



UAHA Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: March 4th, 2024

Location: Maverik Center Ice Arena Conference Room

Regular Session: 7:00pm

1. Roll Call:

Present: Ryan Bonham (President), Chuck Dorval (Vice President), Adam Bailey (Treasurer), Ryan Chaffin (Secretary), Robyn Eyre-Long (VP Discipline), Courtney Miller (VP Girls), Tim Odell (VP Travel), Foster Watabe (VP Youth), Shannon Bennett (VP Growth/Retention), Erin Drexell (Jr Grizz), Steve Picano (Lightning), Frank Vatrano (Lady Grizz), Breanne (Provo), Josh Anderson (Oval), Sara Smith (Oval), Greg Larson (Provo), Adam Smith (Provo), Jacob and Brenda Hickman (Provo), Tanner Ingalls (VP Adult/Women/Disability), and via Zoom: Dana Combs (VP High School), Alex Valez (Safety), Jeff Tibbles (Park City), Mariko Rollins (Ogden), Mike Adamek (Park City), Megan Ostler (Provo), Robert Cowden (Renegades), Stephen Miche (Provo), Jeff Kite (Jr Grizz), Beau Bertagnolli (Ogden), Reid Jacobson (Goalie Development Coordinator), Nicki Jones (Park City),

2. Approval of February Meeting Minutes (Addendum A): Minor updates and corrections were made to the Girls Tier 1 discussion. Minutes approved.

3. Bylaw Amendment (Addendum B): Our bylaws state to change the bylaws we need a 60% vote. USA Hockey wants affiliates to update this to be a 2/3s super majority of those voting. Chuck is proposing we update the bylaws per the addendum. Motioned by Adam. Second by Courtney. Approved unanimously.

4. Girls Tier 1 (Addendum C): Time turned over to Robyn. Last month Tier I was presented, and the Renegades requested a 19U Girls team. It was approved. In reviewing our policies, our policies do not allow it. Tier I and Girls Tier I are not the same thing. The numbers in Utah do not support a Girls Tier I 19U team for. Robyn is asking to rescind the board vote to follow our policies and development pyramid. Ryan B. stated that he would love to have a Tier I Girls team in Utah. The Lady Grizz stated that they would love to have this opportunity for their girls. Robert Cowden from the Renegades stated that they would love to support it whether it's under them at the Renegades, or with the Lady Grizz. Ryan B. shared from the USA Hockey Guidebook (page 171) stating that "each affiliate shall be permitted to have at least one team per age classification." In 2021-2022, Utah had 44 Girls 19U players. In 2022-2023, Utah had 40 Girls 19U players. In 2023-2024, Utah has 10 Girls 19U players. Ryan B. shared numbers from other states where they did not meet the player number requirements (including Texas and Arizona). This checks off some of the rules. It was presented that the 19U Girls team move from the Renegades to the Lady Grizz. Chuck

shared that it makes sense for the girls to stay within their same organization and build the brand of the Lady Grizz and not have the girls try to go to another program. It was noted that there are 8 girls living in state that play out of state. Ryan B. shared from the UAHA P&Ps that under our rules, we cannot have a girls Tier I team until we have two Tier II teams at the same age level. Chuck proposed that we change this because we are the only affiliate in our district that follows this rule. It was mentioned that UAHA has a stricter rule than USA Hockey, and that we should look at that and consider following USA Hockey's rules. This will be identified and revisited. Foster asked what having a Girls 19U Tier I team would do to the Tier II teams. It was suggested that if we don't have a Tier I team, a number of girls will leave to go play Tier I out of state, leaving a less than desirable situation for those who remain with Tier II. Some girls currently play out of state anyway, and having an in-state option would be much more desirable. The question was raised again regarding if we had a Girls 19U Tier I, would it come at the cost of Tier II? Girls 19U Tier II is already questionable, and that is why there is a push to have Girls 19U Tier I. UAHA would need to edit a rule in the P&Ps to make a Girls 19U Tier I team possible. A question was raised in regard to billet players for Girls Tier I. Ryan B. submits that our current Tier I billet language generally applies because it does not specify "youth" or "girls". Robyn stated that USA Hockey treats "youth" and "girls" separately, so UAHA should to. It's proposed that UAHA update the P&Ps to specifically address both. The question was raised if we think this will bring players back home? The answer was yes, and it would encourage girls to stay. A recap of steps would be to rescind our previous vote to allow a Girls 19U Tier I, then change policies, and approve the Lady Grizz for Tier I. Chuck pointed out that he stated prior to the previous vote that rules would need to be changed. It was asked why we can't leave it with the Renegades while we figure things out? It was stated that we want to move towards being compliant, and not stay in a position where we know there are issues. It was asked what needs to happen for an emergency vote? Lady Grizz intent is to do it. They just need to have their board meeting. The question was raised if the Lady Grizz have a 19U Tier I, can they still field their 16U and 14U teams? The answer was yes. It was noted that the Lady Grizz are the only org that can take all girls team out of state. Courtney motioned to remove the Girls Tier I from the Renegades, then transfer the Girls Tier I from the Renegades to the Lady Grizz pending the Lady Grizz approval and the changes to UAHA's P&Ps. The vote was denied. Foster motioned to remove the Girls Tier I from the Renegades. Robyn seconded. Vote passed. Courtney motioned to approve Lady Grizz to have Girls Tier I pending the Lady Grizz board approving and UAHA changing their P&Ps to accommodate it. Second by Shannon. Tanner asked if we could move up our April meeting. Foster asked that Lady Grizz resubmit their application including Tier I on their application. Tim confirmed everything else has been resolved by their Tier II application. Robyn suggested we don't vote on pending items and amend it to put forth a vote once the Lady Grizz board confirms they want it. Courtney asked to keep her motion as is. Six votes for, two votes against. Approved. It was asked that Renegades take down their marketing of tryouts for Girls Tier I.

