

CUGA Annual General Meeting 2012
Cornwall, Ontario
May 26, 2012

1. Meeting was **called to order** at 9:10pm
2. **Roll call and proxy verification**
 - a. Roll call: There were over 80 CUGA members in attendance. Quorum is 10% of the current membership which is about 25 members, therefore quorum was met. Quorum for executive members is 3/5 of executive members and 5/5 executive members were in attendance. The high level of attendance this year in comparison to most previous years is due to the AGM being held in conjunction with the Nationals tournament banquet.
 - b. Proxy verification: 2 CUGA members voted by proxy
3. **Approval of the 2011 CUGA AGM minutes**
 - a. These had been circulated on-line prior to the AGM
 - b. All members in favor of approving the 2011 CUGA AGM minutes as circulated
4. **New Business**
 - a) **Presentations by members of the CUGA executive**

President (Adam Jocksch): Selection process updates, including motion; Update on National teams (Appendix A)

Past President (John Harland): Guidelines for National Teams at Nationals, including motion; “International” players at Nationals, including motion

Vice-President (Véronique Séguin): Work on upcoming America’s Cup & Worlds, CMAS info (Appendix C)

Treasurer (Margaret Francis): Budget info, website under construction (Appendix D)

Secretary (Melanie Johnson): membership info; any underwater rugby or underwater hockey news releases in Canada

- Current membership number at the time of the AGM: 219 (I was subsequently advised of 15 additional CUGA members who had paid in April but the money and names were forwarded to CUGA in June, therefore the current membership is 234); this number is significantly higher than from 2011 when there were 135 members. This is partly due to Nationals being in the east in 2012 which typically increases the membership numbers.
- Requested any clubs who have underwater rugby or underwater hockey news releases or videos submit links to those to me; current vision is to have a section of the updated website devoted to these links

Chief Referee (Darryl Brambilla): referring courses information, international referee information, changes to rules (Appendix E)

UWR Director (Gord Lemon): Update on status of UWR in Canada, UWR activity, including the upcoming Camo tournament (Appendix F)

- as Gord Lemon was absent, his report was read by Adam Jocksch

UWH Director (Joseph Ravaohangy): Info on tournaments “sanctioned” by CUGA (i.e. Montreal, PCCs, Nationals), CUGA medals

The tournaments that CUGA sanctioned in 2011:

- Nationals (Victoria)
- JFK tournament in Montreal (Newly sanctioned tournament from 2011)

- Pacific Coast Championships are sanctioned when they are held in Canada (typically Victoria every 4 or so years)

- Atlantic Coast Championships (ACCs) would be expected to be a sanctioned tournament if it moves to a Canadian location (Montreal or Guelph are potential future locations)

- the Calgary Tournament (traditionally held in February) is typically a sanctioned tournament, but did not occur in its usual format in 2011

- CUGA is looking to get more tournament sanctioned, to try and follow patterns that fellow UWH countries use (i.e. most, if not all US tournaments are sanctioned by USOA which is the US equivalent to CUGA). We're also looking to grow membership in Canada.

- By sanctioning tournaments, CUGA offers a governing body's name, which might be useful to get better pools, offers an insurance coverage and is looking to acquire a new sound system, with 2 different gongs, that would be sent to tournaments that are sanctioned.

- The CUGA executive discussed having a new design for the national medals, as the one used prior to Cornwall was a number of years old and we needed new medals. We managed to get the new medals in time for Nationals in Cornwall.

b) Presentation by CUGA practicum student

- a. Amy Cannon presented information about the projects she is working on for CUGA as part of her Kinesiology degree (Appendix G)

c) Motions

- a. See Appendix H for the original list of motions including rationale
- b. See Appendix I for results of voting on motions from 2012 CUGA AGM

d) Nationals 2013 – due to be a western location for 2013

- a. 1 indication of intent to host was received from Calgary

- b. Nationals 2013 will therefore be hosted in Calgary, Alberta over the May long weekend (May 18-20)

5. Old business

- a. No old business

6. Election of officers

Vice President: Véronique Séguin was re-nominated and acclaimed to the position as there were no other nominations.

Secretary: Melanie Johnson was re-nominated and acclaimed to the position as there were no other nominations.

Underwater hockey director: Robert Maisey was nominated but declined nomination. Joseph Ravaohangy was re-nominated and acclaimed to the position as there were no other candidates.

7. Meeting adjourned 10:52pm

APPENDIX A: President's report

President's Report – 2012 CUGA AGM

Focus on National Team status and selection processThe past year has been an active year for CUGA both locally and internationally. Internally, it has been a year of rebuilding in light of Canada's failure to field a full complement of teams for the 2011 World Championships in Portugal.

Up until 2011, the selection process for national teams entailed starting from scratch prior to every world championship. In previous years where participation and enthusiasm were high and the schedule of international events was predictable this was sufficient. However, the uncertainty in the last few years surrounding the timing and format of international competitions eroded this enthusiasm and resulted in only a single team being sent to Portugal. Also, with the addition of the America's Cup, the increased number of elite level competitions requiring national selections makes it difficult to justify establishing and then dismantling a selection body prior to every tournament.

As a result, and under the direction of Rob Maisey and Blair Armstrong, we have moved in the past year to establish a long-term national development team (NDT) program. The goal of this program is not strictly to select teams to represent Canada on the international stage, rather the goal is to promote elite-level hockey in Canada as well as providing developing players with the "next step" they may be looking for. Each NDT would have a series of tournaments and clinics throughout the year – some locally, some abroad. Come time for an international tournament such as worlds, a selection would be made from the current NDT team members to form a national team. This process means that there can also be less of an emphasis on the tournaments immediately leading up to a World Championships since evaluation and development can be on-going.

The long term implementation of the program will also require some organizational changes, and to this extent a revised selection document and accompanying motions has been tabled at this meeting.

I believe that we have already seen some of the positive benefits of the NDT program in preparation of the America's cup in Milwaukee this summer. The junior and women's elite teams have already been selected, and the selection of the men's masters and elite teams will be completed by tomorrow. To be sending a strong field to Milwaukee only a year after only managing a single team to Portugal is fantastic and I feel that everyone involved should be proud of their accomplishments in this regard. And I hope that next year we can send an even stronger contingent to the World Championships.

