

Ultimate NL Board Meeting - December 2019

Dec 11 2019, Techniplex Boardroom

Members present:

Nick House, Luke Dyer, Kurtis Thornhill, Brandon Kilfoy, Hilary Walsh, Kathleen Sullivan, Susan White, Sarah Hoddinott, Melissa Wheeler

- Need to vote on previous Meeting Minutes (can be done on Slack)

Volunteer Update

- Kurtis has created a volunteer screening policy (explanation of risk levels)
- Nick asked how we check on youth grade school coaches certificates of conduct
- Sully asked if we should clarify how we "brief" volunteers on positions (verbally or written)
- Luke asked for clarification on if certain volunteer positions require applications ie Storm development Camp (Luke asks certain individuals instead of asking them to apply)
- After some discussion, #18 is required and #19 may be exempt or case by case basis/ discretion of the Board
- Volunteer matrix can be used as a quick guide
- Some extra investigation is required regarding vulnerable sector checks
- Not prepared to vote on this yet so once changes have been made we can look to vote with Slack

- Volunteer Appreciation Party: Saturday Feb 8 2020 at Rocket Room
- Looking to invite 75 people
- \$675.99 plus HST and gratuities (up to \$1800)
- Suggestion to order more food as it was eaten right away last year
- Make sure the event says that finger foods will be served after the awards (not supper)
- Ensure presentation works before the party
- Susan still wants certificates to present to winners

Schools Update

- Hilary & Nick met with School Sports NL and it was expressed that ultimate is the most successful foundation sport at current time
- We are partnering with SSNL on the Discs for Schools initiative → SSNL can send discs to schools in mail packages they were already sending
- Two schools from Port aux Basques and Doyles have availed of the program recently; discs will also be brought to Mealy Mountain in Happy Valley-Goose Bay this week
 - The three biggest schools in Labrador now have discs
- Hilary can bring discs to Glovertown and Eastport during her travel home for Christmas
- Hilary is requesting that Susan do some more promotion regarding the program

- VSC is providing an additional \$1,500 for discs and we have also received funding from Ultimate Canada and the Dept. of Children, Seniors, and Social Development (CSSD) for discs
- Looking to order 300 discs within the month (VSC logo to be included on the discs)
 - After some discussion and a vote, the Board has decided to order 700 discs for a cost of \$5,773. Nick proposed the motion, seconded by Sarah, passed unanimously.
- Hilary has been tasked with creating a spreadsheet to keep track of schools & discs sent out via the Discs for School program
- We will need to amend the SSNL technical standard to allow DareDevil discs to be used in game play (currently the technical standard says DiscCraft)

- Regarding the High School League we typically offer every year, it was noted that we did not manage to book any space for this league, and it has been a struggle for the last few years to get schools involved. Hilary's recommendation is that we do not run the league this year.

- St. John's Regional: Feb. 21-22 at Waterford Valley High
- Dunne and Laval are willing to host the Avalon regional
- Avalon West regional also looks likely to happen (Little Heart's Ease → Southwest Arm Academy is willing to host but there are some issues with the technical standard)
- The Athletic Director of Hopedale suggested hosting the Labrador regional in Happy Valley-Goose Bay
 - There are some issues regarding the regional in Labrador as athletic travel budgets do not include ultimate so the tournament would have to be paired with an already existing event to save on travel.
- There are 11 total regions in the province and we need to host tournaments in 6 in order to achieve varsity status from SSNL (Hilary's goal is for 8 regions to host regionals)

- Hilary inquires about travel rates/ reimbursements for travelling to some of these regional tournaments.
 - Nick and Sarah note that we have used the provincial rate in the past.
 - Sarah raises concern with spending too much on this initiative and we agree as a board that if we send people to a tournament, we will encourage carpooling and sharing accommodations if needed.

- The Elementary Tournament is taking place in June this year, but Hilary's recommendation is to re-visit this tournament's necessity in 2021.

Sport Development Update

- International Spirit of the Game day was last Sunday (Dec. 8, 2019)

- Sully ran spirit competitions at the Mount Pearl Senior High tournament: a quiz relay and tournament-wide game of the biggest fan.
- Susan ran an online contest for members to share their best examples of spirit of the game. All entries were eligible for a prize draw. We drew the winner at our meeting and Sharlene Jones' name was picked, entitling her to a free hoodie.
- PE In-Service dedicated to ultimate took place on Nov. 29th, ran by Paolo Mascarini at the PowerPlex. 10 participants in total of varying age groups.
 - Sully is touching base with other PE specialists to run more in-services across the island
 - Rob Leaman (Avalon PE Specialist) is willing to run another session next year.
 - Ideally, we would like to see this session as mandatory for Athletic Directors. This may happen in October 2020.
- Discussion surrounding C4UC and the best course of action to select the team. Debate between BIY style (players submit formed teams) and try-outs.
- Intense debate surrounding tryout structure. In summary:
 - BIY Pros:
 - Chemistry established/ accounted for
 - Easy process for the Board to administer
 - BIY Cons:
 - Same players involved in process year to year
 - Youth players and intermediate players unlikely to be asked to participate
 - Tryout Pros:
 - Fair & inclusive process
 - Ability to select players objectively
 - Tryout Cons:
 - A lot of time and work will go into tryout structure, coordinating tryout evaluators, discussing tryout results, and selecting teams
 - Likely to be kickback from those that have been in favour of BIY
- It is suggested that for all players that put their names forward in this process should have to sign a code of conduct to ensure spirit of the game and respect is maintained at all times.
- Each team will have at least a female-matching captain.
- The process chosen needs to ensure there is absolutely no room for a conflict of interest between players and team selectors.
 - If neutral selectors are used, we should create a rubric that is as objective as possible to offer players concrete information on why they were or weren't chosen.

- Regarding Patrick Snow's email, Susan will respond to him to let him know we received his message and was discussed at our meeting.
- Referring to Ultimate NL's goals of inclusion and fairness for the selection process, we have decided to run try-outs to select the C4UC teams this year. The Board feels this is the best approach to ensure every Ultimate NL member has a fair chance at making a team to play on the national stage.
- The process will be sent out to Ultimate NL members and will include all board member names to show that we are all in agreement and support the process.

Tournaments Update

- Huck Fest taking place on December 28th, 2019
- Currently 12 men and 3 women registered; need to promote the tournament
- Brandon will add the option to buy Huck Fest discs to the registration wizard

Storm Update

- Storm coaches have been selected and coaches will be announced soon. In total, 7 applications were received, and 4 were selected. A selection committee ranked applications using a weighted matrix and met in-person to discuss.

Funding Requests

- Erin Daly request for funding for reimbursement for attending Team Canada tryout
 - Eligible for \$200
- Hilary put forward the motion, seconded by Melissa. Passed unanimously (Nick abstained).
- Nat O'Donnell requesting funding to attend Competition Development Learning Facilitator training. Looking to have costs covered up to \$1,000.
 - Sarah raises concerns re: Ultimate NL's finances and taking on this extra expense. Nick explains it would be beneficial to the community and only a select number of people have done this training. He also mentions this training may not be offered again any time soon.
 - We have decided to go back to Nat and ask for more information regarding the exclusivity of the course and frequency of offerings.
 - We will defer the vote for now and will vote in the future using Slack.