5. Organization Application Form Finalization

- a. **New Entity – Provo:** Ryan B. turned time over to George Chalos who has applied as a new entity to take over operations in Provo. George has communicated with Foster that the travel would be run outside of the city, but in conjunction with other city programs. George mentioned that a team name has not been decided because there is an ongoing discussion regarding retaining the brand, or rebranding. They want the parents and players to have input. A question was asked about the relationship between the city/Foster/Megan and the new entity. Foster will be the landlord, and the hockey entity

will be the tenant. George has extensive USA Hockey experience in other entities. George takes responsibility for the org. Ambition is to have a parent advisory board and non-parent head coaches. The goal is to develop kids that love hockey. They will spend a lot of time with educating parents to make sure they have the best environment. An issue George has encountered is pricing, and they are working hard to make sure they can keep the cost down, while delivering a quality product. Chuck motioned to approve Next Shift as a new entity. Robyn seconded. Approved unanimously.

- b. Organization Applications:** Lightning did apply. Application was not included in the packet sent out, but application was in on time.
- i. Jr Grizz** – Application was presented to the room. Tim motioned to approve the Travel A & B and House teams. Second by Ryan. Approved unanimously.
 - ii. Oval** – Application was presented to the room. Ryan motioned to approve the Travel A & B and House teams. Second by Chuck. Approved unanimously.
 - iii. Lady Grizz** – Application was presented to the room. Courtney motioned to approve the Travel A & B and House teams. Second by Foster. Approved unanimously.
 - iv. Ogden** - Application was presented to the room. Ryan C. brought up that Ogden’s application is a new entity trying to apply as a renewal. Chuck added that a new organization has implications for Ogden, including that you need a sponsoring org and cannot have Tier 2 for 3 years. Chuck pointed out that the proposed policy change that would have removed municipalities was discussed in a meeting and not passed, in part due to Mariko’s feedback. Jacob Hickman shared that they considered spinning off Peaks Youth Hockey Association to new management because they believed it has been done before. Chuck motioned to accept the new Jr Mustangs organization in place of the existing org by Weber County. Second by Foster. Ryan C. asked why would we treat Provo differently than Ogden in similar situations? Chuck mentioned that Provo should apply next year for Tier II and the board should make an exception for them. Three opposed, seven for. Approved.
 - v. Park City** - Application was presented to the room. Foster motioned to approve the Travel A & B and House teams. Second by Shannon. Approved unanimously.
 - vi. Cache Valley** - Application was presented to the room. Chuck motioned to approve the Travel A & B and House teams by interpreting “X” as “1”. Second by Tim. Opposed by Foster. Approved. Cache Valley raised a question about fielding more teams, and they were told to call Foster.
 - vii. Davis County** - Application was presented to the room. Clarified that they did not mean to apply for Tier II. Adam motioned to have Davis County resubmit. Second by Tim. 9 for, Foster abstained. Approved.
 - viii. Ashley Valley/Vernal** - Application was presented to the room. Foster motioned to approve the Travel A & B and House teams. Second by Robyn. Approved unanimously.
 - ix. High School** – Application was presented to the room. Noted that adding 4 girls only high school teams are being applied for. Robyn asked how the girls teams are being set up, such as regions? Not decided yet. Motioned by Foster. Second by Robyn. Approved unanimously. A reminder was mentioned that high school teams have limitations that youth teams don’t.
 - x. Lightning** - Application was presented to the room. Foster motioned to approve the Travel A & B and House teams. Second by Shannon. Approved unanimously.
- c. Tier II Teams (Addendum D):** Tim shared that 5 applications were received from existing

