

# 2016 CUGA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, June 17 from 7:45 to 9:30 pm – at the PEPS pool  
Quebec City, Quebec

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:55pm

## 2. ROLL CALL AND PROXY VERIFICATION

There were 74 general members in person plus 4 executive/directors (acting president-vice president (Veronique Seguin), Secretary (Melanie Johnson) Chief Referee (Darryl Brambilla), Underwater Hockey Director (Marie-Renee Blanchet) and 8 members voted by proxy for a total of 86 members

## 3. CUGA AGM 2016 AGENDA – approved

## 4. CUGA AGM 2015 MINUTES – approved

## 5. OLD BUSINESS

Reports from the Executive:

The membership was invited to have a discussion and/or ask questions about reports submitted by members of the executive which had previously posted to the Canadian Underwater Games Association mailing list. **There were no questions or comments on the reports as circulated.**

Vice-President/Acting President (Veronique Seguin) – see Appendix A

Treasurer (Heather Lindholm) – see Appendix B

Secretary (Melanie Johnson) – see Appendix C

Past President (Adam Jocksch) – see Appendix D

Chief Referee (Darryl Brambilla) – see Appendix E

Underwater Hockey Director (Marie-Renee Blanchet) – see Appendix F

Underwater Rugby Director (Camilo Contreras) – see Appendix G

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

### a) Nationals 2017 – call for interest (western location).

No official letters of interest from a western location were received. Edmonton checked and no pool available for 2017.

**Motion made to allow the executive to approve the location for 2017 with priority of a western location.** Moved by Alita Krickan. Seconded by Adam Guindon.

**Motion carried**

### b) National Team Selection Document – voting on steering committee

There was discussion about role of steering committee. It was verified that the steering committee would be encouraged to discuss with people in their area about nominees and that the membership are

encouraged to contact the steering committee member for their province if they have information about the nominees to share. The names of the nominees will be published to the CUGA mailing list prior to the steering committee entering their process for choosing the candidates.

Ontario – Casey Quesnel was nominated to the steering committee by Sophie Gosse as an additional Ontario representative to fill a vacant position.

There still remains an open position on the steering committee for British Columbia.

**Motion made to accept the steering committee as nominated (noted below).** Moved by Marie-Renee Blanchet. Seconded by Melanie Johnson.

British Columbia – Arthur Hastings, 1 vacant position

Alberta – Dave Bortolin, Don Fryers

Ontario – Sophie Gosse, Casey Quesnel

Quebec – Samuel Lefebvre-Miron, Hugo Savard

**Motion carried (all in favor)**

c) Other motions (see Appendix H)

d) Update on CMAS World Championships 2018

Marie-Renee Blanchet stated she and her organizing team are excited about hosting the CMAS World Championships in 2018. She requests feedback from participating athletes/teams from Nationals regarding the venue and event.

## 7. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- **President** (1 year term, replacing Adam Jocksch who stepped down part of the way through his term)
  - Jeff French nominated and accepted
  - **Jeff French** acclaimed to the position
- **Vice-president**
  - Veronique Seguin nominated and declined
  - Sophie Gosse nominated and declined
  - Sylvain Neveu nominated and declined
  - Charles Savard nominated and declined
  - Dave Hamel nominated and declined
  - Alita Krickan nominated and accepted
  - Richard Robinson nominated and declined
  - **Alita Krickan** acclaimed to the position
- **Secretary**
  - Sophie Gosse nominated and declined
  - Bonny Chan nominated and declined
  - Alex Gurbin nominated and declined

- Vanessa Sliwinski nominated and declined (was not at meeting, but it was confirmed after the AGM that she declined the nomination)
- In the absence of nominees, the CUGA executive will look for candidates for the position of CUGA Secretary and will appoint someone for a 1-year term
- **Underwater Hockey Director**
  - Andrew Westbrook nominated and declined
  - Marie-Renee Blanchet nominated and declined
  - Kimberly Grattan nominated and declined
  - **Dominique Adams** nominated and accepted (there was discussion about there being support for Dominique in her new role particularly from Alex Gurbini from Toronto and Marie-Renee Blanchet, past underwater hockey director, from Quebec City)

## 8. GENERAL DISCUSSION:

After the nomination process was completed, there was a brief general discussion.

Pierre Larose commented that he would like there to be a clear position for Juniors in CUGA organizational structure.

