

# USOA Underwater Hockey Committee Minutes

Sunday, October 26, 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 (2023-2027)

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)

Aaron Star Schwartz-Duval, Member at Large (2025-2027)

Glenn Terry, Member at Large (2025-2027)

1. **Call to order:** 7:03 PM (CST)
  - a. Committee members present: Beven, Molly, Michael, Aaron
  - b. Non-committee members present: David Limberg, Kiernan Wood, Don Matthews, Megann Westgate, John Kulsa, Eric Straily
  - c. Approval of September Minutes: APPROVED
  - d. Approval of October Agenda: APPROVED

## 2. Previous Meeting's Action Items Update:

Action Items	Status
BEVEN: Reach out to those interested in the UWH Committee to write a short bio.	Completed ▾
BEVEN: Get USOA sanctioning for Women's Tournament <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ask Don/John/Eric if Canadian players can play.</li><li>- Ask Don/John if they can put together a ref clinic (Level 1-2).</li></ul>	In Progress ▾
JESSE: Send out the National Team Survey to the committee.	Update Needed ▾
BEVEN: Confirm club formation approval process & how to approve 1st year of insurance.	In Progress ▾

JESSE: Set meeting with Atlantis & USA Committee to understand the different roles & duties.	In Progress ▾
ALL: Write committee roles documents (BY END OF YEAR).	In Progress ▾

### 3. New USOA UWH Committee Members:

- a. Welcome Glenn + Aaron!
- b. Finish up respective docs & then discuss final drafts next year:  
[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YtnslebRVaHp0mAiLewN6zQMEIqxUgnr?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YtnslebRVaHp0mAiLewN6zQMEIqxUgnr?usp=drive_link)

### 4. Financial Secretary/Treasurer's Report - Melody (3 min):

- a. Development Fund Balance: **EST \$38,000**

### Directors Updates:

- b. **Rules Director** - Don Mathews (5 min):
  - i. Working on new tournament regulations for CMAS.
  - ii. Note to Beven & Andrew: prepare for the CMAS National federation meeting.
- c. **Referee Director** - John Kulsa (5 min):
  - i. Las Vegas club tournament ref complaint - refs not up to standard (difficult to get refs up to a higher level in the US).
  - ii. Inter Regionals: 6-7 dedicated refs, CMAS level 3 candidate course, 1 protest, overall no complaints.
  - iii. Upcoming tournaments for refs: Not So Hard on Your Body
  - iv. Worlds refs selection not falling on USOA—covered by CMAS.
- d. **Nationals Team Coordinator** – **POSITION NEEDS TO BE FILLED**
- e. **Youth Development Director** - Agnes Debrunner (5 min):
  - i. The Age Group teams are working hard towards Türkiye. We will have 3 teams for sure. U19W is doubtful but we have not given up. All 4 teams have had training camps and are working on their team selections.
    - U19M coaches are Maddy and Lyndon Rive. Christophe Ochin has taken over Liam's spot.
    - U19W coaches are Paul Wittekind and Joe Gering

- U24M coach is Simeon Jooste, with help from Kendall Banks and Cha.
  - U24W coaches are Eze Russo and Agnes Debrunner
- ii. Referee expenses covered by USOA? Will USOA help cover any other expenses? **Approximately €1,000, but working to lower it!**
  - iii. Process for approving suit designs + supplier? Same as last Elite + Masters cycle?
  - iv. SafeSport certifications for youth coaches? **REQUIRED**

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

- i. Las Vegas Club Tournament—complaints about refs + club bias (difficult without dedicated refs).
- ii. Inter Regionals: survey was sent out (currently 53 responses) feedback is generally positive. Post tournament report will be sent out to committee + participants later this week.
  - Next year's Inter Regionals to be in Canada. Finalized location tbd.
  - Set meeting with committee to go over feedback + how to improve.
  - Set public meeting with UWH community to understand push back.
- iii. Save the dates: Nationals, BAA, Charleston tournament.

g. **Social Media Director** - Kristen Lee (5 min):

No Report

**Regional Directors:**

1. **Northwest** - Kim Riccitelli (2 min):

- a. Our players really enjoyed the recent inter-regionals and look forward to next year!

2. **Southwest** - Casey Nakamura (2 min):

- a. SW hosted the intra-regional Tournament at The Plunge in San Diego, some injuries were sustained, but overall successful tournament.
- b. B@A in Jan
- c. Looking to plan the next SW development camp in Q1 / Q2.

3. **Inland** - Shal (2 min):
  - a. No update on Midwest– but please discuss subsidizing 1st year college students USOA fees. **PROPOSAL NEEDED**
  
4. **Northeast** - David Limberg (2 min):
  - a. Northeast is looking into more training events (2-4 a year) and making them multi-day events. Next one targeting: January or February.
  
5. **Southeast** - Kiernan Wood (2 min):
  - a. 1 training event set up in Orlando. Currently only one training event scheduled.
  
6. **Women's Tournament Items: Megann**
  - a. Women's tournament in Milwaukee, WI. Minimum of 50 women (pot luck style) + ref training event for men.
  - b. Looking for funding for the ref clinic, scholarships, pucks, + other tournament fees from the development fund for **~\$2,500**.
    - i. USOA sanctioning request status? **Still in Process**
    - ii. USOA funds request form status? **Still in Process**
  
7. **Inter-Regionals Recap**
  - a. Tournament was widely regarded as a success
  - b. Lessons Learned meeting to be set with Don, Eric, Beven + other necessary players + organizers to improve for next year.
  
8. **Process for requesting funds update:**
  - Funds Application Form made by Jacqui:  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4BpC6Ha9Uk-btDR etul1gFPuh7MXRmLqPyj1I2VuAnbd6sA/viewform>
  - 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.

**Action Items:**

- ★ **Molly:** Finish the Secretary role document (by end of the year).

- ★ **Beven:** Finish the Chair role document (by end of the year).
- ★ **Jaqui:** Finish the Vice Chair role document (by end of the year).
- ★ **Beven:** Find a current committee member to take on the treasurer role & have them work on a role document.
- ★ **Beven (+ Andrew):** prepare for the CMAS National Federation Meeting (potentially in November).
- ★ **Molly + Beven:** Send out Nationals Team Coordinator email to UWH community + look into recruitment.
- ★ **Eric + Committee:** Set meeting with committee to go over feedback + how to improve Inter Regionals. Would like to get a date set, set a public meeting with the UWH community to discuss the event and its future.
- ★ **Don:** Put together a proposal for the next meeting covering USOA/multi federation ref rashguards for purchase.
- ★ **Tournament Sanctioning Sub-committee (Eric, Beven, Aaron):** Put together the new tournament USOA sanctioning request form + defining what a USOA sanctioned event means.
- ★ **Don:** Scheduling Lessons Learned for Inter Regionals & inviting: Eric, Beven + other necessary players + organizers.
- ★ **Kurt (recruited by Don):** Write up an official policy for requesting money from our Development Fund (when do we review requests, how do we distribute the money, how often do we distribute money, etc.).
- ★ **Beven, Jaqui, Megann (+ Regional Directors):** Test fund request form + policy.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

- 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: 8:32 pm (CST)*