



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

June 21st, 2023 8pm

via Google Meet

Attendees: Jess (WYH), Brock Barton, Josh Obar, Will Meyer, Megan O’Neil, Allison Mancuso, Dana Wright, Cherry Sullivan, Jen Callahan

Meeting called to order at 8:02pm

- 1. 14u Update** - Brock Barton began the meeting with a 14u update. He reported that we will be moving forward with two teams at this level in the partnership with Woodstock. We had to announce 3 teams after tryouts due to USA hockey roster requirements of 20 or less per team. Our tryout numbers put us over that requirement. Jessica voiced that from their organization, the end goal was never a path to Nationals but was to play with an ability based cohort and no one is disappointed about the end result. They are on board and excited about moving forward. Brock thinks that tiers 3 and 4 is still appropriate for the tiering for these teams.

Another big item on our plates is trying to finalize the jersey component. Josh shared the mock ups of the jerseys. There was one option to have the Woodstock logo on one shoulder and Storm on the other. We also have the option to use the Swarm logo. The mock-ups have a blue/green color scheme. The plan is to present a couple options to families and have people vote. Brock added that if we do go with the new logo, we need a place to mock up the new Swarm logo for helmet stickers. The group feels they are on the right path for jersey’s. All 14u families got their jersey and sock sizes to Will. He does need to chase a few people down for numbers. Josh offered to help if needed.

Tuesday skates at Union for the group have been a hit so far. Jess strongly suggested no 4:20 slots at Union for the 14u group to Gregg. Gregg should be reaching out to us about the rest of the scheduling. Josh asked about the weekend game ice at Union and Jess explained that WYH have “chunks” of ice on Saturday, not sheets. WYH extended their ice chunk for this year so the rink won’t cut game times shorter. Josh let her know that we would need 75-80 minutes for Bantam games at Union. Jess thanked everyone for their time and efforts before jumping off the call.

- 2. Approval of Minutes from May** - Minutes approved
- 3. Monthly Reports**
 - a. Coaching Coordinator/Registrar**- No Update from Allison. Josh suggested that coaching registration should get opened this month. Members of the board briefly reviewed each rostered team and age group and who would potentially coach each group. We do have a potential coach on every team and the group feels we are in good shape here.
Registrations are looking healthy. Will reported that we only have two stragglers at 10U and 12U. Everyone else is registered and accounted for. We need to push out registrations for 8U and Storm Academy for the fall.
 - b. Safesport Coordinator** - No Update
 - c. NH State Representative** - There is a NHAHA meeting this Saturday that Will is attending. The board agreed that we are willing to host another state tournament next spring if the one we are assigned aligns with an age group and tier that we have a team in. Brock explained how the assignment process went last year at the meeting and said we can trade with other organizations and ultimately give away the tournament if we end up not being able to host it.
 - d. Girls Development** - No Update
 - e. Fundraising** - Deadlines for the Lebanon and NHAHA grants are coming up before the end of the summer.

Brock said he may need help with ideas of what to ask for. The Lebanon grant is geared towards the younger age group so the board agreed that we have a need for smaller goalie equipment and should ask for that.

- f. Scheduler - Update below
- g. Equipment Manager - Update below
- h. Treasurer - No Update
- i. Marketing/Social Media Manager - Jen will contact Denise Hunter and ask her to post a "Save the Date" for the Kick-off BBQ. We also need to begin to push out Mite registration information. Josh is going to look into the Try Coaching for Free and the Try It for Free event waiver for the fall.
- j. Safety/Concussion - No Update

4. Other Business-

1. **Refund policy** - The board briefly discussed the refund policy. This policy was revised last winter but has not been updated to reflect spring tryouts and early registration. The 14u group had to put down a \$200 non-refundable deposit when they registered and it was worded as such in group communications. However, the board felt it was not directly communicated to the 10U/12U groups. Brock is going to draft a new refund policy based on the changes that spring tryouts and team selection presents and the new refund policy will be posted on the website as soon as possible.
2. **Tier Declaration** - Will began the discussion the tier declaration by asking Brock to clarify when tier declaration is due. Brock said it was usually the last week of July or the first week of August. Josh says it's helpful to know what coaches are involved because that can also affect tier placement. The board is thinking that we will have teams at tier 3 and 4 for 14U. The 12U coaches are still unsure for the top team and are wavering between tier 3 or 4. They felt the top team last year was very young for Tier 3 last year and depending on what teams move up, could stack up alright in tier 3. The second 12U team will be in tier 5. For the three teams at 10U, we will have a team in tiers three, four, and five. The board also asked Dana if he thought how the Silver team feel about playing just a Vermont schedule due to the high level of play last year in 10U tier 5. But everyone thought that the teams might be disheartened by not getting to play a NHAHA schedule like everyone else. Brock asked Will to speak up about the 10U tiering being regulated better at the NHAHA meeting this month. Brock is also going to send a note to NHAHA to get the conversation started about fixing the tiering problem.
3. **Ice Buy**