Questions were raised about development policies regarding which team a player plays with (e.g. U19 age player possibly playing with U23 team). Comments were made about 'poaching' of strong players from the U19 team by an increased age team. Comments were also raised about policies for juniors perhaps relating to similar issues associated with elite and masters teams. It was also noted that there are specific CMAS age limitations relating to junior teams that also need to be adhered to.

Suggestion was made that it may be time to have a position for a 'Junior underwater hockey director' who would:

- Work with underwater hockey director
- Comments were made about this position might be best done by a person not coaching a current world junior team
- Suggestion was made about a junior committee being developed by executive regarding junior needs or development of a junior UWH director position

It was acknowledged that there was not time at this meeting to have the thoroughness of discussion required on the issues raised regarding juniors and the incoming CUGA executive will consider this discussion/information in their work in the upcoming year

## 9. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting was adjourned at 2135.

## Appendix A:

### CUGA Vice-President (Acting President) – Veronique Seguin 2016 Report

#### Main duties

The main duties undertaken are to ensure translation of CUGA documentation and messages, as well as weigh in on regular business of CUGA. I specifically became involved in some matters pertaining to UWH Canadian national team going to World Championships as I was not part of any of the team processes in any capacity.

I became acting President upon the resignation of Adam Jocksch in November 2016. I had several interactions with CMAS in the capacity of acting President. This included representing Canada at meetings that took place during CMAS World Championships as CUGA representative.

#### Federation and Rules Meetings

A Federation meeting and a Rules meeting were held in Stellenbosch, South Africa, during Worlds 2016. The following decisions were reached.

- Worlds will from now be hosted in indoor pools (unless no other venues are interested in hosting).
  - The tournament schedule is now max out due to the number of teams which means that any delay, can have the effect of pushing finals by one day (e.g. to the Sunday in Stellenbosch) which would mean some teams playing without their full contingent. Having Worlds indoor reduce the number of factors on which no control can be exerted.
  - Tournament conditions are less than ideal when conducted outside: rain, cold temperature, going from full sunlight to shade in the pool area, hard to see TV screen for game display in the sun, blurry water due to sunscreen or grass or other elements, etc.
- Three points for a win (mainly to avoid a three-way tie by which one of the teams has less victories, but more ties during the round-robin).
- For teams that bring with them a doctor, the doctor will be allowed on deck with the team in addition to the two other “staff” allowed by rules, provided the doctor accepts to respond to any emergency (i.e. not only emergencies on his/her team). The person must provide proof of their ability to practice in their home country to the organizers.
- On women's team, suits must have the same design, but can now be a mix of one-piece or two-piece suits within the same team.
- Formalized the practice by which a time penalty only starts when the player is in the sin bin and the play has restarted.
- Rob Feist (NZ), Simon Talbot (Aus) and Véronique Séguin (Can) to review the UWH CMAS rules for format, consistency and clarity (i.e. no changes to the interpretation of the rules or such changes should be proposed separately).
- Location of the next main international events
  - 2017 - Euro Cup – Eger, Hungary
  - 2017 - Age Cup – Hobart, Australia
  - 2018 - World Championships (elite and masters) – Quebec City, Canada
  - 2019 - Age Cup – Sheffield, United Kingdom
  - 2020 - CMAS Games – TBC (need appropriate pool) Alabama, USA
  - 2020 – World Championships – TBD (Perth, Australia pulled their proposal)

Canadian national teams should note that coaches (or other person) in the water at World Championships should be wearing a green cap (ideally close to lime colour).

**Unrelated duties**

I attended both the Age Cup (Spain) and World Championships (South Africa) as Tournament Assistant Chief Referee, which represents a fair amount of hours before, during and after the event. With two events so close in time, it represents a significant investment of time for this year. However, those hours allowed for many discussions with the Tournament Director, Tristan Reynard, and to get a far better understanding of what goes on behind the scene of such big events. I hope to be able to share some of this knowledge with the organizing committee for Worlds in Quebec City in 2018.

Prior to both events, upon request of some teams, I provided some short sessions on what to expect from refereeing at Worlds. I also attended to referee local clinic or training camps.

## Appendix B:

### Canadian Underwater Hockey Association Treasurer's Report 2016 – Heather Lindholm

#### 2015 Financial Report:

Included with this document you will find the CUGA 2015 Financial Report that was filed with the Canada Revenue Agency.

Notes regarding items in the report:

1. The amounts reported are for both the Main and Team accounts.
2. The CMAS dues increased from previous years due to the addition of the Underwater Rugby and Finswimming commissions.

