

January 2023 Ultimate NL Board Meeting  
January 24, 2023

Members present:

Nick House  
Melissa Wheeler  
Jason Murphy  
Eric Ouellette  
Hilary Walsh  
Lana Roestenberg  
David Whitney-Brown  
Cameron Penney  
Aaron Power

Organizational Update:

- We are pleased to welcome Jason Murphy to our Board of Directors as Member at Large! UNL Exec completed an onboarding session with Jason prior to this meeting.
- Motion to approve the meeting minutes from December. Nick puts forward the motion to approve, Lana seconds. Passed unanimously.
- Grant updates:
  - City of St. John's grant application has been completed and we are waiting for confirmation.
  - Active NL has been completed as well
  - Participaction grant is open and due in a week. Eric would like to review with the board before moving forward with this grant application (has to be geared towards equity-deserving groups).
    - Nick thinks we could use this for our summer student/ camps and outreach programming. In particular, we could work with ANC (new Canadians).
    - Melissa notes that one of the eligible expenses for the grant includes equity, diversity and inclusion training that would be useful to do with Board members, volunteers and coaches.
    - Melissa also notes marketing & communication costs are eligible so we could boost ads or content to targeted groups. Maybe even hiring a photographer to showcase the events.
    - Melissa & Eric will move forward on completing this application.
  - Eric is going to also keep an eye on the GovNL Summer Student grant program.
- Athlete Protection & Screening Policy - we need to add these two policies
  - We already have a Volunteer Screening Policy (created in Jan 2020 - just need to update and put on the website as it has already been approved by the Board)
  - The Athlete Protection policy template is in the Sport NL template suite. Nick will take a look at this and get David to review.

Volunteer Update:

- Cam is working on plans for the 2023 Volunteer Awards Gala.
- Award nomination period is currently open and will close on February 8th, 2023.
- We have a budget of \$2,500 and Cam is working with Sophie Blais at Alt Hotel to determine available dates.
- We are going to go with March 4, 2023 as our preferred date with March 11, 2023 as the backup.

#### Youth Update:

- All of youth programs are currently up and running, including our U12 (first time in a while we've had this league).
- U15 and U18 have combined participation of 53 athletes. Both of these leagues are playing 4v4. U18 league is more targeted to game play/ higher level strategy.
- U12 has 12 participants. Focused on enjoying the sport, learning some new things and having fun during game play.
- Aaron notes that the youth programming could stand to have additional cones (probably different coloured cones) and coloured pinnies.
  - Hilary notes we have pinnies somewhere.
- Aaron also needs some help finding the youth-weighted discs.
  - Melissa notes that the navy adidas bag at the Techniplex might have these discs in particular.
  - Nick notes that he has an idea of where some of this is.
- Aaron will be looking for some volunteers for an upcoming tournament happening in February.
  - If we know of any upcoming tournaments, let Aaron know and he would be happy to assist.
- Aaron would also like to know a little more about upcoming programming/ clinics and what is required on his end.
- With regards to our youth coaches, Aaron wonders if there is a formalized process for obtaining them.
  - In the summer, we prefer to use summer students, and during the indoor fall through spring season we typically go back to coaches who have worked for us already.
  - Aaron would like to formalize the process a little more going forward.

#### Schools Update:

- Hilary is focusing right now on reaching out to teachers in regions across the province to lead regional tournaments. Regional tournaments are the vehicle that will eventually lead to varsity status from SSNL.
- Hilary would like to have some teams participate in our provincial tournament from outside the Avalon Peninsula.
- Unfortunately we are not getting a lot of interest/ initiative from schools outside of St. John's to host tournaments. Hilary has said she will run tournaments for areas but just needs some gym time and even still she is not getting a lot of interest. The lack of interest is worrying Hilary with regards to the state of overall high school ultimate.

- Nick is wondering if our mentoring program could help address some of this but Hilary reminds us that the mentoring program was designed to bolster elementary and junior high school ultimate programs.
- Another thing to consider is that coaches/ volunteers must be 25 years old to be considered able to run a program on their own.
- Aaron also brings up the point that we haven't offered any coaching courses in quite a while (pandemic related to an extent). We need to bring a new group of coaches to the forefront instead of using the same individuals over and over again.
  - A lot of these gaps can be attributed to the fact that we still don't have a Sport Development Coordinator position filled on our Board just yet.
- Aaron wonders if the high school tournament has to be hosted in a high school. If not, we could look at using a different school (i.e. junior high) to assist. This is something that would have to be addressed by SSNL.
- Nick would like to create 'save the date' graphics for our upcoming elementary, junior high and high school tournaments. Hilary can send these graphics to all the schools so that they can begin to plan for potential participation and travel if necessary.
- Eric wants us to consider if we want to continue ordering merchandise and equipment for the provincial tournaments and if yes we should get more of a head start on that.
  - On this note, Eric is wondering if it's worth continuing the Ultimate NL store on our website. Nick understands and suggests maybe we just offer discs/ merch at specific tournaments.

#### Storm Update:

- Storm tryouts will take place at the PowerPlex (not yet booked due to a scheduling error). Dave will try to book tryouts for next year now.
- Coaches are in place (same as last year for each program).
- C4UC Jr. will be taking place for the first time this year. Tryouts wrapped up tonight.
  - Dave is keeping an eye on hotels/ flights. Dave will work with Harvey's to book flights, etc.
  - Hilary is one of the coaches for C4UC Jr. (the other is Craig Stoyles). The second tryout wrapped up prior to the meeting. There are 8 FM and 8 MM players trying out so some cuts will need to be made.
    - Hilary and Craig did some testing at the tryouts to have some objective data to fall back on in regards to cuts.

#### Sport Development:

- C4UC Adult Tournament: April 1-2, 2023
- Tryouts will be February 4, 2023 and February 10, 2023
- Suggested data collection: 5-10-5
  - -2 to 2 is the rating scale used by Ultimate Canada.
  - Keep data on drills.
  - Plenty of evaluators will equate to data collection.

- We should determine a method for selecting the final roster and whether or not we will have team captains be a part of that. (Will we elect team captains?)

#### Tournaments Update:

- HuckFest recap
- Gale 4s: April 8, 2023 2-7pm
  - Help Shannon set up that event in Ultimate Central

#### Communications Update:

- Lana has lots of content planned because we have a lot happening.
- International Women's Day will have a special feature from Sport NL. We are highlighting Hilary from our Board and Lana reached out to all of the individual leagues and MZU sent in a profile on Sarah Dawe as well.

#### Other Business:

- Rock Ultimate: Bring up junior traveling team (this would be good for the overall ultimate landscape)
  - Do we need to have a discussion re: insurance/ UNL memberships?
  - We will work on defining a MOU between our two groups as part of the sanctioning process.