

February Meeting Minutes
THURSDAY 2/9/2023 @ 7:00
Hybrid Meeting: In person at Ottaquechee Health Center
downstairs conference room, or Virtual via link

Mission: Woodstock Youth Hockey strives to promote the game of hockey and provide a welcoming environment to come together as a hockey community.

Vision: To create the best local hockey organization

Values: Sportsmanship, Teamwork, Fun, Community, Continuous Development, Welcoming to all Skaters

Attendees in person: Heather Little, Greg White, Nate Rand, AJ Tapley, Jen Kirkman, Jessica LaPerle, Ashley Pedoty, Kevin Hughes

Attendees virtually: Jeremy Freyer, Mary Alberty, Ryan Soos, Josh Roylance, Gary LaPerle, Lisa Marks; Andy Palazzo; Jessica Fuster

| Time | Agenda Item | Discussion/Decisions |
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| 7:00 | Welcome and Introductions Where we started and what we have achieved | Review of Mission, Vision, and Values. Review of '22/'23 WYH successes/wins/accomplishments. |
| 7:10 | Treasurer's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions • Unused Ice | Treasurer's report was circulated prior to the meeting including PnL and current balance sheet. Vote to approve treasurer's report was unanimous in favor. |
| 7:20 | Teams and Coaching <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registrar's report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Board membership • Tournament Participation • Team Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LTP ○ 8U ○ 10U ○ 12U | 2 Board membership positions are opening and 1 is already open to fill next year. Communications group should send email to organization to encourage volunteers to join the Board. Tournament participation – 10U T2 team going to state tournament; 12U T3 team going to state tournament; 10U T4 team going to Troy Tournament, 10U and 12U teams entering POG. LTP going well; 8U players have been invited to 10U tournament in Troy, 8U suggestion to play a couple of full ice scrimmages/games but it's not allowed under USA hockey rules. 8Us are welcome to join Stick & Puck on Fridays. 10U going well, two T2 games upcoming. 12U going well, three T3 games upcoming, the team has become a great family. |

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| | | <p>Discussion around possible Girls development group next season. (e.g., 1-2 practice per week, no games, could be an add-on for fully registered girls to their regular season with the idea of encouraging friends to learn hockey and hopefully register for the full season the following year. Consider including young high school girls who are just starting hockey. Perhaps get girls Varsity involved as student volunteer coaches. Kelly?)</p> |
| 7:30 | <p>VSAHA Meeting Highlights</p> | <p>Good sportsmanship is critical at all tournaments.</p> <p>Girls grant can be applied for, form is online. T3 tournament schedule should be available next week. All coaches should be aware of tournament rules and be sure the binder is up to date.</p> <p>Rate of pay for referees was discussed.</p> <p>Tryout rule was adjusted to be 24 hours after Nationals.</p> <p>Feedback was requested on Transfer Policy and the next Policy Committee Mtg. is expected to rewrite the Policy to keep the Financial Release portion of the policy.</p> <p>WYH Board members asked about the tournament committee and whether someone from WYH could join in order to have input.</p> |
| 7:40 | <p>Proposal for 14U Collaboration with UVHL Broad membership discussion and vote needed for next steps</p> | <p>Discussion around WYH / UVHA 14U collaboration plan which was circulated prior to the meeting. The plan is attached to these minutes. Discussion around number of 14U players projected between WYH / UVHA players and any others.</p> <p>Question: Is double rostering allowed between Varsity and 14U.. or... another club team and 14U. (e.g., 8th grade girls). Need to discuss with UVHA.</p> <p>Question: Would we be in favor of this if WYH had enough for our own team? (Consensus on this not being a black/white answer.)</p> <p>Question: What is the measurement for success? Again, not a black/white answer.</p> <p>Discussion: Need to tell players what team they're on within several weeks after tryouts.</p> |

