

USOA Underwater Hockey Committee Minutes

Sunday, September 21, 2025

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

Zoom Meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9292420957?omn=84410082334>

Meeting ID: 929 242 0957

UWH Committee Members:

Beven McWilliams, Chair (2023-2025)

Jacqui West, Vice Chair (2024-2026)

Molly Banks, Secretary (2024-2026)

Jesse Hocking, Member at Large (2024-2026)

Michael Riccitelli, Member at Large (2024-2026)

1. **Call to order:** 5:03 PM (PST)
 - a. Committee members present: Beven, Molly, Jesse, Michael
 - b. Non-committee members present: Kim Riccitelli, David Limberg, Kiernan Wood, Kristen Lee
 - c. Approval of Agenda: APPROVED

2. **Welcome new Regional Directors/UWH Social Media Director:**
 - a. Inland Regional Director: Shal
 - b. Northeast Regional Director: David Limberg
 - c. Southeast Regional Director: Kiernan Wood
 - d. UWH Social Media Director: Kristen Lee

3. **Discuss UWH Committee positions:**
 - a. Current terms are ending for Beven, Paul, Eric.
 - b. Process for recruiting/voting on new members?
 - i. Potential recruitment: Aaron Starr (Houston), Glen Terry (LA), Kristen Lee (Oregon)
 - Write a short bio (due end of the month) to be put into a google doc & sent out to the USA UWH community to be voted on.
 - c. Work on UWH Committee Roles documents: Everyone to work on their respective docs & then discuss final drafts next month.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YtnslebRVAHp0mAiLewN6zQMEIqxUgnr?usp=drive_link

4. Women's Tournament Items: Kim

- a. Kim requested USOA sanctioning of the event.
- b. Megann L. should be requesting funds for the 2026 Women's Tournament.
 - i. Cap entry on \$100/player (with help from funds).
 - ii. 3 \$200 scholarships to women (needs base & opportunity for women to advocate for themselves).
- c. Sue Banks working on an official announcement to be sent out to the USA UWH community.
- d. Megann Westgate request for tournament ref for Women's Tournament and possible level 1-2 clinic opportunity for men during the event.

5. Update on North America Competitions Group: Jesse

- a. After this upcoming inter regionals review the group & their roles & how to improve.
- b. By default current members: All Regional Directors, Jesse, Eric, Beven, 2 Canadians.

6. Status of proposed club & club player rules for 2026: Jesse

- a. Next steps are still being discussed by the committee.

7. Proposed template for national team/squad participant surveys: Jesse

- a. Template/survey to be sent to committee & eventually sent out to UWH committee.

8. Hosting Worlds 2029 in the USA

- a. USOA was contacted about hosting Worlds in 2029 (for the 2 year cycle again). CMAS is gauging interest and would like a response if we are interested in submitting an official proposal (Master, Elites, or Juniors).
 - i. Potentially discussing collaborating with Canada for finding a pool.
 - ii. Not submitting as the USA.

9. Financial Secretary/Treasurer's Report - Eric Myers/Melody (3 min):

- a. Development Fund Balance: ~\$40,000 (not official balance)

Some things we need to be aware of that I was not. New clubs need to be approved by the committee and we have a new club (Detroit) that needs approval and mouthguards. Approval means that the first year of insurance is paid by us as well (\$600).

New club formation form so that we know what insurances we have to

cover & approve.

10. Process for requesting funds update:

- a. Funds Request Form made by Michael:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1_xZoPqWLS6uocbSxj8oaBgPke1nVDaoG3Nq5zcKADfA/edit?pli=1
- b. Funds Application Form made by Jacqui:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4BpC6Ha9Uk-btDRetul1gFPuh7MXRmLqPyj1I2VuAnbd6sA/viewform>
- c. What's still needed:
 - i. Finalize request form
 - ii. Write up an official policy (when do we review requests, how do we distribute the money, how often do we distribute money, etc.)
 - iii. Link everything on our USOA webpage, promote through socials, & send out email.

