

PCC's Lessons Learned Document

Tuesday, Nov 1, 2022 @ 21:00 CDT

Attendees:

Kurt Allen (Meeting Chair, USOA UWH Vice Chair/Secretary)
Megann Largent (USOA UWH Chair)
Eric Myers USOA (UWH Committee Member)
Weston Monroe (PCC Organizer)
Michael Magno (PCC Organizer)

1 Refing

- Weston spoke of desire to implement what he refers to as the 'LA' rule. This is where each team that shows up should bring a dedicated ref, and each team would be responsible for housing and travel for that ref.
PCC's used a mix of the Minnesota Rule and the LA rule.
Hybrid approach may have caused some confusion.
- Referees were not always ready at the start of game. Dedicated refs (one per team) would probably help with this.
- For outdoor venues, Chief Ref's (aka deck ref) need large hat & polarized sunglasses to deal with the sun.
- Late changes in the Tournament Ref occurred when the original Tournament Ref was unable to attend because of illness. The change in tournament ref was necessary and unavoidable but did add confusion to the ref plans.
- Late changes in the ref plans at PCC's regarding the tournament ref and tournament referees were not communicated well to USOA Ref Director. Communication between USOA Ref Director and Tournament is critical, as the Ref Director can help contact available and acceptable referees.
Need to work on this. Add appropriate sections to Tournament Regs regarding need to communicate with USOA Ref Director.
- Refs need to be poolside before game. Suited and ready 3-5 minutes before game. Lack of game synchronization caused problems when players in one game needed to ref in an adjacent pool, or a ref needed to change pools.
Pool changes should be avoided when possible, and game synchronization needs to be maintained as well as possible.
- If any referee training is going to occur at the tournament, plans need to be made for that at least several months before the tournament, so decisions to include training needs to occur early, not later.
- 4 Minutes between games. Was this long enough?

2 Pre Tournament

- Refs Equipment: Make sure ZIP-up vests are available. If outdoors in the sun neck coverings may need to be included, especially in areas with stronger sun.
- Game timers: new kitchen timers failed. Do an equipment check well before the start of tournament.
- Registration: seasoned people could show up to help tournaments run this.
- Tournament in a box, ship in ref and play materials (including walls) and people to help.
- Standardize registration forms.
- Foreign waiver registrations.

3 Game Schedule and Timing

- Dedicated timekeepers (one per pool), that don't change often help to keep things on schedule. Rotating timekeepers causes problems.
One pool had a single timekeeper, and it ran on time.
- Timekeepers need to be ruthless. The game starts at the appropriate time, even in the game participants are not ready or present.
- Keep dedicated refs in the same court to avoid problems when courts get out of synch. i.e. if court 1 is late and court 2 has to wait until court 1's refs are available, then court 2 is also late.
- Visible clocks need to be at the pool. A visible countdown clock (time to the next game) may also be helpful.
- Score sheets need to be completely printed out beforehand. Game numbers and start times should be preentered, do not require timekeepers to enter this info at the start of each game, as that slows up the start and may be forgotten.

4 Miscellaneous Tournament issues

- Need to have captains meeting at a set time that is convenient to all organizers and participants. Maybe have an online meeting earlier than the tournament, and then have an in person follow up meeting at the tournament.
- If desired, the UWH Committee can organize an online the captains meeting.
- Should the Captain and vice-captain be required to show up to meeting?
- Coaches and cameras wanted to go into game area.
UWH needs to clarify rules, and enforcement ability, regarding non players in the playing area.
- UWH needs to clarify rules about photographers and use of photos.
- Have a display of brackets at poolside?
- Sound Systems: Needed gongs in addition to electronic systems
- UWH Scores had some issues. (KWA: Unfortunately, we didn't discuss this further)
- Pool Cameras don't work well in outdoor pools. Pool gets too cloudy.
- Pool was vacuumed nite before tournament, outdoor pool may need to be vacuumed several times before tournament.

- Pool had never been played on before, so initial cloud from bottom.
- Sun Screen: Clear spray only.
- Alcohol issue (2 separate issues). Alcohol rules and authority to enforce said rules need to be explained to all attendees.
Should said rules be part of player ref course?

5 Travel and Lodging

- Camping, helped keep costs down.
Allowed social mingling and cool fire pit. The proximity to pool was good.
- Maybe 60-70-80 people camped?
- Flying with camping gear is difficult, so could onsite tents be provided?

6 USOA UWH Issues

- Should UWH committee assign a tournament shepherd? This person would be the point of contact for the tournament directors to connect with the hockey committee. They would also connect with the tournament directors to help them be aware of how the committee could provide support and guidance. This person should be someone who has run tournaments (successfully) before.
Add such a section to tournament regulations?
- When initiating a lessons learned meeting, send an initial outline to meeting invitees before meeting to give people a heads up about where the discussion could go, and allow them time to think about what they might want to say.
- Tournament organizers could be helped by access to lessons learned session.
Send out links to tournaments directors early as they are planning the tournament.