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| | | <p>Question: Would a 12U player be allowed to tryout with the idea of petitioning up? Need to discuss with UVHA.</p> <p>Motion to approve the Overall Plan as stated with condition of allowing 8th grade girls to double roster w Varisty. 10 in favor. 1 abstains.</p> |
| 8:30 | <p>Pot of Gold Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify site directors • Decision needed **will we pay students to run the clock? • Plan for raffle table • Plan for puck shooting radar event?? | <p>Kim will be site director for Girls Regionals weekend. Anyone can shadow Kim to train on becoming a site director in preparation for POG.</p> <p>POG site directors needed: 2 for WABA, 1 for Champion, Kim likely to be director for Union.</p> <p>Need to get more parents trained on all volunteer jobs.</p> <p>Ipads are much easier for scoring than score sheets.</p> <p>Ask Kelly for email lists of adult league players – we could pay them for jobs or give them raffle tickets.</p> <p>12U team putting together a raffle basket.</p> |
| 9:00 | <p>Next Month: Fee Structure By Laws Changes</p> | <p>Discuss fee structure next meeting.</p> <p>Discuss changes to by-laws next meeting to be voted on at Annual Meeting.</p> |

14U Collaboration Plan

Plan A – VSAHA gets rid of the Transfer Policy and we move forward with the collaboration plan outlined below

Plan B – VSAHA keeps the Transfer Policy and all 14U players register with UVHA Storm, play in GSL, wear UVHA jerseys (maybe they can look a little different than traditional UVHA jerseys) with the agreement to use Union/Barwood for games/practices and make an effort to play both NH and VT games.

Plan C (maybe this becomes Plan A for 2024-25 Season) – Create new 501c3 under GSL

Overall goals

- Place 14U players on the appropriate team to match players' skill level.
- Keep and promote community access to hockey, specifically: (i) providing opportunities for higher level to stay in the Upper Valley, and, (ii) providing an appropriate team placement so that less experienced players remain engaged in hockey.
- Make a 3-year (2023-24 season through the 2025-26 season) commitment on collaborating across organizations.

Overall Plan

- UVHA and WYH will collaborate with the goal of creating 2-3, 14U co-ed teams. Both organizations agree not to host a 14U team on their own, outside of this collaborative plan.
- Team tiers are TBD and will be determined after tryouts based on skill level.
- The highest-level team will play for UVHA, likely T2 or T3, and will play in the GSL.
- A second but likely lower skill level team will play for Woodstock, likely T3 or T4, and will play in VSAHA.
- If there are enough players for three teams, the third team will play for UVHA, likely T3, T4, or T5, and will play in the GSL.
- Both Barwood and Union rinks will be used for practices and games. Generally, 14U teams will share ice for practices as much as possible, using both rinks as equally as practical. WYH will pay for ice at Union Arena and UVHA will pay for ice at Barwood, with the understanding that ice costs associated with the 14U teams should be approximately proportional to the number of skaters registered with each organization. In the event that registered players are not equal across organizations, 14U revenue and expenses will be reconciled by UVHA and WYH Treasurers as of December 31st and March 31st.

- UVHA and WYH will make an effort to collaborate to make registration fees for each 14U team the same or very similar.
- Players on the UVHA team(s) will wear uniforms with UVHA/Storm name. Players on the WYH team will wear uniforms with the Woodstock Youth Hockey name. If allowed, UVHA and WYH will collaborate to come up with a jersey design for all 14U teams that can be used across both organizations.

Tryouts

- To be organized and held collaboratively between UVHA and WYH, likely after the National tournament, in March/April 2023 for the 2023/2024 season;
- Tryout fee is TBD, but not more than \$75 per player;
- Players who do not attend tryouts but want to join one of the 14U teams will be placed on a team after the first week of practices in Fall 2023. (Circumstances include only players who moved to the area during the Summer and were not a part of WYH or UVHA during the 2022/2023 season, or players who were injured during the Spring tryout.)

A final tryout plan will be formalized if this Collaboration Plan is executed by the Boards of both UVHA and WYH.

Note: If other local hockey associations want to join this collaboration in the future, this Collaboration Plan can be re-visited with mutual agreement from the UVHA and WYH.