



UVHA MEETING MINUTES

July 26th, 2023 8pm

Attendees - Greg, Brock Barton, Josh Obar, Will Meyer, Cherry Sullivan, Tom Daniels, Jen Callahan

1. 14u Update

Brock Barton and Josh Obar began the meeting with their 14U update. Will Meyer reported that all the jerseys have been ordered for 14U and will be here in plenty of time (roughly 6 weeks). Greg thanked Will for getting them done and WYH are really happy with how they came out. Will offered that he now has a high resolution image and might have a contact for helmet stickers. Will is going to share the contact info with Brock and Josh and they will look into helmet stickers. Greg reported that ice for 14U games on Saturdays and Sundays has been purchased as well as one ice sheet for practice on Thursdays at 6pm. Josh shared our typical schedule for the 14U Storm group. Brock shared that he confirmed with Brian about coaching skills for the coming season. The group felt we need a more formalized co-ed policy to protect everyone involved prior to heading into the season. Greg sent the USA hockey one along as a reference point to Josh. Josh shared that he asked the two girls' families on the UVHA Blue team what they were comfortable with in the locker room and that was for all players to come to the rink with their base layer on or go to the restrooms to change. This policy will be formalized and voted on at the August meeting.

Josh also discussed early season tournaments and asked how Woodstock typically handles that. Greg shared that Pot of Gold is their main tournament and they make the tournament align with what level teams they have each year. He shared that every year they have teams drop out of Pot of Gold because they make Regionals. Josh also said that we need to start finalizing coaches for 14U and to push out registration because that is live now. Both WYH and UVHA have feelers out for coaches. Brock asked about closing registration and starting a waitlist if we were getting close to hitting our cap. The group discussed how to convey the message that we were going to stick to having two teams if other players contacted us. The group decided that we gave ample time and communication on this front to the group and we need to stick to having 2 teams and not re-expand to 3 teams. The cap will be 30 players and 4 goalies. Jeremy and Jess were also in agreement with this cap when it was discussed with them at an earlier time. Tom Daniels proposed the idea of sending an email to the kids who didn't register to tell them we have only two spots left and registration will be closing at our cap. Everyone agreed this was a good idea for Brock to send the email. Lastly, Josh reminded us that we need to get player releases going. Greg thanked us for thinking ahead to Pot of Gold and wanting to help with that. Josh asked if WYH was doing checking clinics and skills to start the year again and Josh said we would be interested in joining. The 14U group is going to stick with sponsoring a tier 3 and 4 team in the GSL. That declaration has to be submitted by the 12th of August.

2. Approval of Minutes from June - Minutes Approved

3. Monthly Reports

- a. Coaching Coordinator/Registrar– Josh reminded the group that we need to get on player releases. We think we have 3 or 4 left to do. Brock thinks there is a way for Will to see who has put their releases in. Will got the registration for coaching open on the website.

He would like to have Tom announce this on social media. The board needs to send more mite pictures to Denise Hunter for registration reminder posts. Jen needs to do an August newsletter update.

- b. Safesport Coordinator - No Update
- c. NH State Representative - Full Update is below. August 12th is the next NHAHA meeting. Annual meeting was in June. Kick-off meeting is in August and we have to put in our ice slots to NHAHA shortly after.
- d. Girls Development - Tom Daniels reported that there will be no opportunity for Woodstock collaboration this year because they have lost all their girls to Hanover.
- e. Fundraising - No Update
- f. Scheduler - Josh Obar reported that he has emailed Scott for the ice buy. Our group needs to decide when the three 10U practices will be and fit in the goalie skate. We can get another hour of ice on Sundays in the afternoon and also have a later sheet on Saturday at Union. The Ice buy is due August 4th. Josh suggested to head coaches that they should try and figure out tournaments now so we don't have to reschedule NHAHA games. The coaches threw around some tournament names and discussed ways to find tournaments.
- g. Equipment Manager - Will Meyer reported that jerseys are ordered for all teams (10, 12, 14). The group voted yes to buying Mason Hatch's GK equipment his family was selling and to pay in whatever form is easier for them, cash or UVHA credit. The online gear store from last year is still live. We should be able to add the Swarm logo. Will talked about simplifying the options that are already there and sticking with the same store for the coming year. Jen asked about practice jersey colors and what jerseys athletes are allowed to wear to practice. The group had a discussion about what would be best. The coaches hate dealing with pinnies. Tom said they had different colored jerseys for each line back in the day. Brock reported that UVHA bought a lot of black and red jerseys a few years ago but many of them have since gone missing. Brock has a big tote at his house and is going to do a jersey inventory of those and the ones at Kinney Pike storage in the next few weeks.
- h. Treasurer - Brock reported that he submitted the Lebanon Recreation grant last week. Brock is officially on the NHAHA finance committee. He needs to find out when the NHAHA grant is due. The Ref-in Chief increase of \$5 per scheduled game as referee in chief for last year was approved and Brock will send Carter a check. The board also approved this amount moving forward and lasts through 23-24.
- i. Marketing/Social Media Manager - Upcoming summer posts include: BBQ reminders, 8U registration announcement and reminders, Coach registration. Cherry suggested a "Meet the Coach" segment once we get to the fall and closer to the season starting.
- j. Safety/Concussion - No Update