Bank Account Balances as of December 31, 2015:

- Main Account: \$4,853.38
- Team Account: \$8,492.35
- PayPal: \$0.00

#### 2016 Budget:

Also included with this report is the CUGA 2016 Budget, which compares 2015 actual numbers with 2016 projections.

Notes regarding items in the budget:

1. CMAS fees vary somewhat based on currency exchange rates.
2. The current website is difficult to maintain, vulnerable to security hacks, and utilizing old technologies that make it difficult to support our sports and teams. This budget item will be used to create a new site.

#### Notes and Activities for 2015

- **National teams attending Worlds:** CUGA supported the financial management of the UWH teams, UWR team, and our Finswimmer as they prepared for and attended Worlds in 2015. The 2016 UWH Worlds teams also began flowing deposits and expenses through CUGA. It was a very busy year.
- **Donation and Sponsorship Guidelines:** In order to support the teams who are fundraising, as well as general CUGA donations, a document providing regulations and expectations was developed and distributed. The Canada Revenue Agency has strict regulations regarding donations that CUGA must adhere to.

#### Notes and Activities for 2016

- **National Teams attending Worlds:** There has been significant activity with the teams working with CUGA to manage deposits, donations, and expenses.

#### Financial Details as of April 30, 2016

Dues collected: \$2,725

Insurance Recovered: \$2,760

Bank Account Balances:

- Main Account: \$8,796.60
- Team Account: \$1,243.13
- PayPal: \$10.45

Report prepared by Heather Lindholm.



## 2015 Financial Statement

<b>General Revenue</b>	
Membership Dues and Competition Levies	\$5,100
Donations	\$8,670
Insurance Recovered	\$2,270
Cost Recovery (Medals)	\$550
Other Income	\$460
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,050</b>
<b>General Operations Expenses</b>	
Insurance	\$3,300
Donation Transfer to Teams	\$8,670
CMAS Dues	\$894
Bank Fees	\$369
Competition Costs	\$2,502
Sound System	\$1,305
Other Expenses	\$207
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$17,247</b>
<b>Team Deposits</b> (for disbursement in 2015 and 2016)	
2015 Worlds Teams (5 teams)	\$80,628
2016 Worlds Teams (4 teams)	\$55,618
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$136,246</b>
<b>Team Expenses</b> (utilizing deposits from 2014 and 2015)	
2015 Worlds Teams (5 teams)	\$107,707
2016 Worlds Teams (4 teams)	\$48,992
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$156,699</b>

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**Assets**

Main Bank Account	\$4,853.38
Team Bank Account	\$8,492.35
PayPal Account	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,345.73</b>

**Liabilities**

None	\$0.00
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**Account Payable**

None	\$0.00
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**Accounts Receivable**

None	\$0.00
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**CUGA 2016 Budget/ Budget  
CUGA 2016**

<b>Year/ Année</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>Projected/ Projetés</b>	<b>Actual/ Réels</b>
<b>Revenue / Revenus</b>		
Dues / Frais	3000	3500
Insurance Recovered / Recouvrement des frais d'assurance	2800	2270
Competition Fees (Nationals) / Frais de compétition (championnats nationaux)	1200	1400
Medal cost recovery / Recouvrement des coûts des médailles	520	550
Other		460
<b>Total Revenue / Revenus totaux</b>	<b>7520</b>	<b>8180</b>
<b>Expenses / Dépenses</b>		
Insurance / Assurance	3300	3300
National Team Development / Équipe nationale de développement	450	150
Sound System / Système de son	0	1305
Website development / Développement du site Internet	1000	
CMAS Dues / Frais de la CMAS	850	894
Worlds Refs / Arbitres aux mondiaux	780	
Medals / Médailles	100	2200
Bank Fees / Frais bancaires	400	369
Overhead costs / Frais généraux	100	207
<b>Total Expenses / Total des dépenses</b>	<b>6980</b>	<b>8425</b>

## Appendix C:

### CUGA Secretary Report – Melanie Johnson

Secretary activities for 2015-2016 term:

