued that a player's end-of-season skill level is a better indicator for team placement than a "cold" tryout in the fall. The Board was in general agreement that a spring tryout would certainly be more ideal from a coaching and administrative logistics standpoint. However, some members felt strongly that spring tryouts would increase the pressure to participate in year-round hockey, not allowing players to focus on other sports in the off-season, as is recommended for youth player development. Another counter-argument made was that spring tryouts hinder upward mobility by making off-season skill progression essentially mute, segregating players with a pre-determined divide. The Board has revisited this topic many times in the last few years. Jason reminded the group that the Board has a responsibility to uphold our founding mission. Sarah suggested that a tryout sub-committee be formed to present a proposal for vote to the Board. The discussion will be tabled until such a proposal is presented.
- c. **Reinstatement as Nonprofit**-Matt continues to work toward reinstating both GLYHA and HYHA as nonprofits in New Hampshire and Vermont, respectively. He needs to get a \$75 check to the Attorney General to complete this process with New Hampshire. He said that he plans to take steps to finalize GLYHA's official name change to UVHA with the Secretary of State before the end of June so that the accountant has that information prior to the next tax season.
- d. **Girls Hockey**-Kylie and Jason met with Kara Toms, a representative from Twin Valley Girls Hockey. The TVGH organizers would still like to acquire "prime-time" ice at WABA for their program. Jason and Kylie suggested that the UVHA invest in building a girls' hockey program internally and as soon as possible. Justin confirmed that a half-sheet of ice, potentially every week or every other week, could be made available for a girls' skills night. While this would be a UVHA program, the Board agreed that organizers/coaches should have the latitude to invite USA Hockey sanctioned players from other organizations to join the Storm girls for skills nights and/or tournament play in order to fill out numbers and grow interest. In light of concerning attrition numbers and the teetering future of the HHS girls' hockey program, the Board felt it critical to launch a pilot program this season to support and promote girls hockey. Bill made

a motion to allocate ice to a Storm girls' hockey program, given there is a committed coach and defined structure; program fee to be determined. Ryan seconded his motion. All voted in favor.

- e. **Hartford Girls Varsity Coaching Search**-Jason announced that a couple of Storm coaches and parents have been invited to participate on a committee to select the HHS girls' varsity hockey coach.
5. **NH State Meeting Report:**
- a. The next meeting will be May 20th at the Holiday Inn in Concord.
6. **Meeting Adjourned:** 9:50 PM