In summary I think the past year has been a positive year for CUGA, although there have been and may continue to be some growing pains along the way, and I hope that we can continue on with the steps we have taken to grow international-level hockey in Canada.

Adam Jocksch

APPENDIX B: Past President's report

This isn't what I said at the AGM (which consisted mainly of "Please vote out Adam so he can take over as Past President"), but it's what I was supposed to say:

This year has been a re-awakening of sorts for underwater hockey in Canada, after a few years of dormancy. This dormancy started with confusion and conflict between international organizations governing underwater sports, which trickled down to some terribly organized world events, which trickled down to a loss of focus and loss of interest from many elite level players, which trickled down to increased apathy at the club levels. Rob Maisey and Blair Armstrong, with support from a number of others, have done a lot to combat this apathy in the past year, by trying to reinvent a paradigm for high-level development within Canada. Their concept of National Development Teams, focused on an organized and long-term system of development instead of event based teams, has kick-started enthusiasm and development programs across the country.

These programs have, in turn, started important discussions that have already made a number of cycles through CUGA, but have lain dormant and unresolved for a number of years. There are also a number of new ideas that have been conceptualized and presented as motions here at this AGM. Whether these motions pass or fail, whether the concepts are embraced or rejected, the fact that different means of encouraging and developing high level UWH in Canada are being considered and discussed is a very positive sign for the future of Canadian underwater sports.

One of the main issues for CUGA, Canadian underwater hockey, and the NDT program, is the approach we take with the annual Nationals tournament. Do the NDT have a place at the tournament, or should the focus be on club teams (or possibly provincial teams)? As national development programs, an argument could be made that the nationals tournament is an ideal place to showcase itself. However, an argument could also be made that, of all the tournaments in the annual UWH schedule, nationals should be the one where club teams play together, and the NDT program would siphon off the top players from these club teams.

Pertaining to this discussion, should the top female players be treated differently than the top male players? In typical situations, the loss of the top female players will not impact the strength of a club team as the loss of the top male players, but conceptually, the treatment of women differently than men can cause problems.

These topics will be discussed in the motions presented in the AGM. They'll likely get drawn out, contentious, and frustrating. But through it all, we should be aware that the fact that we're having these discussions again is a positive thing for underwater sports in this country.

John

APPENDIX C: Vice-President's report

Vice-President 2012 Report **Focus on CMAS, Americas Cup and World Championships Information**

CMAS Update

It appears that CMAS has solidified its position worldwide further to the World Championships hosted in Portugal in August 2011. Canada has always paid its dues to CMAS even when WAA was predominant.

CUGA generally provides a proxy for Carol Rose, President of the USOA, to represent us at the CMAS meetings as we do not have the ability to travel to the meetings. This was done for the April 2012 meeting in Rome, Italy.

The information coming from CMAS is not always clear. CUGA received numerous requests from various parties over the course of the year. CUGA provided input on:

- its membership (hockey and rugby);
- the tournaments hosted in Canada in 2012;
- Its preference for Worlds being hosted every 2 years, for all divisions and with a rotation worldwide;
- Questions pertaining to the number of international teams that should be able to attend world championships (all teams interested vs. limited number).

Further to the Worlds 2011 in Portugal, there are some questions around the ability of Turkish officials to attend future events and the Portuguese federation would appear not to be able to participate in event until 2013 because of a lack of doping tests last summer.

Americas Cup

It appears that the Americas now have their own "zone" tournament (not officially recognized as such). Medellin, Columbia, hosted what became the first Americas Cup in 2010. The second edition of the Americas Cup was originally planned to be hosted by Minneapolis (Minnesota). It is now held in Milwaukee (Wisconsin) from August 7 to 11, 2012. Canada has registered teams in all division, i.e. Open Elite, Women Elite, Open Masters and Open Juniors.

The Americas Cup currently counts four main countries: Argentina, Canada, Columbia and the United States. Columbia and the United States hosted the event already. Argentina does not have a stable contingent. It is likely that Canada will have pressure to host the event in 2014. Flat bottom pools are limited in Canada to Victoria, Edmonton, Calgary, Guelph, Montreal and Sherbrooke.

Having an Americas Cup held every two years is good progress for the sport on the continent. There are similar events hosted in other parts of the world: the Euros and the Southern Hemisphere (format being redefined). The Americas Cup should provide us with greater credibility with CMAS on the long run.

There are concerns around countries able to participate in a World Championships. CMAS has in the past looked at a smaller Worlds format with 6 teams participating. Also, in the event where there are constraints on the number of teams to participate in Worlds because of pool time availability (e.g. 15 teams interested in a division, but can only accommodate 12), a selection of the best teams worldwide would need to take place. Some initial discussions suggest using “zone events” to pick the top ranking teams from each “zone”. In addition, when the number of teams attending Worlds is high (i.e. 13 teams or higher in a division), teams are divided in a top and bottom tiers. That split could be based on the ranking from the last Worlds or the results of the “zone event”.

Without a “zone” tournament, there are no options for a relative ranking of the American teams as the teams compete internationally at Worlds only. The Americas Cup fills the gap in many respects. However, this means that the Canadian contingent attending the Americas Cup must take that tournament seriously as its performance may influence its ability to compete at the World Championships should this be the path forward decided by CMAS. Nothing is decided at the moment. A lot of discussion is still needed as even “zones” are not properly defined.

World Championships

The World Championships will take place in Eger (Hungary) from August 23 to September 1, 2013 (dates to be confirmed). The event will cover all divisions, i.e. Men and Women for Elite, juniors (U19 and U23) and Masters.

There would be two pools of 50 m with a flat bottom 2.2 m deep with big tiles located in a big park with other pools. At least, one of the pools seems to be outdoors. There was a mention of water inlets at the bottom of the pool. There are hotels walking distance from the pool to accommodate likely all athletes. Entry fees are estimated at 2000 Euros and would cover some support for referees. The organizers are new to underwater hockey (come from fin swimming) and some adjustments may be needed (e.g. full boards at hotels presented as an option).

