

USOA Underwater Hockey Committee Minutes

Thursday, December 21, 2023

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

Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86002722355>

Meeting ID: 860 0272 2355

UWH Committee Members:

Jenny Mohn, Chair (2023-2025)

Beven McWilliams, Vice Chair (2023-2025)

Shawn Berg, Secretary (2022-2024)

Eric Myers, Financial Secretary (2023-2025)

Paul Byrne, Member at large (2023-2025)

Megann Largent, Member at large (2022-2024)

Brandon Burr, Member at large (2023-2025)

1. Call to order
 - a. Committee members present: Beven, Eric, Megann, Paul
 - b. Non-committee members present: Kurt Allen, Karen Thullner, Carol Rose, Don Mathews, John Kulsa, Agnes Debrunner, Wendy Okafuji, Steve Kars, Casey Nakamura
 - c. Approval of agenda (1 min) Approved
2. Discussion and approval of November minutes (1 min) Approved
3. General membership input (10 min)
4. Financial secretary/Treasurer's report - Eric Myers/Wendy Okafuji (5 min):
 - a. Income - PCCs development fees \$950, Q4 dues \$780
 - b. Expenses - new club insurance x5, misc website fees
 - c. Total balance: \$33,165.25
 - d. Report accepted
5. Directors reports (max 30 min):
 - a. **Rules Director** - Don Mathews (5 min):
 - i. CMAS Rules Book is currently entertaining proposals for rules changes. There will be a meeting sometime in January for USOA referees and players interested in contributing or being included; will be hosted at USOA level and then these will be submitted to CMAS for review.
 - b. **Referee Director** - John Kulsa (5 min):

- i. Women's Tournament in St. Helens, Oregon earlier this month was very successful. 7 teams attended for 3x3, 12 referees mostly from the Pacific Northwest came to support and learn. A Lessons Learned Meeting is TBD
 - ii. Referee Clinics
 - 1. Virtual Basic Rules Course - January 13th - announcement will be sent as soon as it is drafted.
 - 2. Sara & John will be hosting a L1,2 referee clinic on the Friday before B@A, utilizing the potluck for in water education
 - 3. Info will be posted to the Ref webpage on SportsEngine soon
 - iii. CMAS College of Referees meeting January 21
 - iv. **Action item:** need to determine how many referees to send to Age Group Worlds next year. Megann will send the invitation for referee applications letter template to Jenny (copy KT) and John will send a list of referees who are qualified for consideration.
- c. **Nationals Team Coordinator** - Helene Soleille (5 min): Not present, no report
- d. **Youth Development Director** - Agnes Debrunner (5 min):
- i. U19 teams (2 mens) recently had a training event that went well. They have another scheduled for February 10-11.
 - ii. U24 teams (1 women, 2 mens) will be attending Battle at Altitude as an unofficial selection/training event.
 - iii. Team entry fees are due March 1st. Deposits from players will be collected in February. Cost for referee fees will need to be included, so they are hoping for a committee decision quickly on how many will be selected and sponsored.
- e. **Regional Directors:**
- i. Northwest - Kim Riccitelli (5 min):
 - 1. WA and OR clubs have voted in new board/committees.
 - 2. Sebastopol hosted their annual Thanksgiving weekend potluck
 - 3. Victoria, BC potluck scheduled in March
 - 4. SF team has run into some trouble booking pool time for a weekend regional event, NW region is again searching for a venue for a NW regional tournament. Hope to host this event prior to Nationals 2024.
 - ii. Inland - Steve Kars (5 min):

1. Marquette & Marinette Youth Fund-raising Tournament was held December 2, 2023
 - a. Had 43 players for the 8hr tournament, of those 24 were youth, 17 were classified as rookies (playing less than 1 year) and for 12 of them this was their first tournament
 - b. Had 6 teams of 7 players, with 2 experienced players on each team as captains
 - c. Held a 4-hour youth clinic the following day with ~12 attendees, 3 hours of skills, 1 hour potluck scrimmage
 2. Upcoming regional events - Chicago Rookie Day, Michigan State University end of February, U of I tournament on the first weekend of April & clinic on the following day.
 3. In 2024, focus will be on growing teams in the region at the university level.
- iii. Northeast - Jenny Biener (0 min): No news
 - iv. Southeast- Nicole Mazouch (5 min) - Not present, no report
 - v. Southwest- Casey Nakamura (5 min)
 1. Orange County
 - a. Established a Board of directors and 2024 steering committee
 - b. OC has secured pool time in Irvine, CA to Host a Club Tournament the weekend of March 9th/10th (PCCs 2024 - pilot)
 2. San Diego
 - a. Got a new pool in Coronado, CA
 3. Los Angeles
 - a. Approved for Pilot program – A Pool has been selected as the #1 preferred pool
 4. Phoenix
 - a. Will rise from the ashes and restart in the New Year
6. Need to nominate a [Competitions director](#) (2 min)
 - a. No nominations at this time, attendees will spread the word
 7. ACCs is being jointly hosted by CUGA and USOA, the following questions were asked:
 - a. Whose rules are we following for eligibility, code of conduct, game protests, etc.