- Maintain current CUGA membership list including announcements about membership renewal. CUGA currently has 290 members (memberships continue to come in for 2016 prior to Nationals).
- Verify players at Nationals and other tournaments hosted by clubs using CUGA insurance are CUGA members. Verification of CUGA membership for CUGA members participating in USOA events.
- I have been encouraging clubs who need to purchase insurance to use the CUGA insurance policy as a benefit of CUGA membership. There are currently 5 clubs using CUGA insurance and fees from these clubs now cover the insurance costs above that required for executive/director liability insurance. If any club is interested in investigating potential for use of CUGA insurance for their club, please contact the CUGA Secretary. If more clubs use the CUGA insurance, then there is the potential for the club cost for insurance to decrease.
- Monitoring insurance waivers for players in clubs using CUGA insurance and playing in tournaments where CUGA insurance is being used. The use of a liability waiver was a new requirement for our new insurance company and I coordinated the development of the CUGA liability waiver in 2015 which was arranged to be completed on-line (via Smartwaiver – thanks to Darryl Brambilla for setting this up). Thanks to Cathie Pearson for doing the translation into French.
- Pursued and received documentation about what is required to be eligible for Sport Canada assessment for eligibility of organizations to apply for federal government funding to support programs, services as well as other nationally based initiatives recognition and CUGA does not currently meet the criteria (requires minimum membership of 5,000 and sport is established in minimum of 8 Provinces/Territories)
- I was the CMAS contact person for official information and I receive information about different CMAS tournaments (forwarded to the Canadian mailing list) and for the Elite-Masters World Championships (forwarded to team managers, coaches and/or treasurer as required). Communicated with the Worlds 2016 tournament director around approval of suits/caps for Canada.
- Letters were written over the past year to identify athletes as CUGA members and participants in Worlds events (primarily workplace requirements for leave purposes)
- Coordinated selection of coaches, selectors and managers for Junior Worlds 2017 (announcements, verification of nominees, coordination of biographies for nominees, collected and tabulated votes from 2015 teams)
- Collated nominees and verified acceptance of nominations for National Team Steering Committee
- Distributed information for 2016 AGM (agenda, motions, etc.)
- I have been contacted by a finswimmer in Ontario (originally from Kyrgyzstan) who is interested in starting a club and has connected up with Camillo Contreras, UW Rugby Director who has recent experience with starting up a club. The finswimmer is considering joining CUGA.
- I have served on the CUGA executive since 2006, initially as the Director-at-Large and later as the Secretary when the names of the positions on the Executive changed. I will not be putting my name forward when my position comes up for re-election this year. It has been my pleasure to serve the Canadian underwater hockey community by working with the Executive and Directors of CUGA for the past 10 years.

## **Appendix D:**

### **Past-President Report – Adam Jocksch**

The past year I have unfortunately not been able to devote the time to hockey organization that I once was able to. It was for this reason that I decided to step aside as President and provide the opportunity for some new leadership to come forward.

This past year I have pursued two main policy initiatives:

1. The expansion and improvement of CUGA's online presence, specifically in terms of the services provided to members. While I did collect a clear set of requirements for what the membership would like to see from an improved online presence from CUGA, I was unable to bring these to realization. I will share my progress on this task with the new executive so that we can hopefully continue to move forward.
2. I did some preliminary investigation and discussions with regards to CUGA's membership policy. At the time it was written, the only people who had a vested interest in the internal operations of CUGA were adults who played underwater hockey. This is clearly no longer true; we are reliant on the growth and development of underwater hockey at a junior/minor level, and along with that the support of their families and other individuals who may not play hockey but have a definite investment in CUGA. Currently there is only one type of CUGA membership and it makes no distinction for age (for example, all members currently have full voting privileges at AGMs regardless of age). While this has served us well up to now I feel that this is an area that needs to be clarified in order to ensure:
  - a. Ensure that the voices and concerns of needs of juniors, their clubs, and their parents are represented within CUGA and given a balanced say in it's policies and procedures.
  - b. CUGA has implemented a membership system that is sound in principle and scalable as the organization continues to grow.

Unfortunately, I was not able to develop a consensus on this issue in time to present a motion for this Nationals. I hope to help continue this discussion as past president as I feel this is an important gap in CUGA policy that needs to be properly addressed.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as president of CUGA for as many years as I have, and I am deeply grateful for the support and encouragement that I have received from the Canadian Underwater Hockey community during this time. I would especially like to draw attention to the exemplary effort and dedication put in by the rest of the executive. I will continue to support the new executive as Past-President and help ensure a smooth transition to whomever the membership chooses as my replacement.

## Appendix E:

### Chief Referee Report - 2016 – Darryl Brambilla

Over the past year I had the opportunity to attend numerous tournaments once again to further promote CUGA and refereeing to all in attendance both in Canada and the USA. I also continue to work with USA Chief Referee John Kulsa to continuously improve our refereeing here in North America and just attended the USA National Championships as well as a player & referee.

