



Mission: The “Upper Valley Hockey Association” mission is to introduce the youth of our area to and promote the game of hockey, so that every child in the program can enjoy a positive experience through encouragement, skill development and character building while creating a passion for the game

**UVHA MEETING MINUTES  
September 20, 2023 8pm  
UVHA Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 20 · 8:00 – 9:30 pm**

**Attendees: Will, Brock, Josh, Jen, Dana, Megan, Jen, Tom, and Allison**

The Board meeting began at 8:05 pm with a presentation from the referee in chief, Carter. He wanted to mainly touch on adapting the Horizon program and what that entails. He said that the software benefits everyone: scheduler, treasurer and the referee in chief. There was a lot of back and forth through emails for scheduling last year, including lots of emails on Wednesday nights into Thursday morning to confirm game assignments. Carter would have to go through once a month and add to a google spreadsheet and that's how they did payroll. This new system will streamline all of that. It allows for direct deposit and a larger network of officials. Horizon is being used by a majority of youth hockey programs around New England. In the system, games go out to more officials and can be scheduled weeks in advance, and payments will be more official. Carter can control assigning according to game level. HHA is on board with Horizon and they are waiving the \$150 sign-up fee so that helps us out as well. Ideally, Carter thinks we need the 100 official plan which is \$450 for the year. He has 63 officials on his list from last year and some new ones. He is going to look into whether we can share the cost with other associations. Brock says it will save us money on postage (\$3-4 dollars per game). The board agreed to vote on this topic and moved forward with it later in the meeting.

Carter also offered some suggestions that other local associations are doing to help officials offset the costs of officiating and to intern get more officials to sign-up. These suggestions included waiving start-up fees and offering stipends to buy a uniform. Carter reported there are no major rule changes from USA hockey this year. He stated that last year they dealt with a lot of official abuse from coaches and parents and kids. He felt it would be important to assign an off-ice mediator at each game that could speak to teams about having someone at each game to fulfill this role. After Carter got off the call, the board briefly discussed and decided to approve this program for the upcoming season.

#### **14u Update**

Brock and Josh gave a brief 14U Update. They reported Allison has already put in a roster to be approved for the green team's October tournament. Will reports that the jerseys for Swarm have arrived and the Storm jerseys are on their way. Josh commented that the senior socks are huge.

#### **Approval of Minutes from August**

Josh motioned to approve, Brock seconded. Motion approved.

## Monthly Reports

- a. **Coaching Coordinator/Registrar**– Allison just submitted 2 more team rosters today. 2 have been approved and 3 are submitted. She sent out another email today to harass coaches to get stuff done. Allison thinks there's a problem with the 8U age modules. She is looking into it.
- b. **Safesport Coordinator** - No Update
- c. **NH State Representative** - Will touched on the glitches with USA Hockey that came from his last NHAHA meeting. New announcements for this year, VT NH and ME applied for a waiver to be able to play 10 full ice games and 10 full ice practices. Will Meyer reports we will have to make a declaration and create a whole new roster. The only way you can do this is through the GSL platform. Will thinks it will help benefit the 8U's tremendously.

Other notes from the meeting that Will reported, if you're only going to play a 4 pt game, then you need to reach out to someone (missed that). Roni said we have to make a roster for the Board of Directors. Josh thinks we are all supposed to be SafeSport certified and background checked and then create a roster. Everyone on the board needs to register with USA Hockey for a volunteer number and do SafeSport training. NHAHA locked in a contract for SportsEngine for 3 more years. NHAHA Grants are open and we have until the 20th of October to apply. This grant helped with 8U equipment purchases the last few years. Brock is going to look into replacing the barriers. NHAHA is pushing the med kit bags but it's too expensive for this year. Dana said that he has a kit he can bring and leave there for the rink. Dana said he could run a session for all the coaches to attend to learn to use the stuff that's in the med kit. He thinks we could get First Aid bags for under \$1000.00 and will work on putting stuff together. Will thinks all the head coaches should have something to bring with them. Dana is going to work on putting together bags for each head coach and will report back.

- d. **Girls Development** - No Update
- e. **Fundraising** - Will reports the gear order is closed. He asked the company if we hit the order minimum but didn't get an answer. He is going to follow-up with them.
- f. **Scheduler** - Things have started to slow down and there's been a lot of changes with the southern teams. Dana rescheduled a 10U game that was scheduled during a blackout but he keeps getting no response from them. Will suggested they also email the VP. Jen needs to send it to Dan/Brook/Nick/Gattie. Josh said to try and get games where you want to travel together on the books now so that when the GSL asks for more ice time, you have already blacked out those travel dates.
- g. **Equipment Manager** - Will reported practice jerseys have been ordered. Swarm jerseys are here and the Storm jerseys are coming tomorrow. Will needed to solve the one number problem he talked about with 12U. Cassie Johns inquired about helping with this role for the season. Will would like her help so Jen will reach out to her.
- h. **Treasurer** - Brock Barton reports accounts are healthy heading into the start of the season.
- i. **Marketing/Social Media Manager** - Denise's daily marketing pushes for the gear order were fun and everyone enjoyed those. Tom wants to keep pushing Storm Academy and Mite registration. Someone will need to post BBQ details for this weekend.
- j. **Safety/Concussion** - No Update

### 1. New Business-

1. **Update on HHA**- Will Meyer reports that there are a few kids that don't have a team to play for because Hanover ended up only being able to field one team. Same story, different year. Brock reports that he had the collaboration conversation with Lovejoy

again. Brock does think their 14U situation has been eye opening for HHA and has renewed hope that they will join the partnership for next year.

2. **Girls 3 v 3 tournament-** Brock began by presenting the WHY behind hosting an event like this. He hates the fact that everyone was so excited about the merger and then a few girls left. So this idea is for our association to do something for the girls around the holidays. Everyone agreed that this was a great idea to try and move forward. Brock is going to do a blast out to associations in the area and in Vermont. Josh is going to check with Central VT to see how they pulled theirs off. The board agreed to try for Thanksgiving Saturday for this event. Brock is hopeful it could become a fun Thanksgiving Saturday tradition!
3. **Fall BBQ planning-** Jen gave an overview of where planning stands for the BBQ on Sunday. She is behind with communications but will get on top of sending details to volunteers in the next day so that we are all set for Sunday. Will got everything set with the town for use of the venue. Jen will be going to the storage unit to get what we need tomorrow and make a supplies list.
4. **Mission and Vision of Storm-** Jen shared the current status of the statements and the why behind revisiting this. The hope is for us to have consistent messaging to families heading into the BBQ and season and to pull values from these statements that we can use for branding/marketing on gear and in the arena. The board provided feedback and Jen is going to re-write the mission and vision using that feedback. She will send it out via email for approval.
5. **Tryout Committee for 12U/14U-** Will is working on finding external people for this. Brock suggested we just look at the first few kids on the bubble on either end and just evaluate the six bubble kids to make it easier on the committee.
6. **Alternate Policy -** Tom motions to approve the policy. Motion approved.
7. **Finalize coaches for rosters (head coach only) -** Amanda Nelson will be taking on the head coach role for the 12U T5 team. Josh Obar is finalizing the head coach for the 14U T5 team and is working on finding some support for him during the week.
8. **Tournaments for all levels -** This is mostly taken care of with only a few outstanding teams (travel mites and 12U Black). Brock is going to reach out to Amanda and take on helping her.

**Meeting Adjourned at 10:05 pm**