South Africa was another country mentioned for hosting Worlds. It appears the new facility in Cape Town they wanted to use will not be completed and that accommodating all divisions could have been problematic. They are likely to be contenders again to host Worlds when the new facility opens.

The Hungarian organizers need to know the countries’ intent to participate by September 30, 2012.

Other duties

Ongoing translation of some CUGA documents to provide the same information in both official languages.

Véronique Séguin

APPENDIX D: Treasurer's report

In 2011 I was not as active as I wanted to be with CUGA due to family and work issues. I did attend the 2011 PCCs in Los Angeles as a referee and spent some time working on a template for the website.

Financial Highlights

In 2011 we saw a decrease of approximately 400 dollars in membership fees over 2010; I attribute this to the lack of a Calgary tournament in 2011 and fees from the 2011 JFK tournament accrued until 2012. Our insurance has stayed stable in price for the past 7 years and appears to be staying the same rate for 2012 of \$3975 per year.

We are showing a \$394.13 loss for 2011, however with the payment of the levy and memberships from the 2011 JFK tournament coming in 2012, we actually did not lose money. Our account balance is healthy enough to support the 2012 insurance payment and CMAS dues.

The 2011 CUGA statement of accounts is included at the end of this report.

Outlook for 2012

We need to change our current bank accounts to business accounts as the existing accounts are outdated and no longer support change of signatures. I will put in a proposal to change the accounts in new business, unless the membership wishes to keep the existing accounts. If we keep the existing accounts, the signature has to go to a single signature. If we change the accounts it will affect the bank charges to a flat rate of \$6.00 per account per month. At the present time we are paying \$4.00 per month. The bank requires that we have the membership approval in our AGM minutes to make the changes.

Team accounts

I need to update the criteria for the team accounts, as we still have some issues with proper invoices submitted and proper cheques going out to balance those invoices. Another long standing issue is last minute payments and a frantic scramble (by myself) to get payments out for time sensitive items such as entry fees.

Another area that needs to be addressed is proper information submitted for things such as electronic transfers and additions to the Cuga insurance policy. Both these items need certain information or will not be processed properly.

Electronic funds transfer

Request to have an electronic transfer of funds must include: the name, phone number and address of the person or entity that the payment is for, the full name, address and phone number of the receiving bank, swift code, and full information on the bank account the draft is going into. No matter what the organizing committees tell you; this is the information that is fully required.

Insurance policy

Requests for an entity to be added to our insurance policy to cover an event insurance must have the full name of the party to be insured, the full mailing address of the party to be insured (not the pool itself), and the date range the insurance is to cover.

Website

After years of maintaining the website, I was aware it needed changing. I had put forth many requests for ideas of what features that the new site should contain. I received very little back in suggestions. I had made a template for the new site based on the little information I had received and design flaws I had found maintaining the site, and was prepared to change by early 2012. With renewed interest in the site, changes were suspended until we obtained information on what was needed.

I had already researched and got the information in place to have membership fees and other payments to be made through PayPal directly to the accounts. With the accounts possibly changing and the site changing – that will be one of the first changes made. Credit card payments are not advisable at this time due to bank charges and fees associated with credit cards. If this form of payment is implemented, there also needs to be guidelines put in place for reporting payments. I still have many problems as treasurer with cheques coming in with no information regarding who the payment is from and/or what the payment is for.

The other feedback I got was to have it in both English and French. This was part of the template I had been working on. The only issue was translation of the items into proper French. Vero had volunteered to do some of the work; however others need to get involved to help keep the site up to date. I also had streamlined the site by having only up to date information on hockey and rugby and putting the other CMAS sports as an information page only.

The website is currently under my name as I have paid for the fees until 2017. I may be able to get a donation to cover the cost of the website and transfer the domain and site to CUGA itself – will have more information on this in the summer of 2012.

Amy Cannon is currently compiling information on what should be on the site and Darryl Brambilla and I will be updating the site to have the new version up by midsummer.

Respectfully submitted by:
Margaret Francis
CUGA Treasurer

CANADIAN UNDERWATER GAMES
ASSOCIATION
2011 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS
MAIN ACCOUNT

INCOME

DONATIONS	50
INTEREST	1.54
LEVY	\$820.00
MEDAL INCOME	\$400.50
MEMBERSHIP	\$1,339.05
MEMBERSHIPS/INS	\$1,350.00
NSF RECOVERY CHARGE	\$25.00
REFEREE COURSES	\$210.00
INCOME TOTAL	\$4,196.09

EXPENSES

CMAS DUES	\$538.22
GST	\$7.00
INSURANCE	\$3,975.00
MEDALS	\$0.00
MEMBERSHIP	\$10.00
REPAYMENT	
NSF CHEQUE	\$60.00
EXPENSES TOTAL	\$4,590.22

PROFIT/LOSS -\$394.13

Liabilities

Margaret Francis Website paid in 2007	500
Margaret Francis Website paid in 2012	550

Accounts Receivable

York Subaqua (nsf outstanding cheque)	80
2011 JFK tournament (paid in 2012)	595

APPENDIX E: Chief Referee's report

Chief Referee's Report – Darryl Brambilla

Refereeing / tournaments have been very busy for me in the past year. I had the opportunity to travel to the following tournaments to further promote refereeing on behalf of CUGA and Canada:

Worlds 2011 Portugal – August

Cornwall Tournament - September

Montreal Tournament– November

Roger Bacon Clinic, Ohio - November

Milwaukee Tournament - January

Montreal 4 x 4 Tournament - February

Quebec City Tournament– March

Guelph Tournament – March

ACC's, Atlanta - April

Canadian Nationals, Cornwall – May

US Nationals, Washington – June

I also had the opportunity to certify a number of new referees throughout this year both in USA and Canada. Tonight we have 3 of our newest Level 2 referees in attendance which I would like to recognize – Veronique Seguin (Canada), Ben Holtzman and Steve Kars (USA). Additionally I had the opportunity by special request to go down and teach a dedicated referee / player clinic in Cincinnati, Ohio at Roger Bacon school and work with their junior club and coaches. It was a very rewarding experience and really nice to be recognized by the USA program and have me down and teach their kids.

