

Ultimate NL Meeting - April 2023  
April 20, 2023

Members present:

Nick House  
Melissa Wheeler  
Lana Roestenberg  
Hilary Walsh  
Jason Murphy  
Aaron Power  
Eric Oullette  
David Whitney-Brown  
Shannon Jones

Organizational Updates:

- Passing of January minutes. Nick puts forward motion to approve, Eric seconds. Passes unanimously.
- Rock Ultimate sanctioning:
  - Rock Sports Academy has reached out to us to be a sanctioned club for running ultimate activities.
  - We put together some [sanctioning criteria](#) and passed them along as part of a MOU with the group.
  - In the grand scheme of things, it is good to have a future where we might have various clubs of ultimate around the province to grow the sport along with our efforts.
  - Nick puts forward a motion to approve sanctioning of Rock Ultimate, Aaron seconds it. Sanctioning is unanimously approved.
- Participation grant:
  - We received a \$4,500 grant and will be doing some ultimate clinics/ activities with diverse groups that work with newcomers/ Indigenous youth/ adults
- We have received \$3,000 from the City of St. John's
  - Some of this goes towards Women's Skills Series
- Summer students:
  - We haven't heard anything just yet but we are hoping to have something confirmed soon
  - Our plan is to start looking for applicants now and have a note in the listings noting that funding is pending
- Active NL: haven't heard anything just yet but this would be for travel for the summer students
- Community Services Recovery Fund: haven't heard anything yet but applied for \$12,000 to do Governance training

Volunteer Update:

- Volunteer Appreciation Party and Awards Gala took place on March 11, 2023

- Eric was the official emcee for the event and had a great idea to have members of the community introduce each award
- For next year, Melissa notes it would be useful to have the Board review the invite list to ensure all volunteers from the previous year have been invited
  - Skills Series volunteers were missed at first (but caught before the event)
- Also for next year we should make it clear that the event is to honour our hard-working volunteers (we are entirely volunteer-led!)

#### Youth Update:

- All three youth leagues from the winter have officially wrapped up (U12, U15, U18)
- Aaron ran an evaluation survey and feedback received was positive about coaches (respectful and enthusiastic) and programming (challenging and fun)
- Players were encouraged to pay \$100 registration (if possible)
  - Nick wonders if we broke even, made a profit, etc. Eric will look into it but we likely came slightly under for revenues vs. expenses.
- We have put in a request to the City of St. John's for four hours at Kitty Gaul 12-4pm on Sundays for the summer season
  - Aaron is wondering if we can get other slots on weekdays and Nick says we can likely make it work if he has ideas he would like to try out
  - School fields or other municipalities may be options
- Aaron would like to have something more finalized in terms of selecting coaches for programming/ leagues
  - Instead of using our existing networks and whoever we know/ Cam knows, this could be a way to legitimize the process and expand our reach
  - Could be something as simple as a Google Form
- Aaron also suggests maybe we revisit how we pay coaches for our programming. Currently we pay a lump sum at the end of the program, but maybe we set up something monthly.
  - Eric mentioned that adding payroll services complicates things for us and for the coaches from a tax perspective
  - Nick asks if Lana can comment on Sport NL's ability to help PSOs with payroll services. Lana says Sport NL will pay PSO paid staff through their payroll, however, PSOs pay a fee to take advantage of that service
- Our two summer students will be responsible for youth league programming and we can hire 1-2 additional coaches to assist with the program

#### Schools Update:

- We are officially in tournament mode:
  - High school tournament May 6-7; junior high tournament May 27-28; elementary school tournament May 28
  - Photographer is booked
  - Merch is ordered
    - Sarah will assist with the merch table for periods of time so Eric will ask Cam to get other people to work the table