We have had no requests to run a Level 1 referee course in Canada this year. However, I am pleased to announce we did have one new Level 2 course and I would like to congratulate Ben Lee in achieving his Level 2 status which will be confirmed at this year's Nationals. These courses are important to help educate players and referees, improve the sport, and keep people up to date on rules. It also helps provide funding to maintain CUGA ongoing operations and offer programs such as NDT clinics and events. Again, I would encourage anyone who is interested in either a player rules clinic or a full referee course to contact me directly to make arrangements.

We have also added a sound system to our list of equipment last year however no requests for use to date have come in for it. Anyone wishing to use the sound system can make a request to CUGA and we will make arrangements with the tournament organizers for shipping. As there are more tournaments in the East I would recommend finding a home for it in an eastern location should anyone want to volunteer to take this on.

The currently recognized World Championship Rules are version 10.0. These were approved by the CMAS Board Of Directors for the 2016 world championships and have not had any changes published since that time. There will be forthcoming changes at the next world championships and once those rules are officially published they will be sent out and they will become official for tournaments moving forward.

At this time I would also like to recognize and congratulate the following referees:

- Hugo Savard – Quebec City
- Veronique Seguin – Gatineau / Ottawa

Hugo Savard has been working hard on his referee qualifications over the past year and is currently certified as a Level 2 referee in Canada. Hugo also put his certification to the test when he attended his first Junior world Championships in Spain last August and also his first Elite / Masters World Championships in South Africa this past March / April refereeing with some of the top referees from around the world. Hugo received his international Level 3, 2 star assessment there.

Veronique was also assigned the assistant Chief Referee for the Elite / Masters World Championships in South Africa this past March / April 2016 and maintained her ranking of a Level 3, 4 star referee rating.

I would like to wish everyone a successful National Championships and look forward to seeing everyone at many more tournaments in the future.

Best Regards, Darryl Brambilla Chief Referee

## **Appendix F:**

### **Underwater hockey Director's report 2015-2016**

#### **Marie-Renee Blanchet**

##### **NDT Program :**

There were two NDT clinics held this year.

First one was in Cornwall, in parallel to the Montreal tournament. This clinic was well attended (around 20 players) and focused on juniors and basic skills development. It was run in parallel to a women's masters clinic the same day, so to get that many players in town for two clinics was a great success.

Clinic leaders were Marie-Renée Blanchet and Michel Langlois. Fin swimming technique, pass receiving technique as well as puck work was covered over the 2h clinic. It was preceded by an hour presentation by Michel Langlois on basic skills and the importance of developing these skills early on but to keep working on them throughout the UWH career.

This clinic was in part supported by CUGA financially, to keep costs of pool rental and clinic leader travels to the lowest possible.

The second clinic was held in Calgary recently as the Alberta Development clinic. It was a weekend event hosted by Ben Lee and focused on player development. It was also well attended by many NDT-ees. I want to thank Ben and his team for this (we hope) annual western event that could not happen without their dedication.

I want to also thank every NDT player who has been involved in helping out with the program this year and making these two events possible. We hope to see many NDT teams this year enter tournaments, as it is a non – worlds year. Stay posted on the NDT facebook page for callouts for NDT teams.

##### **Sport development :**

o Junior /Beginners CUGA program and LTAD programs are now available for CUGA members to use as they wish. They can be obtained by writing to either the UWH director or CUGA secretary.

##### **NDT Facebook page :**

o The NDT Facebook page is now focused onto one single page, rather than being separated into three or four different NDT pages. This was done in the hope to focus the NDT program on development as a whole rather than by program (women's, men's, etc)... NDT events are now planned as mixed events where juniors, men and women are invited and the NDT program functions as a single program rather than siloed, individual programs. The Facebook page is quite active, where a number of posts, clinics invite etc.... are posted.

##### **Worlds 2018 Bid**

Although this was not NDT related, I took an active part in representing CUGA for the 2018 bid for Worlds, including relations with the CMAS Underwater Hockey Commission and working on the bid itself. We are thrilled of this opportunity for Canada.