I was also recently asked to attend the US Nationals in Washington, DC again this year and will be heading down June 23 – 25th. It was an honor again for Canada to be recognized for our refereeing and USA and Canada have had close ties for many years on this front. I have also began some work with the new USA Chief Referee – John Kulsa – to further collaborate on refereeing standards for North America using the courses I have designed as the baseline. We will continue to work together to bring the standards of refereeing up in North America together and hopefully be able to continue to promote this on a world level moving forward.

On the world level it appears that things are becoming more stable (for lack of a better term) and the world federations for the time being are supporting CMAS once again. As a result, a recent edition of the rules have been published and adopted by other federations and so CUGA will follow this lead as the world standard.

Last year we had been following a the world standard / adopted rule set version 10.05. Unfortunately, due to some setbacks at the CMAS board level those rules were recently disallowed due to conflict with CMAS / IOC standards and so they reverted back to a modified version of 10.0. For the most part, the changes are much the same however there are some minor administrative errors in the documents.

Main Rule Changes / Clarifications for the 2010 CMAS Edition of rules (Version 10.00 – July 2011):

- U19 division has been changed again for players that are 18 years old as of January 1st of the Worlds year. Previously the division had been changed to U18 but they have now reverted back to U19. Age limits in this category are 14 to 18 years of age and the competitor must be 18 years of age on January 1st of the worlds year.
- U23 division has now been created and players must be 19 to 22 years of age on January 1st of the Worlds year. A minimum of 3 federation teams must be present to form an official division. All junior divisions must have a minimum of 3 teams for an official division to be formed.
- There is no longer an “Open” division in any category. The official categories are now designates male or female only in all divisions.
- Rule changes will occur once every 4 years now only. New rules may be proposed 12 – 36 months before the next “Elite World Cup” for consideration but changes will occur only once every 4 years.
- Inclusive of scheduled training days, CMAS World Cup tournament events shall be no longer than 10 days.
- Teams will play no more than 3 matches per day
- Seeding will be based on final placing at the immediately previous Championship. Section B will consist of the remaining previously participating teams plus new and/or non participating teams seeded by draw.
- Free Subbing – only after a goal has been scored, or after a penalty shot has been defended / scored

- Obstruction further clarified as:

“Using any form of ‘active’ obstruction to prevent an opponent from gaining access to the puck, even when the infringing player is in possession of the puck; e.g. by using a ‘locked’ free-arm to keep another player away from the puck, or by pulling the puck back behind the body whilst advancing forward and using the body to ‘push’ another player out of the way when they are attempting to gain access to the puck. Note: Curling whilst in possession of the puck, or simply pulling the puck back under the body when an individual is stationary is not deemed to be obstruction so long as the puck remains on a player’s stick.”

- Stick rules further clarified as:

“made of non-dangerous, pliable, synthetic material OR must be covered by an intact protective film which will prevent any injuries if they are damaged”

For those who continue to ask about tape on the stick I would interpret tape as a “protective film” and so YES tape is legal.

- Glove rules further clarified as:

must be of a color that **strongly contrasts** with the colour of that player's stick or puck and the color of the puck used for the match. This is to avoid confusion if the puck is being controlled by the player’s hand. Players may not wear a glove of a color that could be confused with the Water Referees’ gloves being used at any competition, which shall always be bright yellow or orange.

If anyone would like a copy of the currently approved rules please contact me directly and I will get it to them. As we review / revamp our website a current set of official rules will be put online as well for download.

Thanks,

Darryl Brambilla

Chief Referee - CUGA

APPENDIX F: Underwater Rugby Director's report

UWR Director's Report (2011-2012)

A (very brief) history of UWR in Canada

The position of Underwater Rugby Director was added to CUGA at the last AGM. Since this is the first report on the sport in Canada a brief history is in order.

UWR was first started in Canada by an UWH club in Brantford which no longer exists. A club member by the name of Mike Johnston introduced a monthly game of rugby to the hockey players. When the hockey club folded years ago the monthly rugby games were maintained.

Last year a group of Columbian UWR players, lead by Cesar Flores, formed an UWR team within Montreal's CAMO group.

Current status of the sport

Canada now has two active rugby groups, Club Liberation (Brampton) and CAMO (Montreal) and approximately 30 active players. Tom Elliot has lead Club Liberation for many years now and has grown the club from a monthly practice to a weekly practice. He also runs a separate youth program. A subset of Club Liberation players from Toronto has recently started a separate practice in downtown Toronto. It remains to be seen whether a third viable group can be formed in Toronto. Many Club Liberation players first developed as UWH players or free diving competitors. On the other hand, most CAMO players are first and foremost UWR players.

National & International Tournaments

The last CMAS UWR World Championship was held in Helsinki, Finland in Aug. 2011. Club Liberation and CAMO players attempted to form a men's team to compete, but fell short by a few players. While the team fell short, it did spur on rugby development in Canada. The end result was three rugby clinics held between the two teams in late 2010 and early 2011.

From there, last Oct. Club Liberation hosted the first North American tournament in several years. Four teams participated: CAMO, Boston, New Jersey/Connecticut, and Club Liberation.

In Feb. Boston hosted the largest UWR tournament to date with 7 teams and over 70 players. Club Liberation and CAMO were both well represented at the tournament.

On June 23-24 CAMO will host the first two day tournament in North America. It is particularly significant on several fronts: 1) it will be the first CUGA sanctioned UWR tournament; 2) a CMAS certified international referee, Alejandro Cedeño (Columbia) will be offering a referee's workshop; 3) it will have an international presence as a Columbian team will be attending. With the referee clinic it promises to advance the standard of the game in North America.

Lastly, Club Liberation intends to host its second annual tournament this Oct.

Going Forward

Ideally, Canada needs a Chief Referee and a National Rules Director for UWR. Darryl Brambilla has expressed some interest in this, although he is well engaged in his UWH duties. The upcoming referees clinic may help fill this void.

With the recent increase in tournaments an attempt is being made within the North American rugby community to have several regular events each year between Canada and the US. Hopefully this will create the basis of high quality annual tournaments, much like those in UWH, which will help grow our sport and facilitate the formation of Canadian teams at the next CMAS World Championship.

