

USOA Underwater Hockey Committee Minutes

Sunday, March 16, 2025

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

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 (2023-2025)

Molly Banks, Secretary(2024-2026)

Eric Myers, Financial Secretary (2023-2025)

Jesse Hocking, Member at Large (2024-2026)

Paul Byrne, Member at Large (2023-2025)

Michael Riccitelli, Member at Large (2024-2026)

1. Call to order: 7:04 PM (CST)
 - a. Committee members present: Paul, Jacqui, Michael, Molly, Beven, Jesse.
 - b. Non-committee members present: Don, Kim, Eric Straily, Helene, John.
 - c. Approval of agenda (1 min): Approved.
2. Discussion and approval of February minutes (1 min): approved.
3. Michael: Bringing Bob on board as financial support (will be pro bono and not an official member of the USOA UWH committee) - TBD on introduction + start date.
 - a. Michael, Paul, + Beven to figure out where/who to send development and tournament entry fees to (right now it's through Beven).
4. USOA harassment policy and continuing issues (follow up leading up to nationals).
 - a. Add as a task on UWH Portal during the invite process (checkbox with link)
 - i. exact wording to be sent to Eric to update on UWH Portal (Molly)
5. National Trophy production update from Michael (3 min): estimate = \$3,000. **APPROVED**.
 - a. Engraving process each year: Competition Director will get plate engraved + then engraved plate is mailed to the winning team. Winning team will take the trophy home after Nationals and receive & reassemble the plate once engraved.
6. National Team Leadership position process (Discuss the process for appointing national team leadership positions (coaches, managers, steering committee)
 - a. Current process is led by steering committee comprised of players voted in from the previous USA worlds team– processes differ from team to team, touch back in April to discuss a standardized process.
 - i. Elite women put together the first formal process in 2013: [pdf sent via email

to meeting members in attendance].

7. Discuss social media director roll
 - a. Current person managing Instagram & Facebook: Kristen Lee
 - i. Motion to create: USOA UWH Social Media Director Position - APPROVED
 1. April meeting – get set doc with what this position entails, reach out to Kristen and anyone else that is interested (could be multiple people working together).
8. Financial secretary/Treasurer's report - Eric Myers/Melody (3 min):
 - a. Total balance as of November 30: \$38,560.79
 - i. Draft for how to request funds from the committee
 1. Requesting formal process: (forms drafted by Jacqui) + Michael has ideas to be discussed in the April meeting.
 - b. **Rules Director** - Don Mathews (5 min):
 - c. **Referee Director** - John Kulsa (5 min):
 - i. Referee discussion for Qualifiers
 1. Need to be prequalified before the tournament.
 - Currently 4 active Level III refs to discuss: 2 more on top of Don need to be chosen.
 - Don Mathews (already chosen as tournament Referee)
 - Rosa Zhang
 - Juan Marquez
 - Jon Paden
 - John Kulsa
 - ii. UPCOMING REF TRAINING:
 1. Level 1 at PNW Cup: Rosa.
 2. Level 1 + 2 Thursday of Nationals.
 - Development fund to cover ref course room cost: exact dollar amount to be confirmed for April meeting (right now it's being covered by tournament).
 - d. **Nationals Team Coordinator** – Helene Soleil (5 min):
 1. Entry opens on the 31st of 2025 and closes March 15th 2025.
 2. Team declaration July 1st.
 3. Team costs: \$3,500
 4. Team committee working on suit and cap designs: Deep Blue
 5. Using Argentina puck (waiting to be officially confirmed).

6. Pool bottom: tile exactly like Medellin pool (large tile).
7. Pool depth: 3M deep.
8. UWH Committee covers ~\$4000: exact distribution to be further discussed in April meeting.

e. **Youth Development Director** - Agnes Debrunner (5 min):

- i. For the juniors world's effort, we have two coach applications for under 24 men. One of them would include under 24 and under 19 boys.
There were no applications for the women's teams. I will be focusing a lot of energy on trying to figure something out for the women. It makes me crazy that we don't have women's divisions at nationals, we don't have women's tournaments regularly, we can't have women's teams at any championships anymore, other than a club team. It makes it really hard to promote women's hockey. Anyway, I am determined to at least give these women's teams a fair chance. That is about all I have right now. It doesn't reflect much of all the work that has been being done, but it gives you an idea.

di. **Competitions Director** - Eric Straily (5 min):