4. New Business-

1. **NH hockey meeting update-** Will reported back from the latest NHAHA meeting. The main take-away was pertaining to the safety committee. Autumn, the chair of the committee, is making a big push to provide all the coaches with an athletic trainer/EMT first aid kit; from band aids all the way to a bleed out kit. She is working with a company for a partnership. Red cross as coaching credits. Josh suggested pushing NHAHA to advocate to USA Hockey for Red Cross CPR/Safety certification counting as coaching credits. Will said that obtaining this kit would be zero dollars with the NHAHA grant. Someone from the group wondered if we could get Hartford FD/EMT to come talk to the coaches and do CPR training. Will said that tier declarations and team web pages are

- due by August 12th. Josh replied that the web pages are all set up already. Other notes from the league meeting included an emphasis on making sure penalty comments were accurate in Gamesheet. The ref-in chief needs to make sure it is communicated that codes are entered correctly so this message needs to get to Carter for the season. Gamesheet is also going up \$40 per team. Also, in '24-25, NHAHA is considering making a change at 8U to allow a full ice game on Saturday and cross-ice on Sunday. We are hosting the 12U tier 3 tournament again, the second weekend in March. GSL covers banners and trophies for the tournament.
2. **Tiering for 10u, 12u, 14u** - Josh stated that we will declare a team in tiers 3 and 4 for 14U. Brock is still undecided about tiers for 12U. Brock thinks 3 and 5 but others think 4 and 5. He said that we can enter October weekends to schedule some early games to see how it goes. Jen asked about scrimmages but someone said it can be hard to get teams to scrimmage because not many teams are local. We could schedule Hanover, Keene, and Waterville as a scrimmage early. For 10U, Will reported Hanover is starting at tier 3. He thinks we should declare tiers 3/4/5. Will can ask what the consequences are of dropping out of tier 5 if we need to and that group is having a negative experience. The group feels it is important to be very transparent with parents. The group also felt it was important to speak up more to NHAHA about scores this year and try to make sure teams are in appropriate tiers. Brock is going to help Will with the forms he has to fill out. Josh noted that we need to make sure that the 14U teams are named UVHA still to keep the peace at NHAHA.
 3. **Ice Buy** - Josh proposed the same ice buy we decided on last time to Scott with a couple questions; another sheet for 10U, move GK skills, and an extra game sheet on Sundays. Josh has talked about a Wednesday sheet from 4:15-5:15 pm. GK spot on Friday could become a 10U sheet. The group had a long discussion about if the Wednesday slot would be ok to take for 10U. Josh is going to send an email in a few days to see what people feel about Wednesday. The group decided on possible full ice sheets on Thursday for 14U and rotating teams going out to Woodstock. We also threw around Sunday times and pushed back Storm Academy start time to create another game sheet on Sunday.
 4. **Goalie Coach for Next Season** - Josh and Will have talked to a couple people and have feelers out and continue to brainstorm people to ask. Evan is out because he is coaching Hanover's team.
 5. **Mission and Vision of Storm** - The board decided to push this conversation to next month's meeting as the first order of business. Josh suggested that we send out a google doc that we can work on leading up to the meeting. Cherry added that we need to know what roles coaches will need filled volunteer wise prior to the BBQ so that we can get the right number of volunteers. Tom Daniels asked who was going to coach the PeeWee 2 team and the reply was that Amanda and Phillippe would lead them.

Final Note: The August meeting will be 8/23 at 7 pm in person at King Arthur Flour.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:01 pm