The board discussed the proposed ice by submitted by Vice President Josh Obar.

Monday	5:35p - 6:35p	10U #1 // 10U #2	
	6:45p - 7:45p	12U #1 // 12U #2	
	7:55p - 8:55p	14U #1 // 14U #2	
Tuesday	5:35p - 6:35p	House Mites // Travel Mites	
	6:45p - 7:45p	Skills #1 (10U, 10U, 12U)	*
	7:55p - 8:55p	Skills #2 (14U, 12U, 14U)	
Wednesday	4:30p - 5:30p	Goalie	**
	6:00p	Puck Drop for HHS Varsity	
Thursday	5:35p - 6:35p	10U #2 // 10U #3	
	6:45p - 7:45p	12U #1 // 12U #2	
	7:55p - 8:55p	14U #1 // 14U #2	***
Friday	5:35p - 6:35p	House Mites // Travel Mites	
	6:45p - 7:45p	10 #1 // 10U #3	
	7:55p - 8:55p		
Saturday	7:45a - 8:45a	Storm Academy	
	9:00a - 10:15a	Game Slot #1	
	10:30a - 11:45a	Game Slot #2	
	12:00p - 1:15p	Game Slot #3	
	2:00p (UNION)?	Game Slot #4	****
Sunday	7:45a - 9:00a	Storm Academy // House Mites	
	9:15a - 10:30a	Game Slot #5	
	10:45a - 12:00p	Game Slot #6	
	12:15p - 1:30p	Game Slot #7	

This proposed schedule has a 4:30-5:30pm on Wednesday's for goalies with an opportunity for it to be later up until the high school schedule starts at Thanksgiving. But the time may be dictated by the goalie coach we are able to get. We still have the option to integrate it into skills on Tuesday. The ice buy isn't due for another month so we have time to finalize a plan. We do need to find another weekend game slot because we have 8 teams that need ice. Josh is going to work with Hartford Parks and Rec to find something. He thinks Sunday might be an option.

4. **Jersey update for 10u, 12u, 14u** - President Meyer gave an update for jersey fit day. He reported that it

went great; very busy and Brock helped. Most people came on Sunday with Monday being just a few stragglers. Will shared the jersey mock up for 10U and 12U. At the Fit Day, the kids voted for the gray jersey over white by about 10 votes. Will opened The discussion up to the board and most parents also leaned to the gray. The board discussed having no logos on the shoulders and due to the jersey being reversible, will not have laces. The final decision on jersey colors are black and gray with classic look black socks. Black will be the base of the sock not white. Will is going to get the order in at the beginning of July for the jerseys to arrive on time for the season.

5. **Covered Bridges update** - Will reports this event was fun and went off with zero issues. It was the perfect temperature and everyone had fun. Volunteer time was about 2.5-3 hours. Will reported we should get a check soon and Jen will keep an eye on the PO box.
6. **End of Season Survey results** - The board shared and reviewed the End of Season survey results. Overall, feedback was positive and the majority of families enjoyed their experience. The major areas of issue came at the 12u level and were cultural. There was also complaints of behavior issues on ice at 8U, 10U, and 12U. The executive board was aware of all complaints during the season and has already put into place strategies to help for next season including a board oversight at each age group, more coaching support, and a revamp of our mission, vision, values. The board is going to work on MVV next meeting.
7. **Fall BBQ planning** - The board passed on the topic for this month because of the time and Megan and Cherry had to get off. Jen is going to meet with Megan and Cherry prior to next months meeting and report back in July. The board thinks the same schedule as last year worked well.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 pm