

USOA Underwater Hockey Committee Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2024

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: Jenny, Beven, Megann, Paul,
 - b. Non-committee members present: Don, Wendy, Carol, KT, Kim, Agnes, Kurt, Casey
 - c. Discussion about committee engagement and quorum.
 - d. Approval of agenda (1 min)
2. Discussion and approval of December minutes (1 min)
3. General membership input (10 min)
4. Financial secretary/Treasurer's report - Eric Myers/Wendy Okafuji (5 min):
 - a. Total balance: \$32,430.37
5. Directors reports (max 30 min):
 - a. **Rules Director** - Don Mathews (5 min):
 - i. CMAS is working on rule changes
 - ii. Is waiting to put up USOA call for changes to rules until last things are finalized, should be ready to send out a call by this weekend.
 - iii. Rules debate Feb 3rd is advertised on Facebook
 1. *Jenny will advertise via USOA channels*
 - iv. Treatise of UWH Rules was copyrighted by USOA. With the rules changing quite a bit it will be less useful. Was considering sending out a PDF copy of the book to participants in webinar; wanted committee/USOA

Board's opinion. No objections from the committee, sent to board for consideration.

- b. **Referee Director** - John Kulsa (5 min):
 - i. Jan 13 class did not happen due to illness and competing priorities. Will work on better backup plans for future events.
 - ii. Class at BAA is happening. 6 signed up last time I checked.
 - iii. Deck class to be run by Chris Debrunner on Monday 22 Jan for the deck assistance. I should be able to attend as a resource.
 - iv. Got a request from Eric for a call for referees at Nationals. Don will provide shortly.
 - v. College of referee meeting this Saturday at 7pm UTC/11am pacific.
 - 1. Will be going over delay of game rule
 - 2. Juniors code of conduct
 - 3. Rules debate scheduled for 3 February, open to the public.
 - c. **Nationals Team Coordinator** - Helene Soleille (5 min): No report
 - d. **Youth Development Director** - Agnes Debrunner (5 min):
 - i. Has been getting financials set up for youth worlds.
 - ii. Will have a fundraiser at B@A
 - iii. Want to know if the ref opt out fee will be included in entry fees. Need to know by March 1.
 - 1. Refs need to be selected by March 15th.
 - 2. Deadline for ref payment is March 1st
 - iv. *KT will get swimsuit costs to Agnes*
 - e. **Regional Directors**:
 - i. Northwest - Kim Riccitelli (0 min): No update
 - ii. Southwest- Casey Nakamura (5 min):
 - 1. Looking forward to OCCs
 - a. Currently have 5 teams
 - b. They're having a lot of pushback on club only
 - iii. Inland - Steve Kars (5 min): No update
 - iv. Northeast - Jenny Biener (0 min): No update
 - v. Southeast- Nicole Mazouch (5 min): No update
6. Need to decide # of referees to send to Age Group Worlds, if none, will we cover part of the ref opt out fee? (5 min)

- a. Ref opt out fee:
 - i. 1st Ref = \$2350, 2nd Ref = \$1600, 3rd Ref = \$850. Total \$4800
 - b. Request from Agnes to know if we send referees, can we be sure it does not cost more for the teams than if they opted out.
 - i. Airfare is all that is required from the federation. Flights would range from \$1500 - \$2000 depending where you're leaving from
 - ii. Committee covered half of airfare cost, teams covered second half.
 - 1. Concern raised about financial sustainability of the committee covering half of ref airfare every worlds given the amount of \$ coming into the funds.
 - c. *Committee will send out a call for interest in attending as a ref and an application*
 - i. *Will discuss in an executive session and rank*
 - ii. *Then, Jenny will start contacting refs in order*
7. GB request for USA UWH to sign petition for CMAS to reconsider 4 year world's cycle
 - a. Contacted national team steering committees and coaches for input, received only positive feedback.
 - b. Committee moved, seconded, approved to have USOA sign the petition.
 - c. *KT will sign and send tomorrow*
 8. Orange County Cup March 9-10 (5 min)
 - a. Request to committee to consider allowing this event to also serve as PCCs to trial spring PCCs to promote a club hockey season
 - b. Will not have be OCCs serve as PCCs in this year
 9. ACCs is being jointly hosted by CUGA and USOA (1 min)
 - a. Meeting with CUGA/USOA UWH directors is currently being scheduled
 10. Nationals 2024 (1 min)
 11. Need to nominate a [Competitions director](#) (3 min)
 - a. Would be ideal to have this person also serve as CMAS Events Director position
 - b. Eric Straily just sent an application to us for this position
 - c. *Jenny will send out a call for the position, committee will discuss applicants.*
 12. CMAS request for the US to host an America's Cup 2024 (2 min)
 - a. MN Loons are interested and expect to be able to host this tournament in September. They are not able to officially schedule until April when the UofM NCAA schedule is set. Mike will check in with Jenny again in April.
 - b. Meeting with CMAS Americas Directors Jan 31

13. Tournament Structure Proposal (5 min)

- a. **Tournament Structure Proposals**

14. Old business (3 min):

- a. Development, Coaching, Events Director, positions need to be filled at CMAS level *Jenny will contact people this month*
- b. Bringing the website up to date
- i. Regional director/club contact info *Jenny has started working with regional directors on this.*
- ii. Meet your committee section (photos, brief bio or at least club?)
- c. *Eric M and Jenny will put together a 2024 budget for UWH to be presented in the February 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.

15. Next meeting will be 2024-02-15

Action Items:

- *Jenny will advertise CMAS Rules Change Feb. 4 Forum via USOA channels*
- *KT will get age group national team swimsuit costs to Agnes*
- *Committee will send out a call for interest in attending Age Group Worlds as a ref and an application*
 - *Will discuss in an executive session and rank*
 - *Then, Jenny will start contacting refs in order*
- *KT will sign and send the petition to CMAS re: 4 year worlds cycle tomorrow*
- *Jenny will send out a call for the nominations for Competitions Director position, committee will discuss applicants.*
- *Jenny will contact people to fill open CMAS positions this month*

- *Eric M and Jenny will put together a 2024 budget for UWH to be presented in the February meeting.*

Upcoming Events:

- Battle at Altitude - CO - January 27-28
- Tournament of Love - East Lansing, MI - February 24-25
- Orange County Cup - Irvine, CA - March 9-10
- ACCs - Quebec City - April 19-21
- Lucky Meisenheimer Florida Cup - Orlando, FL - April 27-28
- Nationals - CO - June 21-23
- Age Group Worlds 2024 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - July 17-29