orgs, including the Lady Grizz, Jr. Grizz, Ogden Mustangs, Park City and Oval Dawgs. Going off of the youth numbers UAHA should approve 2-3 18U teams, 3-4 16U teams, and 3-4 14U teams. The Tier committee discussed the numbers and agreed that they support going to 4 teams, but there is concern about diluting talent. For this upcoming season, Park City can only be granted a 14U and 16U team. Chuck motioned to approve. Second by Tim. Question raised about does this impact Tier I. Answer is no, and they are good. If they can field the teams, they can. Approved unanimously. Turning to the youth applications, Ryan B. likes going to 4 teams. Erin from the Grizz raised concerns about 4 Tier II teams and 1 Tier I team, meaning 5 Tier teams at certain age levels. It's noted that organizations need to understand the stipulations of being Tier II and what they are committing to. There is also a national requirement to have 2 Tier II teams to go to Nationals. In terms of dilution, it's up to the approved orgs to make the decisions of who is on the team and if they field a team at a Tier II level. Tim noted there have been considerations in reducing the number of Tier II teams, however watching recent Tier II playoffs, it was pretty even. It was asked if orgs have applied for Tier II teams and not fielded them, and yes, that has happened in recent history. It's important to recruit and develop in your areas. Josh A. from the Oval shared that the Oval has lost players to other Tier orgs because the Oval doesn't offer Tier opportunities. Tim noted that the growth of player registrations supports adding another team. Shannon added that we are hearing that the Oval is developing players, which we want to see. Giving the Oval Tier II rewards them for the work they are doing. We are discussing Jr Grizz, Ogden Mustangs and the Oval at 18U, and Park City, Jr Grizz, Ogden Mustangs and the Oval at 16U and 14U. Foster motions to approve Jr Grizz, Ogden Mustangs and the Oval at 18U, and Park City, Jr Grizz, Ogden Mustangs and the Oval at 16U and 14U. Second by Tanner. There is a lot of concern regarding dilution from the room. Vote was called for. 8 for, 2 against. Approved.

- d. **Membership Agreement:** Tim received feedback from the orgs. Two comments he noted are putting more specifics on the financial information, who it goes to and why the board would request it. The second regarded the indemnification, saying it's one-sided and it needs to be neutral. The rest of the comments will be incorporated and presented to the board. The board is generally ok with incorporating these. The board hopes to approve it next month.

6. Section Reports:

- a. High School VP, Dana Combs: Finished national bound playoffs. Park City won affiliated; SL Stars won unaffiliated. All star game is coming up this weekend. Two teams are going to Nationals.
- b. Girls VP, Courtney Miller: Lady Grizz has 16U districts this weekend. Mustangs are having a girl's weekend next weekend. Courtney is attending a summit.
- c. Adult/Disabled VP- Tanner Ingalls: His goal is to go play with the disabled group every other month. Sled hockey is hard, but all are welcome to come try it.
- d. Youth VP (House/Rec) Foster Watabe: WRHL this past weekend for D1 and D2 the prior weekend. Good event, lots of fun, will send bills to Adam. Several orgs offered up ice, thank you! Josh Anderson reported on UTHL. Great competition all around. Jr Grizz won 10U, Dawgs won the 14U, and Dawgs won 16U. Great games, great pace, many games went to overtime. Very exciting and fun weekend. Oval contributed the ice so it was free for teams.
- e. Travel VP (Tier), Tim Odell: State playoffs happened this weekend at Steiner. Thanks to Steve Picano and Steiner for hosting. Received lots of compliments and thank yous. 16U Tier

Il girls Lady Grizz won. 18U and 16U winners were Ogden Mustangs. 14U winner was Park City. Good luck in nationals. Korth foundation has sponsorships available to help offset costs for travelling to Nationals. It opened on March 1st, get applications in sooner rather than later. State camp is coming up. Registrations are roughly at two teams at every division. Some waitlists at some levels/positions. Will finalize format in coming weeks. Schedule will be sent out tomorrow.

- f. CIC/ADM, Michael Strahan: Not present.
- g. Goaltending Development Coordinator, Reid Jacobsen: Solid goalie staff in place for state camp. Heading to USA Hockey National Goalie symposium in May. Helping put together goalie session for Ogden girls' hockey weekend.
- h. Safesport, Wendy Radke: Not present.
- i. Safety Director, Alex Valez: Nothing to report.
- j. Growth Coordinator, Shannon Bennett: Adding 2011 girls to state camp this year. Hosting district camp in Ogden. Working on putting together a train the trainer session with Reid for goalies.
- k. Web Master, Brian Murray: Not present.
- l. Registrar, Robyn Eyre Long: Books are done for state champs. Patches are being worked on. High School has received 136 patches. Youth has 130+ patches so far.
- m. Discipline, Robyn Eyre Long: One hearing this month. Chuck stood in for Robyn.
- n. Treasurer, Adam Bailey: Nothing to report. Ryan B. asked for updated financials next month.
- o. Secretary, Ryan Chaffin: Nothing to report.
- p. Exec, VP, Chuck Dorvall: Election coming up. Five positions will be voted on. Because President is up for election, so Chuck as EVP will be responsible. Chuck will send out a letter via USA Hockey stating that elections are happening, and nominations are open with a deadline.
- q. Past President, Derrick Radke: Not present.
- r. President, Ryan Bonham: Nothing to add.

7. Next Meeting, April 8th

8. Adjourn Meeting