Sincerely,

Gord Lemon

National Underwater Rugby Director

APPENDIX G: Presentation by CUGA practicum student

CUGA AGM Presentation by Amy Cannon

1. Explain my role/situation
 - Doing online practicum for CUGA
 - Degree requirement
 - Full Time 16 weeks (currently 4 weeks in)
 - Melanie Johnson is my primary supervisor but I am working with many executive members on different tasks

2. Projects I have been working on:
 - Promotion of UWH: using different media tools as such as web based sport and group services, videos, pamphlet (created by Hal). Reached out to different magazines as well. Looking at ways CUGA can advertise clubs and UWH as well as ways the individual clubs can advertise to get new players
 - Webpage Review: Seeking information from our membership on what you would like to see on the CUGA webpage. Also spending a lot of time developing my ideas for what I think CUGA webpage should include
 - Social Media Presence: New updated FB page where we hope to keep the UWH and UWR communities more in the loop and connected to what CUGA is doing.
 - Youth Programs and Partnerships: Research into current Canadian youth programs and there operations. I have also started discussions with the YMCA to partner up with them in created a youth program.
 - Sponsorship: Just starting in this area, have made little progress thus far but will begin reaching out to companies in Canada starting next week.
 - Beginners Guide: A document to help beginners learn the game of underwater hockey and to help clubs teach underwater hockey in a more effective manner. A lot of research went into this project
 - Collecting Data on Clubs across Canada: Working to have an accurate account of clubs across Canada. With this information the UWH tourist site will be update. This information will also be displayed on the CUGA website.

3. With 12 weeks remaining in my practicum I have lots of time to help individual clubs with starting youth programs and other tasks. Please contact me if I can be of assistance in doing some work for you that will also benefit CUGA.

APPENDIX H: Original list of motions including rationale

Motion 1 – eligibility to participate at Nationals / [conditions d'éligibilité pour participer aux Championnats nationaux](#)

Motion 1 (English):

Allow up to (2) players from other countries to compete on teams for the Canadian National Championships without the team being required to play exhibition and be ineligible for the finals. These international players must be members in good standing of their respective National federation.

Reasons: Australia and other countries uses this rule and it is very effective to help increase the level of play and encourage the development of our sport with different styles of play. Currently, participants must be Canadian citizens or have lived in Canada for at least 6 months prior to Nationals to play in playoffs and participate for medals. This means that currently, if a team has a player who does not meet these requirements, that team must play as an exhibition team.

Motion 1 (français) :

[Permettre que jusqu'à deux \(2\) joueurs étrangers puissent faire partie d'une équipe lors des Championnats nationaux canadiens sans que l'équipe soit considérée comme étant de démonstration et inéligible aux finales. Ces joueurs étrangers doivent être des membres en règle de leur fédération nationale respective.](#)

Justification : L'Australie ainsi que d'autre pays utilisent cette règle qui est très efficace pour hausser le niveau de jeu et permettre le développement de notre sport avec différents styles de jeu. Présentement, les participants doivent être des citoyens canadiens ou avoir vécu au Canada pour au moins six (6) mois avant les Championnats nationaux pour jouer dans les finales et pour des médailles. La situation actuelle signifie que si une équipe compte un joueur qui ne rencontre pas ces exigences, cette équipe est considérée comme étant de démonstration.

MOTION 2: CLUB PLAYER RELEASE letter for participation at Nationals

Motion 2 (English):

Any CUGA member participating to Nationals in a team that is different from their home club team will provide CUGA and the organizers of the tournament with a “club player release letter”, where the player`s home club clearly states 1) the reasons for allowing the player to play on a non-club team and 2) declares that liberating this player will NOT impact its participation at Nationals. The club under which each player is registered with CUGA will be the club considered the "home" club for the player.

Reasons: This motion is intended to allow clubs to release their club members to play as a “composite” team (composed of players from a variety of different clubs on the same team) at Nationals. At the moment, National team members are not allowed to play as a composite team

at Nationals to encourage club teams, whereas several non-club teams are allowed to form due to the low level of attendance of some club members from some clubs in different years. This is not a fair process as composite teams are allowed, as long as they are not called “national” teams.

In order to make the process fair to everyone, and **to really ensure that composite teams, whether they are National teams or not, are NOT affecting club participation**, clubs will “release” players from playing with their home club at Nationals. **This would be a pledge to CUGA that the fact that the player is not playing with its club is not affecting the club participation at Nationals.** However, this will allow composite teams to participate in the years where club participation is not as good, and therefore encourage participation at Nationals.

Likely, clubs will liberate players if 1) the club does not have enough players to put together one whole team for nationals and 2) the player wishes to go play with another team (e.g. a composite women’s team). However, a club can decide to release a player for any particular reason, as long as it pledges that this release does not affect its participation at Nationals.

MOTION 2 (français):

Libération de joueurs par les clubs pour la participation aux Nationaux dans des équipes multi-clubs.

Tous les joueurs qui participent aux Championnats Canadiens et jouent dans une équipe qui ne représente pas leur club « maison » devront fournir une lettre de “libération des joueurs” fournie par leur club à la CUGA et aux organisateurs du tournoi. Le club du joueur en question devra énoncer clairement 1) les raisons qui le poussent à libérer le joueur pour une autre équipe (exemple : pas assez de joueurs dans le club veulent participer au championnat) et 2) le fait que la libération de ce joueur n’influence pas la participation du club aux Championnats Canadiens. Le club « maison » du joueur sera celui sous lequel le joueur est enregistré à la CUGA.

Raisons : Cette motion permettra aux clubs de libérer des joueurs qui voudraient participer dans une équipe multi-clubs aux Championnats Canadiens. En ce moment, les équipes Nationales n’ont pas la possibilité de participer en tant qu’équipes composées de joueurs de plusieurs clubs, afin d’encourager la participation des clubs aux Nationaux. Cependant, beaucoup d’équipes multi-clubs sont formées (à cause du manque de joueurs dans certains clubs pour participer). Or, ceci nous semble injuste car les équipes Nationales sont en fait des équipes multi-clubs.