Directors Updates:

- d. **Rules Director** - Don Mathews (5 min):
 - i.
- e. **Referee Director** - John Kulsa (5 min):
 - i. Nationals 2025: 4 attendees for Level 1 course taught by Jon Paden. No one signed up for the Level 2 course.
 - ii. Qualifiers Tournament in Netherlands: USA ref representative was Jon Paden. He achieved a 2 star for the tournament which means he is Level 3 qualified for the next 4 years before expiration.
 - iii. College of Referees Meeting (9/20): Notes not finalized but mainly covered format of college as it's not official with CMAS anymore + the feeling among members to have world participation in defining rules and processes for uwh.
 - iv. Refs for upcoming tournaments:
 - **Club Team Competition in Las Vegas (Sep 27-28)**: No word, assuming they'll use player refs.
 - **Inter-Regionals in San Diego (Oct 17-19)**: Refs have been selected. There is an effort to prequalify all as Level 3 at the tournament.
 - **Milwaukee Halloween Tournament (Nov 1-2)**: Defer to Don, but I believe at least Level 1 course will be offered...potentially Level 2.
 - **Not So Hard On Your Body Tournament & Soiree in Charleston (Nov 8-9)**: Juan Diego as chief ref + Mauricio from Colombia.
- f. **Nationals Team Coordinator** – Helene Soleille (5 min): **stepping down**

- g. **Youth Development Director** - Agnes Debrunner (5 min):
 - i. U19 men had a camp in Tahoe
 - ii. U24 M+W & U19W will have a camp in Munster Indiana.
 - iii. Agnes + Eze Russo coaching U24 Women
 - iv. Paul Wittekind + Joe Gering coaching U19 Women.

- h. **Competitions Director** - Eric Straily (5 min):
 - i. Nothing to report beyond what is already covered elsewhere.

Regional Directors:

- 1. **Northwest** - Kim Riccitelli (2 min):
 - a. USOA timing system availability & cost?
 - b. Insurance fee that might be charged as an error.

- 2. **Southwest** - Casey Nakamura (2 min):
 - a. SW is hosting inter-regionals (Oct 17-19) in San Diego.
 - b. SW regional camp was earlier this month.
 - c. SW regional/OC Cup in March 2026.

- 3. **Inland** - Shal (2 min):
 - a. Inter Regionals: no women's team, but there is a men's team.
 - b. Upcoming Milwaukee Halloween tournament (Nov. 1-2).
 - c. Steve Kars is trying to grow Maronette Tournament (date?).
 - d. Loons are putting up UWH posters all over the twin cities & U of M & working on outreach to local synchro swimming and kid swim clubs.

- 4. **Northeast** - David Limberg (2 min):
 - a. Regional Development & Clinics:
 - i. 2 clinics held in Washington, D.C. (May and early September).
 - ii. Attendance included players from 7 different clubs.
 - iii. Both events were successful and well-received.
 - b. Tournaments & Future Planning:
 - i. Exploring the idea of hosting a small, local spring tournament near Boston.
 - ii. Plans to expand DC training events into a full weekend format with clinic + potluck.
 - c. Need for USOA insurance to be smoother. Multiple clubs expressed that USOA insurance not being renewed in a timely way was jeopardizing their pool time. They have switched to a cheaper pool insurance that responded quicker. If USOA wants us to use their insurance we need better responses.

5. Southeast - Kiernan Wood (2 min):

- a. Working on finding a pool for inter regionals training camp, potentially in February.

Action Items:

- ★ Reach out to those interested in the UWH Committee to write a short bio (Molly).
- ★ Get USOA sanctioning for the Women's Tournament (Beven).
 - Ask Don/John/Eric if Canadian players can play (Beven).
 - Ask Don/John if they can put together a ref clinic (Level 1-2) (Beven).
- ★ Send out the official Women's Tournament Announcement to the USA UWH community once completed (Molly).
- ★ Send out National Team Survey to committee (Jesse).
- ★ Confirm club formation approval process & how to approve 1st year of insurance (Beven).
- ★ Set meeting with Atlantis & USA Committee to understand the different roles & duties (Jesse).
- ★ Vote on Funds Request Form (everyone).

Upcoming Events:

- Club Team Competition in Las Vegas (Sep 27-28)
- Inter-Regionals in San Diego (Oct 17-19)
- Milwaukee Halloween Tournament (Nov 1-2)
- Not So Hard On Your Body Tournament & Soiree in Charleston (Nov 8-9)
- Women's Tournament (February)
- OC Cup (March)
- Northwest Cup (April)

Meeting Adjourned: 6:10 PM (PST)