



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
December 22nd, 2022 – 8:30 PM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7105893331>
Meeting ID: 710 589 3331

1. Monthly Reports

- a. Coaching Coordinator - Will said that everyone (except for one person) has completed the standards to coach after the 1st of the year. Kylie ran a report to verify if everyone was all set.
- b. Safesport Coordinator - No Update
- c. NH State Representative - Brock attended the meeting on 12/13. He reports that there was lots of discussion around match penalties and abuse of officials. NH is still trying to nail down the dates for NEP for NH players 2010-2011. Josh O. asked if we had to give them anything information about the state tournament. There was discussion about forming a committee for the beginning of January. Hillary suggested having a point person that can be there the whole weekend.
- d. Girls Development - No Update
- e. Fundraising - Formation of a committee for Skate-a-thon needs to happen after the holidays.
- f. Registrar - Rosters are due the first of the year. Kylie didn't have much to update in this area.
- g. Scheduler - We are looking to have the Woodstock 12U combine with our 12U girls for some exhibition games. Next Friday was identified as a potential opportunity. The 12U coaches are working to try and figure out a possible game for this date.
- h. Equipment Manager - Hillary has distributed more equipment to some new Storm Academy families starting the winter session in January. There were no other updates.
- i. Treasurer - Brock reports that the ice time bills are starting to come in and have been paid. There were no other updates.
- j. Marketing/Social Media Manager - Jen raised a question about the November discussion of the Girls Development skate expansion. There are 4 or 5 skates left so the board agreed that we will plan to advertise and accept players outside the association to continue to encourage girls to play. Kylie suggested trying to make it a bigger event like “Try It Free” for girls. A potential date for this was added to the calendar as 1/24 so that Kylie and the high school team could attend.
- k. Safety/Concussion - No Update

2. New Business

- a. Substitute Policy - The board discussed the need to formalize a way for people to understand how being called up to a higher tier to play works. Each player can only play up for two games. It was decided that going forward, we will require communications

between coaches so that everyone is aware of how the players being called up will be affecting both teams. An email from the requesting coach, including the registrar, must be sent to the other teams coaches so that everyone can be in the loop and agree on it. Roni reminded us about the roster numbers of the teams needing to be equal because there is a rule that you can't bring players up to increase your roster size. The UVHA board decided that they will only allow 1 for 1 trades in all games (GSL and Vermont).

In terms of rostering and game play, Vermont games still have to follow USA hockey rules. Roni discussed recording of penalties and signing of the game sheets. Kylie wants Brock to mention in a state meeting that it would be great if they could identify players in Game Sheet that were added that day so that you can tell what is different about the roster. Brock showed that there is a flag but you can't see that on the iPad on the day of the game. You can only see the flag in the portal. The board is going to work on a substitution policy at a future date.

- b. UV Partnerships - Will and Brock met with Woodstock and three board members from their association. Their board feels the same as Hanover and only wants to try it at 14U and see what happens. The working draft idea is that there would be a new non-profit organization that would only offer 14U teams. No one else would offer a 14U team. A vote on this would need to happen in February in order to compete in the GSL, though having an association that only offers 14U means there are limitations to going to nationals.

Josh asked about the numbers of the 2009 and 2010 age groups of all three programs. It sounds like merging with only Woodstock would not be helpful to us as an association because the numbers would still not be healthy enough for two strong teams with kids placed at the appropriate skill level. Roni suggested we talk to representatives from the 4 Vermont teams that just converged for advice on making this happen. Kylie is opposed to any continued merge due to the effect of youth hockey development in the area. She feels that merging decreases the number of opportunities for kids to play and try a new sport, and significantly affects the area high schools abilities to field teams. There was discussion of the best high school programs and their youth development. The board also discussed other GSL teams that were affected by COVID. Our teams that were greatly affected by COVID were the current PeeWee and Squirt levels.

It was concluded that we need to have some real conversations with Hanover. The discussion was tabled until next month with the board divided on whether to move forward with a merger. Brock is going to continue meeting with Woodstock and Hanover over the next month and a final decision about merging will likely have to be made at the next meeting in January. Jen asked for this meeting to be in person and with a healthy amount of time to allow for debate and discussion of this matter. Brock is going to send out some potential dates and times to have everyone together, with the 3rd Tuesday looking like a potential winner.

- c. Storm Academy Marketing - Our next Try It for Free will have to be at 7:45am on 1/7 during the Storm Academy spot on that day. Josh, Brock, and Tom are available to help with it that day because Kylie is not. Kylie is applying for the exception for this date and we will begin advertising for this after the holidays.

- d. Tryout timing and process- Josh and Brock talked about tryout timing prior to the call starting. A spring tryout would have to be immediately following the PeeWee state tournament. Brock and Josh need to ask Hartford if it's possible to keep the ice for one more week past the Pot of Gold Tournament.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 pm. The minutes from November were not approved. They will be approved via email.