Or, les raisons qui empêchent les équipes nationales de jouer en tant qu’équipe devraient être les mêmes que pour les équipes multi-clubs, i.e. qu’elles ne devraient pas entraver la participation des clubs aux Nationaux. En produisant une déclaration de « libération de joueur », le club assure ainsi la CUGA et les organisateurs que la perte du joueur en question n’affecte pas la participation de son club aux Championnats Canadiens. Aussi, ceci permettra d’encourager la participation en n’entravant pas la possibilité des équipes multi-clubs de se former si le besoin en est dans le cas où un club ne peut envoyer d’équipe complète.

Les raisons qui pousseront les clubs à libérer les joueurs seront probablement les suivantes : le club n'a pas assez de joueurs intéressés à participer aux Nationaux ou 2) le joueur aimerait jouer avec une équipe multi-club pour raison quelconque (exemple, une équipe multiclub féminine) mais la perte de ce joueur n'influence pas la participation du joueur. Cependant, le club peut décider de libérer un joueur pour n'importe quelle raison, tant qu'il assure la CUGA et les organisateurs que cette libération n'affecte pas sa participation.

MOTION 3:

With regards to the current reality of women's Canadian underwater hockey, the Canadian women's team will be allowed to participate at Canadian Nationals as a team.

- **This point will be revised and voted on after every Worlds championships to make sure it still allows club teams to participate without affecting club participation and adjusted accordingly**
- **Members of the Canadian women's team will need to provide a club player release letter as for any player playing on a composite team (NOTE: this point is only relevant if Motion 2 regarding the 'club player release letter' is accepted)**

Reasons: This motion aims to allow the Canadian Women's National team to play together as a team at Nationals. We understand the reasons behind not allowing National teams to play together at Nationals, but disagree that applying this rule to the women's team affects club teams participation and level in the same fashion as for the men's team. Note that for this tournament, the Canadian women's team is participating as an exhibition team at Nationals, with no access to the medal round, though with the current Nationals format the team will very likely not make it into the medal rounds. This further supports that the applicability of this rule to the women's team is very questionable, which is the reason for this motion.

Here are our top reasons for putting this motion forward:

- 1) The influence of top women not playing on a club team is definitely not as impactful as top men not playing on its club team
- 2) It would seem at the moment that, due to the current reality of Canadian women's hockey, composite women's teams are encouraged to play together at Nationals for obvious reasons, but call this composite team "Canadian women" and the team is not allowed to play. This is not a fair applicability of the rule.
- 3) In all due respect, the likelihood of the Canadian women team reaching medal levels at Nationals is very limited, especially if clubs encourage the presence and participation of their top men's teams as well as with the new Nationals format with no A and B divisions.

Motion 3 (français):

En prenant en considération la réalité du hockey féminin en 2012, l'équipe féminine Canadienne de hockey sous-marin aura le droit de participer aux Championnats Canadiens en tant qu'équipe.

- **Ce point sera révisé et re-voté après chaque championnat Mondial afin d'assurer que la participation de l'équipe n'affecte pas la participation des clubs aux Nationaux**
- **Les membres de l'équipe nationale Canadienne, en tant qu'équipe multiclub, devront fournir une lettre de libération de joueur de leur club (note : ce point est admissible seulement si la motion 2 est acceptée)**

Raisons : Bien que nous comprenions les raisons qui ont poussé l'admission du règlement qui empêche les équipes Nationales de participer aux Nationaux pour encourager la participation des clubs, nous ne pensons cependant pas que ces raisons sont applicables à l'équipe féminine (comparativement à l'équipe Nationale masculine). **En ce moment, l'équipe joue en tant qu'exhibition, et n'a pas accès aux médailles, mais l'équipe n'a pas vraiment de chance de terminer 1, 2 ou 3eme. Donc l'application du règlement n'entraîne AUCUNE différence pour cette équipe, ce qui démontre le non-sens de l'application de ce règlement.** Voici les autres raisons majeures qui ont favorisé l'envoi de cette motion:

- 1) Le fait que les meilleures joueuses féminines ne jouent pas avec leur club n'a définitivement pas le même effet que la perte des meilleurs joueurs masculins sur le calibre des équipes de club
- 2) En ce moment, avec la réalité du hockey féminin, les équipes multiclub féminines sont très encouragées. Cependant, si l'équipe s'appelle « canada women », l'équipe n'a pas le droit de participer (bien que la composition ne soit pas vraiment différente de bien des équipes multiclubs ayant participé dans le passé ; la plupart des filles ont joué avec les équipes féminines de clubs de Québec, Vancouver ou Ottawa, de façon interchangeable). Ceci semble injuste et limite grandement la composition des équipes.
- 3) Avec tout le respect qui est dû à l'équipe féminine Canadienne, la chance que celle-ci décroche une médaille aux Nationaux est très faible, surtout avec le nouveau format qui ne contient pas de divisions A ou B. Ainsi, la non-participation de cette équipe ne bénéficie personne, mais empêche simplement ces joueuses de jouer ensemble (règlement limitant avec aucun bénéfice).

Motion 4

Modify exhibition team part of the `Participants` section (p10) of the `Hosting a Tournament Manual` to be as follows (highlighted part is the modified part):

Exhibition teams

Non-Canadian teams are permitted, but must play as exhibition teams. Exhibition teams **may play in the tournament and playoffs but are not eligible to play in the medal rounds** (i.e. if the exhibition team(s) places in the 1-4 position during the playoffs, the exhibition team will not play in the final games and the next highest place team(s) will play in their place). In games against exhibition teams, points will be awarded as a regular round robin game (2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss, and -2 points for a forfeit).

Reason :

Currently exhibition teams are not able to play in playoffs which significantly reduces their number of games and may deter participation by these teams. If the teams were eligible to play in all games except for the medal rounds, it may increase participation by these teams while allowing only Canadian teams to participate for medals (1st to 4th place).