##### **Worlds 2016**

Many matters leading to Worlds 2016 needed my attention – involving several email conversations and phone calls with the executive. All in all, Canada was represented in all categories this Worlds. Our Elite teams put up a solid fight against top / medal teams, and the improvement from 2013 was obvious. Coaches reports will be used in the aim to provide information for the next coaches in terms of what needs to improve with our Elite National team programs to reach the next level towards 2018. Our Canadian Masters teams kick-started the masters programs for the future with a solid two-team representation. This program is crucial to our sport, in line with the Sports Canada « Sport is for life » model. I hope to see more support for the masters programs (coaching, support in training, a 2 year vision etc) towards next Worlds. The Masters division is highly competitive, with several masters teams that would be of medal round level in Elite. In my opinion, Canada is on the right path to a successful 2018 Worlds if everyone keeps pushing in the same direction as it was towards 2016. Of mention should be the new formation (2-3-1) played across most teams men and women, and in tournaments leading to Worlds. I believe this was a great move by coaches to get together and come to a consensus between teams, whatever the consensus was. It helped unify club play and training towards Worlds and I want to thank clubs for their support towards our National team players.

My wish for the future would be to see a solid focus on players support for training (technical and physical) and yearly planification in training programs, as is done in other countries currently in the medal rounds. Our teams are so close to medal round teams, with sometimes 1 goal difference. Therefore I believe the slightest improvement in our technical development / support, strategy development / support and training plan support will help us reach this next level. I want to thank the coaches and staff that worked so hard at supporting our 4 teams. Let's keep it up for our Juniors in 2017.

### **Coaches development**

I believe this is where we need the most work in the future. Our NDT program is alive and well but will need coaches development and involvement to keep growing. It cannot be a single person program (i.e. UWH director only). It needs to become a program that the UWH director oversees, not a program that is entirely run by a single person. We clearly need more coaches, and coaches need coaching experience before they meet the National Team programs. Coaching should be encouraged at the Club level, from the junior age to adult play. A coaching development program is urgently needed to provide support and coaching opportunities for our coaches and I believe this should be the next UWH director's focus to make sure our sport keeps growing and that we provide opportunities to develop players of all ages, levels, and competing opportunities (from local small tournaments, to Worlds).

### **Final remarks**

I want to thank everyone for their support and appreciation in the last two years. I really enjoyed working with everyone and learning about everyone's visions for UWH development. I will not be renewing my application for the next UWH director term. I believe the 2018 tournament organisation as well as training for next Worlds tryouts would not allow me to perform my UWH director's duties to the level that is needed to keep the momentum forward for our sport development. However I hope to stay involved and support the next director in anything they might seek or need support for.

See you all underwater.

Marie-Renee Blanchet

## Appendix G:

### Underwater rugby report 2016 - Camilo Contreras

We had another good year of rugby games and promotion. The North American league is slowly getting stronger. Last year we had the first tournament in New York (actually Newark) and a new team. The New Jersey Hammerheads club is still leading the league winning the last 3 tournaments. This year, on February we have our first tournament in Florida and the formal presentation of two new Rugby clubs, Florida and San Francisco.

Right now The North American league has 9 teams: Connecticut, Boston, Newark, New Jersey, Florida, San Francisco from USA and Brantford, Montreal and Toronto from Canada.

All the clubs together and with the USOA (Underwater Society of America) support, we are having different meetings and conversations to formalize our Rugby league.

We defined a tournament calendar going forward. 4 Tournaments per year, 2 in USA 2 in Canada. The dates for now are: Winter and spring USA, Summer and fall Canada. For 2016 the upcoming tournaments are: Montreal May 21-22, Toronto August 20-21, Newark October 22-23.

I am very excited to host the next tournament in Toronto in the best pool to play rugby in North America so far (my personal opinion), the Summerville Diving pool. It is an amazing location by the beach, lake Ontario, CN tower sight and perfect dimensions for the game. I am planning to have at least 3 Ontario teams for this tournament. I will keep you posted all with more information about this event.

For the North American league, we are also discussing topics like how many orphan players can a team have, how to rank the best club of each country to participate in the champion league and referee development.

As a note, during the Rugby worlds last year in Colombia, CMAS and other countries asked me if Canada can host the next Rugby world tournament in 2019. If CUGA and the Canadian underwater community is willing to work in host this tournament. Let me know and I will postulate Canada for the next worlds.

#### Rugby development in Ontario

Unfortunately the Brantford team is very weak at the moment and hasn't been able to send a team for the last 4 tournaments. And the Toronto team is not getting bigger but we are working in different strategies to develop our sport locally. For example, the Toronto Club last year donated goals and balls to 5 different high schools in Toronto. We also offered workshops in the schools and coach students to play rugby. The goal is to have an intramural tournament and have more regular rugby players in Canada.

Despite this initial success we found that it is necessary to have experienced players that are willing to coach in their spare time and this is not always possible. We coach one of the schools for 4 months but we didn't succeed in having regular players after this. We will continue to work in this program for the next school season in September.