- i. Previous USOA tournaments that have been hosted in Canada have followed USOA SCR/game rules. **We will use our forms and policies.**
 - b. Does USOA SCR take precedence or will it be exempted? See above
 - c. Are there any planning meetings between USOA, CUGA and the host?
 - i. **Action item:** Jenny and KT to connect about next steps
- 8. Nationals 2024 (7 min)
 - a. Denver is the only bid we received - June 21-23, 2024 - Approved
 - i. **Action item:** announcement
- 9. CMAS request for the US to host an America's Cup 2024 (7 min)
 - a. 2 day tournament, club based focus (not national teams)
 - b. Goal is to host in early September to avoid schedule conflicts with UWR America's Cup in Colombia and PCCs
 - c. MN Loons have expressed interest in hosting a tournament in 2024, could be a suitable venue for this tournament
 - i. **Action item** - communicate with possible clubs and venues to determine if this event is possible. Deadline - January 4, 2024
 - d. Need to set cap on # of teams per country based on max # teams we can fit into the schedule in a 2 day tournament
 - i. B@A experience - 16 teams for 2 day with 2 playing areas is usually works best for scheduling
 - e. Question: Is this a CMAS sanctioned event or USOA sanctioned event?
 - i. USOA sanctioned event - drug testing not required.
- 10. Women's Tournament (3 min)
 - a. 2023 Tournament was a huge success
 - b. Tournament netted \$278.50 in profit. *The OR ladies request that the UWH Committee allow them to keep these funds for the development of Oregon UWH.*
 - i. *Moved, 3 approved, 1 abstain.* **Action item:** notify Oregon women
 - c. Jenny B + Nicole are interested in planning the 2024 women's tournament
 - d. Interest from many tournament participants in future women's divisions at regional and local events.
- 11. CMAS UWH National Federations meeting updates (5 min):
 - a. Voted in changes to CMAS UWH Commission Internal Regulations:

- i. Officially added the CMAS UWH Events Committee (this is to replace the World Tournament Director)- we should nominate someone to be our federation rep to this committee.
 - 1. This college does: Development of events, manages events calendar, develop world hosts for events
 - 2. US representatives for Coaching and Development Committees should be made priority for filling. Currently no nominations.
- b. CMAS wants to start a world database, similar to the USOA one. Database is acquired and CMAS will begin working with NF Representatives to begin filling in information in the near future.
- c. Coaching committee is reviewing coaching framework. [Need to fill this US representative position]

12. Old business (5min):

- a. Development, Coaching, Events Director, positions need to be filled at CMAS level (*Need to contact people*)
- b. Bringing the website up to date (2 min)
 - i. Regional director/club contact info *Jenny will start working with regional directors on this.*
 - ii. Meet your committee section (photos, brief bio or at least club?)
- c. Eric and Jenny will put together a 2024 budget for UWH to be presented in the January meeting.
- d. Looking for nominations for USA UWH social media manager *delegate committee member to ask people*
- e. Further defining appropriate use of “development funds” *Eric and Jenny are working on drafting a document. In the meantime, have added dev fund document to the USOA website*
- f. CMAS has asked that the US host an international UWH event. Discussion is about either 2025 Worlds qualifiers or 2027 Worlds? Would cost ~\$150k to host.
- g. Age group worlds 2026 has been announced for Quebec

13. Next meeting will be 2024-01-18

14. Executive Session to follow

Action Items:

- Committee to determine how many referees to send to Age Group Worlds
- Jenny and KT to connect about next steps for coordinating the USOA-CUGA partnership for running ACCs
- Announcement of 2024 Nationals in Denver June 21-23
- Jenny and KT to communicate with possible clubs and venues to determine if The Americas' Cup event is possible. Deadline - January 4, 2024
- Notify Oregon Women's Tournament organizers that their request is approved.

Upcoming Events:

- Battle at Altitude - CO January 27-28
- ACCs - Quebec City - April 19-21
- Age Group Worlds 2024 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - July 17-29