Motion 5: Number of games at Nationals

Motion: Adjust the schedule for a Nationals with 12 teams in attendance to be 52 games by having a first round with 3 clusters of 4 teams

Rationale:

The schedule for 12 teams only requires 46 games (counting only 2 exhibition games as required this year). In comparison, 10 teams need 53 games; 11 teams 56 games; and 13 teams 54 games. It is very easy to bring the schedule to 52 games by having a first round with 3 clusters of 4 teams, instead of the 4 clusters of 3 teams. That adds a game to each team. The benefit is that each club can face more teams. Otherwise, there are a number of teams you may not be facing over the weekend. Also, as currently set, a team could play only 7 games over the weekend (not counting exhibition games or cross-over games). The additional game (for a total of 8 to 9 over to weekend) would be desirable considering the price paid traditionally for Nationals. Some teams will have a full 12 player roster and need to sit players. The added game would be beneficial to those teams. Keep in mind the preferred game duration for games at Nationals this is regulation time so 8 games still represent a significant number of underwater time.

Motion 6: National Team Selection/selection of coaches/managers

See page 13 of attached national team selection document for motions which are as below (page 1 provides a general rationale for the recommended changes):

The following motions pertain to the CUGA document entitled - Canadian underwater hockey national teams' guideline for national team selection committee nomination and selection of national team, team coach and team. The motions all refer to this document as the "Selection document" to make everyone's life easier.

6a - That the selection document be replaced with the attached document.

6b

That the selection document be revised to change the appointment of Coaches and Managers to fixed terms of two years with Managers being appointed on odd years and Coaches appointed on even years

6c

That the current Managers of the National teams have their tenure extended until Dec 31st 2012 and/or 2013. This will be the start of a continuing two year rotation for management roles.

6d

That the current Coaches of the National teams have their tenure extended until Dec 31st 2013. This will be the start of a continuing two rotation for coaching appointments.

6e

That CUGA recognizes the creation of National Team Club Coaches (Max one per Club). Although there may be several individuals helping with the development program at any one time each club can only have one "Qualified and Registered National Teams Club Coach" The individual must fill the following criteria; a) Represent a minimum of 15 fully paid CUGA members b) Be, themselves, a fully paid CUGA member c) To have been registered with CUGA for a minimum of six months.

6f

That Qualified and registered Club Coaches vote for National Team appointments. In the event of any odd number of registered club coaches at any time CUGA will be afforded one vote in the process. (This is not to be considered a deciding vote).

6g

That Qualified and Registered Club Coaches may vote to amend parts of the NDT program without waiting for a CUGA AGM. All such changes need to be submitted to the CUGA executive and although they can be implemented will require ratification at the CUGA AGM

Motion 7

Motion – CUGA bank accounts

To have CUGA treasurer close the existing CUGA main and team accounts and reopen them as updated business accounts.

Rationale: Notice received by CUGA Treasurer from the Royal Bank that the old accounts are outdated and no longer support organizations. Impossible at the time to change signing authority. Only change would be an increase in monthly fees from \$4.00 per account to \$6.00 per account.

APPENDIX I: Results of voting on motions

Motion 1 (English): eligibility to participate at Nationals

Allow up to (2) players from other countries to compete on teams for the Canadian National Championships without the team being required to play exhibition and be ineligible for the finals. These international players must be members in good standing of their respective National federation.

Moved (submitted): Steven Kars; Seconded: Blair Armstrong

Unanimously approved

MOTION PASSED

Motion 2:

National teams at Nationals

MOTION 2: CLUB PLAYER RELEASE letter for participation at Nationals

Motion 2 (English):

Any CUGA member participating to Nationals in a team that is different from their home club team will provide CUGA and the organizers of the tournament with a “club player release letter”, where the player’s home club clearly states 1) the reasons for allowing the player to play on a non-club team and 2) declares that liberating this player will NOT impact its participation at Nationals. (The club under which each player is registered with CUGA will be the club considered the "home" club for the player.)

An initial vote on this motion was made after amendments were considered which included having the release signed by the president or 5 players (Adam Jocksch) which or by the person registering that club for Nationals (Blair Armstrong).

The amended motion that was voted on:

Any CUGA member participating to Nationals in a team that is different from their home club team will provide CUGA and the organizers of the tournament with a “club player release letter”, where the player’s home club clearly states 1) the reasons for allowing the player to play on a non-club team and 2) declares that liberating this player will NOT

impact its participation at Nationals. (The club under which each player is registered with CUGA will be the club considered the "home" club for the player and the person registering the club team at nationals is responsible for signing the club player release letter.)

Vote was tied at 25 in favor and 25 opposed.

After the vote, there was additional discussion and a number of concerns were also brought up:

- Concern about pressure on members of the club which may cause internal strain for the club (Olivier Drouin)
- intent of the rule is to clarify the current rule to legitimize creation of composite tournaments (Blair Armstrong)
- suggested to move to table the motion until more discussion can happen about who in the club can vote (Jeff Stanhope)
- challenges with making rules as part of the Nationals document were discussed (John Harland)
- concern that if a club is typically a B division, and has an A division player, then may lose the A division player (Pascal Girard)
- discussed disorganization of different clubs which may mean a person doesn't go to nationals if they are trying to wait for their home team to get organized (Darryl Brambilla)
- advantage for development of a club if they have a player playing at a higher level or with a different team and are bringing back skills to the home club (Ben Lee)
- hoping to raise level of a Nationals in general by increasing participation (i.e. having more A level teams at a Nationals to improve the competition) (Rob Maisey)

Rob Maisey discussed to amend the motion to try it for a 2-year trial period. Darryl Brambilla moved to amend the motion for a 2-year trial period. This was seconded by Christian Nadeau

Final amended motion that was voted on:

Any CUGA member participating to Nationals in a team that is different from their home club team will provide CUGA and the organizers of the tournament with a "club player release letter", where the player's home club clearly states 1) the reasons for allowing the player to play on a non-club team and 2) declares that liberating this player will NOT impact its participation at Nationals. (The club under which each player is registered with CUGA will be the club considered the "home" club for the player and the person registering the club team at nationals is responsible for signing the club player release letter.)

Favor: 30

Opposed: 14

MOTION PASSED

MOTION 3 (English):

With regards to the current reality of women's Canadian underwater hockey, the Canadian women's team will be allowed to participate at Canadian Nationals as a team.