Last year we also created a new Underwater club at UFT and we managed to get free space for students for them to learn Underwater Rugby. After 3 months in this space we found some difficulties in promoting and persuading students to jump in

and try it but we are still coaching rugby once day per week. We will keep working in this projects and I will keep you all posted.

At the moment I know that University of Guelph has a very succesful Underwater Hockey Club. It will be interesting to have more universities teams involved so we can have ´sponsored Varsity´ teams playing UWR and UWH. For 2017, I plan to send a team to Germany. Hopefully a University team and a senior team.

Regards,

CAMILO CONTRERAS



## Appendix H: Motions

### 1. Changes to the By-laws

Submitted by: Véronique Séguin. Seconded by Alita Krickan.

#### **Section 4.01 - Modifying the requirements to be nominated for an Executive or a Director positioning**

*Proposed revision:*

4.01 A person nominated to the Executive or to a Director position must be a member in good standing of the Association and either be a Canadian citizen or have been a resident in Canada for a minimum of 12 months in the previous 18 months preceding his or her election or nomination, as the case may be

*Rationale:*

Being a member of the organization should be a minimum standard for those wanting to be a representative, either as a member of the Executive or as one of the Directors (as defined in the By-laws). Adding the wording about Directors being members of CUGA fills an existing gap that was likely unintentional. The proposed wording also formalizes current practice that Directors are members in good standing.

In addition, those filling the duties of a member of the Executive or one of the Directors are frequently asked to represent the country internationally. They should therefore be knowledgeable of Canada's context and positioning on key matters to be able to best serve the country's interest. The proposed wording ensures that Executive and Directors have presence in Canada in a way that will add positively to the sports. The text follows the current eligibility for a player to be on a national team for an international event as per the CMAS UWH Commission. Spelling out the eligibility criteria avoids having to read other documents and have the By-laws as a stand-alone document, recognizing the By-laws may need to be updated from time to time or to recognize eligibility criteria of other underwater sports.

**Motion carried (all in favor)**

### 2. Changes to the By-laws

Proposed by: Darryl Brambilla. Seconded by Hugo Savard.

#### **Section 7.07 – Directors – Chief Referee – Responsibilities**

*Currently written:*

C) Keep a record of Canadian Referees including certification, training finished, and games logged. This record is to be passed on to the next Chief Referee.

*Proposed revision:*

C) Keep a record of currently active Canadian Referees including certification and training completed. Individual referees are required to maintain their own logbooks (provided by CUGA) or by other electronic means that can be reviewed by the Chief Referee or designated Level 3 ranked referee. Upon receipt of the logs, the Chief Referee or appropriate designated Level 3 ranked referee will review and approve if they meet the required certification level. The Chief Referee will pass along recorded certification and training logs to the next Chief Referee.

*Rationale:*

The change above is proposed to keep in line with what has actually been practiced / occurred over the past 20 years of refereeing especially concerning logbook practice & recording.

**Discussion:** There was discussion that it would be useful to have an electronic spreadsheet or database where there can be oversight that games are recorded as refereed. There were also questions raised about development of oversight for refereeing of games, i.e. having procedure or plan in place for reviewing of games. A comment about forged or falsified signatures was raised and a suggestion that these would be caught was also made.

**Motion carried** (3 opposed, 2 abstentions)

### 3. Changes to the By-laws

Submitted by: Darryl Brambilla. Seconded by Pierre Larose.

#### **Section 7.07 – Directors – Chief Referee – Responsibilities**

*Item D & E – Currently written as:*

- D) Represent Canada at International and World tournaments as a referee.
- E) Put forth qualified candidates for consideration as World level referees

*Proposed Revision:*

Combine Item D & E with modified wording to read:

D) Represent Canada at International and world tournaments as a referee where possible or put forth qualified candidates for consideration as World Referees.

*Rationale:*

The change is proposed for a number of reasons. In particular the Chief Referee may be unable to attend due to medical or financial reasons or in some cases could also represent Canada as a player but put forward other qualified individuals to represent Canada (as was done in the past and most recently the 2016 World Championships). Additionally as the Chief Referee ages they may not be qualified to perform at a world level (as we have seen already in some other countries around the world). This gives some flexibility where required in certain cases while still providing representation of Canadian Referees at international / world level events.

Discussion: modification of the wording was proposed and accepted (in italics below).

Amended motion: Represent Canada at International and world tournaments as a referee, *delegate* or put forth qualified candidates for consideration as World Referees.