- i. Nationals Denver June 20- 22 put together by Competitions Group (beta test) Group includes: regional directors (but they can find someone else to represent them).
 1. Nationals registration is open – currently at ~10 teams, still waiting on a large chunk of teams to register.
 2. Selecting nationals refs soon.
 3. Event organizing committee: currently 2-3 people interested in getting involved.
 - Designated food room person is confirmed
 - Still waiting on interest on banquet planning
 4. Club version of ACCs (usually a championship event and held in Spring) but little to no interest – ACCs (rebranded as Atlantic Coast Cup vs Atlantic Coast Championship) in fall hosted by Charleston potentially.
 5. Milwaukee, WI (Brown Deer) pool working on getting permanent walls in pool – potentially putting in bid for Inter-Regionals 2025.

dii. **Regional Directors:**

- i. Northwest - Kim Riccitelli (2 min):
 1. Sanctioned event application received and under review for Northwest Cup: APPROVED
 - Event to be added to USOA calendar
 2. Head ref: Don // level 1 class leader: Rosa
 3. Putting together a training event for all Northwest players (men &

women).

- ii. Southwest- Casey Nakamura (2 min):
 1. PCCS open for bids. In September- October
 - Possibly Phoenix pools
 2. "The OC Cup"(Irvine, CA) tournament last weekend was successful
 3. San Diego planning Pre-Nationals potluck at Oceanside (May 17th 2025)
- iii. Inland - Cheryl Russell (2 min) :
 1. MSU tournament
 2. Uofl spring tournament
- iv. Northeast - Jenny Biener (2 min):
 1. Jenny working with David Limberg to gather interest in a training event for the Northeast Region in advance of Inter Regionals. Our goal is to hold this event in May. However, we received very little interest so far due to conflicting priorities that other people in the NE have. We need more help to find a pool, get the word out, and sell this event.
- v. Southeast- Nicole Mazouch (2 min):
 1. 2025 Lucky Meisenheimer Florida Cup. Orlando April 26-27. Open for anyone, but to get the cup it must be a Florida Team.

Regional Director positions update:

- a. Read Kims proposed edits and updates for regional reps. Committee support of regional directors needs to be added (Michael will help with wording).
9. Question about how we can define what a club is, what is a club player, etc.
- a. UWH Committee can write things up and then send the proposed changes to USOA for an official vote for the 2025 Annual Meeting
 - b. Needs to get proposed changes before September 2025. Unless a special meeting can be called.
 - c. Michael, Jesse, Beven, Molly, see if special meeting can be called to get criteria for nationals 2025. Do the research and legwork for proposal.
 - d. Big picture hockey events, competition standards, club rules, criteria for high level events. What are the issues we can solve.
10. Foreign player criteria
- a. Each team will only be allowed one foreign player, per current USOA rules.
 - b. If the foreign player is not a US citizen, the current rules apply. The team will be allowed to play in the playoffs but cannot be placed ahead of full club teams.

- c. If the player is a US Citizen, that person, if current with USOA membership, can join the team with whom they were last affiliated, as long as that team exhausted all local options and wouldn't be ousting a local player in favor of the foreign player. If those criteria are met, then the team would still be allowed to place where they place.

Action Items:

- Michael, Paul, + Beven to figure out where/who to send development and tournament entry fees to (right now it's through Beven).
- Molly: get exact wording for USOA Harassment Policy step to be updated on UWH Portal during the invitation process for Eric.
- Touch base next meeting on standardizing National Team Leadership position process (Discuss the process for appointing national team leadership positions (coaches, managers, steering committee).
- Requesting money from Development Fund formal process: (forms drafted by Jacqui) + Michael has ideas to be discussed in the April meeting.
- Development fund to cover ref course room cost: exact dollar amount to be confirmed for April meeting (right now it's being covered by tournament).
- UWH Committee covers ~\$4000 for National teams (suits or uniforms...) + ref expenses (flights): exact distribution to be further discussed in April meeting.
- Follow up on regional directors standardization and formalized duties/terms/selection process in April.
- Molly: add Northwest Cup to USOA calendar
- Get everyone access for USOA Google Drive: Ask Creedon to give access.

Upcoming Events:

- Lucky Meisenheimer Florida Cup (Orlando, FL): April 26-27
- San Diego Potluck (San Diego, CA): March 17th
- NW Club Team Cup (St Helens, OR): March 17-18th
- USA Nationals (Denver, CO): June 20-22

Meeting Adjourned: 9:10 PM (CST)