- **This point will be revised and voted on after every Worlds championships to make sure it still allows club teams to participate without affecting club participation and adjusted accordingly**
- **Members of the Canadian women's team will need to provide a club player release letter as for any player playing on a composite team as noted in Motion 2**

Moved: Marie Renee; Seconded: Melanie Johnson

Discussion/concerns:

- This motion destroys some club teams by losing some strong players if stronger women leave team (examples of Ottawa and Edmonton)
- Concern that the women on a National team may not attend a Natinoals if they are not able to attend nationals as they may need to attend a separate selection event to play together as a team

Favor: 25

Opposed: 18

MOTION PASSED

Motion 4 (English)

Modify exhibition team part of the `Participants` section (p10) of the `Hosting a Tournament Manual` to be as follows (highlighted part is the modified part):

Exhibition teams: Non-Canadian teams are permitted, but must play as exhibition teams. Exhibition teams **may play in the tournament and playoffs but are not eligible to play in the medal rounds** (i.e. if the exhibition team(s) places in the 1-4 position during the playoffs, the exhibition team will not play in the final games and the next highest place team(s) will play in their place). In games against exhibition teams, points will be awarded as a regular round robin game (2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss, and -2 points for a forfeit).

Motion amended to:

Exhibition teams: Non-Canadian teams are permitted, but must play as exhibition teams. Exhibition teams **may play all games through the tournament including playoffs and medal rounds, but will not receive an actual medal at the end of the tournament.** In games against

exhibition teams, points will be awarded as a regular round robin game (2 points for a win, 1 point for a tie, 0 points for a loss, and -2 points for a forfeit).

Move to accept amended motion as above: Joseph Ravaohangy; seconded Blair Armstrong

In favor: 36; Opposed: 14

AMENDED MOTION PASSED

Motion 5: Number of games at Nationals

Adjust the schedule for a Nationals with 12 teams in attendance to be 52 games considering 2 exhibition games (or 56 games with all exhibition games) by having a first round with 3 clusters of 4 teams. This allows for a better balance of the number of games when compared to 11 and 13 teams in attendance. Clarification below based on “Canadian National Underwater Hockey Championship Tournament Hosting Guide”.

Pool Scheduling Summary:

	# of teams	1 st session (Pools)	2 nd session (Groups)	Total games
Current	12	4 pools of 3	3 groups of 4	50
Motion 5	12	3 pools of 4	3 groups of 4	56

Moved: Véronique Séguin; Seconded: Melanie Johnson

Majority in favor (2 members opposed)

MOTION PASSED

Motion 6

National Team Selection/selection of coaches/managers

Motion 6a: That the selection document be replaced with an updated selection document

This motion was tabled until there was discussion and voting on the subsequent motions pertaining to the selection document.

Motion 6b: The selection document be revised to change the appointment of coaches and managers to fixed terms of two years with managers being appointed on odd years and coaches appointed on even years

Unanimously approved

MOTION PASSED

Motion 6c: The current managers of the National teams have their tenure extended until Dec 31st 2012 and/or 2013. This will be the start of a continuing two year rotation for management roles.

Unanimously approved

(NOTE: CUGA Executive will discuss with National Development Team coaches about when the current manager positions will expire)

MOTION PASSED

Motion 6d: The current coaches of the National teams have their tenure extended until Dec 31st 2013. This will be the start of a continuing two-year rotation for coaching appointments.

Additional discussion took place:

- Concern that some coaches may not have applied for coaching in 2012 event, thinking it was only for 1 year
- Comment that coaches who are currently working with NDT teams are interested in continuing the process given that it is a very short time to turn around and change coaches if there are National team events annually
- Discussion about NDT process and building club coaches who can continue the current process that has been started.
- Hoping to offset managers and coaches so there is continuous cycle.
- Discussion that the original selection document has the coach selected 18 months prior to the Worlds, therefore we are already 'late' based on the current document and when Worlds in Eger, Hungary are proposed (August 2013)

Majority in favor with 44 members (2 members opposed)

MOTION PASSED

Motion 6e: CUGA recognizes the creation of National Team Club Coaches (maximum one per Club). Although there may be several individuals helping with the development program at any one time each club can only have one "Qualified and Registered National Teams Club Coach" The individual must fill the following criteria; a) Represent a minimum of 15 fully paid CUGA members b) Be, themselves, a fully paid CUGA member c) To have been registered with CUGA for a minimum of six months.

Discussion occurred:

- program is designed to connect the different clubs and improve communication and liaises with the NDT program.

- Discussion that the role of these ‘club coaches’ to help with individual player development.
- Concern about ‘power’ of club coaches

Unanimously approved

MOTION PASSED

Motion 6f: Qualified and registered Club Coaches vote for National Team appointments (selectors, coach and managers). In the event of any odd number of registered club coaches at any time, the CUGA Executive will be afforded one vote in the process. (This is not to be considered a deciding vote)

MOTION DEFEATED (amended to motion 6g)

Motion 6g: That Qualified and Registered Club Coaches may vote to amend parts of the NDT program without waiting for a CUGA AGM. All such changes need to be 1st submitted to the CUGA executive who will conduct a poll of the membership prior to implementation; the adjusted parts of the program can be implemented initially, however they will require ratification at the subsequent CUGA AGM.

Jeff moved to amend motion 6f and vote on that motion as motion 6g (i.e. amended motion 6f) : Restrict the changes allowed to the NDT program to only changes of dates and times.

Blair moved to amend the motion as noted above; Darryl Brambilla seconded

Final motion 6g that was voted on:

That Qualified and Registered Club Coaches may vote to amend parts of the NDT program without waiting for a CUGA AGM. All such changes need to be 1st submitted to the CUGA executive who will conduct a poll of the membership prior to implementation; the adjusted parts of the program can be implemented initially, however they will require ratification at the subsequent CUGA AGM. The changes/amendments to the NDT program allowed will be restricted to changes of dates and times.

Approved.

Motion 7

CUGA bank accounts

To have CUGA treasurer close the existing CUGA main and team accounts and reopen them as updated business accounts (as has been recommended by the Royal Bank).

Moved: Margaret Francis; Seconded: Melanie Johnson

Unanimously approved

MOTION PASSED