- Banner is on order
- Cam has procured athletic therapy supports for us this year
- Still dealing with some post-pandemic challenges and registration will likely be lower than we would like (we are still rebuilding our school base)
  - There are other (rescheduled) tournaments going on that same weekend that are competing with our tournaments
  - There was bad weather in the winter that prevented a number of tournaments from happening at the time and have since been rescheduled to May
- Currently have 5 teams registered for the senior high tournament with 3 on the fence (seems likely we will get 7)
  - If we have some flexibility in the schedule, we could look to do a skills competition or schools can have specialized mini clinic
  - Nick would also like to offer other groups the opportunity to sublease fields to recover some of the costs (these are expensive events)
  - Storm already has practice the Saturday night so wouldn't be able to offer slots to Storm
  - We will have a subcommittee meet in the next few days on how to navigate the field space and revenue loss to the best of our ability.
    - Hilary will send us an email with the confirmed details so far (what space we have, what the potential schedule would look like, potential options, etc.)
  - Once the schedule is complete, Hilary will send along to Cam and we can look to find volunteers from there
- Tournament rules and policies
  - Hilary formalized our rules and procedures last year and is presenting to the Board for review
  - Additions to forfeits category (i.e. what happens to teams' spirit score)
  - Extra emphasis on the game facilitator section
  - Nick is wondering about the process for logging Spirit of the Game infractions (get something in writing 10 minutes post incident)
    - Hilary can add a sub point about allowing coaches to submit notice to the Tournament Director via email or text (information will be provided in the coach's meeting)
- If Sport NL sends out information re Eat Great Participate grants, we will apply there to have field food covered
- Healthy Living Day in Clarendville, May 24, 2023
  - We will need 2 volunteers to do the event, 9:30am to 2pm
    - Shannon has expressed interest in doing this event and will find some other volunteers to assist with the event
    - Cam can be brought in to assist with finding volunteers
  - Full group session at first and then breakout groups start after 10 (i.e. ultimate would be a breakout group)
  - Looking at teaching 4 groups total for the day

#### Storm Update:

- C4UC Junior recently participated in the C4UC Junior tournament April 1-2, 2023 in Ontario.
  - The team placed fourth overall, the best finish for a NL team at a national event (lost by one in the third place game)
  - Craig Stoyles and Hilary Walsh were coaches for the team
  - Slight deficit on this programming, around \$1,800
- Summer season has kicked off with tryouts taking place in March and teams currently participating in strength and conditioning sessions
- Hotels and bussing have been booked for CUCs in Surrey, BC
  - Dave is working with the travel agent to find decently priced flights
- Team meeting is taking place this weekend at Paul Reynolds to introduce coaches to parents

#### Sport Development Update:

- C4UC Adult team placed 6th overall which is the best showing for an adult NL team at a national event
  - Lana and Shannon are working on a written piece to feature on the team
  - Eric has some questions regarding team selection process and would like to see us formalize a policy/ guiding document to have in case we have instances of having to navigate multiple bids (from outside the UNL selection process)
  - We had Hilary and Dave do some live streaming
- Sport Development Coordinator: Melissa asks Lana to put up a targeted post for recruitment for this post (Lana has stuff scheduled this week for Volunteer Week)
- Women's Skills Series: ongoing (started March 14 and will end May 2); 18 registrants
- Ultimate Spirit in Labrador (we will push this to our meeting next month but Dave has some connections to make this happen in Labrador)

#### Tournaments Update:

- Gale 4s recap
  - Shannon and Jason were our Tournament Directors
  - 6 teams, 52 registrants
- We would like to try another Elimin8s tournament in June
  - Shannon is tasked with booking a field slot in June
- Salmon Cove Sands will be July 8, 2023

#### Communications Update:

- Currently Volunteer Week so Lana has a few posts planned for this
- Lana will work with Melissa to do a write-up once Women's Skill Development Series finishes up
- Recently sent out a newsletter with a bunch of information and would like to send another one in May or early June
- Melissa suggests adding a 'Membership' tab to our website banner to make it easier for athletes to purchase their 2023-24

- Lana notes we can probably get rid of the COVID-19 tab

Other Business:

- Melissa will email leagues in the next couple of weeks to start up the League Subcommittee
- Sport NL Summit coming up April 28-29, 2023
- Tentatively book UNL meeting for May 25, 2023 (we will hope to use Sport NL boardroom for an in-person meeting at this time → Lana will get us the key)
- SportFest will not be happening in June