**Motion (as amended) carried** (0 opposed, 4 abstentions)

### 4. Changes to the By-laws

Submitted by: Sophie Gosse. Seconded by Alita Krickan.

#### **Section 7.07, delete “Rules Director” and modify “Chief Referee” subsections**

*Proposed Revision:*

Chief Referee (may be held by an executive member or member)

Responsibilities:

- A) Ensure the members have the current and up to date rules.
- B) Gather information from members on rule change proposals and submits them for consideration at the appropriate Games Rules Meetings.
- C) Train referees according to the current rules.
- D) Keep a record of Canadian Referees including certification and training completed, and ensures for each Canadian referee that a log of games refereed with a proper assessment is maintained. This record is to be passed on to the next Chief Referee.
- E) Ensure that Canadian hosted national or higher tournaments are using the most current rules.
- F) Ensure that proper officiating is taking place at national or higher tournaments.
- G) Represent Canada at International and World tournaments as a referee.
- H) Put forth qualified candidates for consideration as World level referees.
- I) Prepare an annual report to be read and included with the minutes of Annual General Meetings.

*Rationale:*

Currently, there is no need to separate the positions of Chief Referee and of Rules Director in any of the active sports. The functions of both positions are similar in nature and would be best fulfilled by one individual bringing consistency. Finding volunteers is always a challenge for CUGA. Also, in Canada, the pool of qualified referees with international experience is limited and practice has been to have one person undertake both. The modifications to the By-laws would formalize current practice. Nothing prevents the Chief Referee to inform its

decision and to fulfill its duties by seeking the views of other recognized Canadian or international referees; it would in fact be desirable.

**Discussion:** Darryl Brambilla made a suggestion that a referee committee may be able to provide assistance to Chief Referee in this regard in the future. Pierre Larose asked about whether rules director referred to rules of the game or whether it also included 'rules' having to do with CUGA policies in general. It was clarified that the rules director did refer to rules of the game in this context. Pierre commented that a person doing this role would be best to be a level 3 referee (i.e. top level)

**Motion carried** (0 opposed, 3 abstentions)

## 5. **Series of Motions: Changes to the Constitution and By-laws**

Submitted by: Sophie Gosse. Seconded by Alita Krickan.

### **Motion #5A: Changes to the Constitution – section “TERMS OF OFFICE”**

*Proposed Revision:*

The terms of office for each Executive and director position shall be two years, with the exception of the Chief Referee which is dependent on timing of CMAS Elite World Championships.

The President, Treasurer and other active sport directors will be elected in odd years.

The Vice President, Secretary and Underwater Hockey Director will be elected in even years.

The Chief Referee for each active sport will be appointed by the Executive who shall consider the ranking referees obtained through peer assessment at the most recent CMAS Elite World Championships.

**Motion carried** (2 opposed, 3 abstentions)

### **Motion #5B: Changes to the By-laws – section 3.02**

*Proposed Revision:*

The Directors shall consist of:

-a Director for each recognized Underwater Sport. The number of directors is determined by active participation of a recognized sport in Canada. A Directorship may be held by another executive member or may be a position on its own; and

- a Chief Referee for each recognized Underwater Sport.

The directors report to the executive.

**Motion carried** (all in favor)

### **Motion #5C: Changes to the By-laws – modifications to section 4.03, new section 4.04 and adjustment of numbering for the remaining of section 4**

*Proposed Revision:*

4.03 The Directors for each recognized underwater sport will be elected by the membership.

4.04 The Chief Referee for each recognized Underwater Sport will be appointed by the Executive. The Executive shall consider the ranking referees obtained through peer assessment at the most recent CMAS Elite World Championships.

**Discussion:** There was discussion about whether there was a rugby 'elite world championships'. A comment was made that there was a rugby world championship. It was also highlighted that the wording noted that this information should be 'considered' which leaves this option broad. It was also noted that rankings of referees at junior worlds are not considered 'official' and that there has been a decision made that it is the results of the Elite Worlds that count with respect to ranking of referees.

**Motion carried** (6 opposed, 5 abstentions)

#### **Motion #5D: Changes to the By-laws – section 5.02**

*Proposed Revision:*

The Chief Referee will start duties 28 days after the last day of the CMAS Elite World Championships and continue until 27 days after the following CMAS Elite World Championships.

*Rationale for the series:*

The sections of the Constitution and By-laws pertaining to the Chief Referee were drafted before there was a formal process to assess referees during Elite World Championships based on defined criteria. The intent is for the Executive to consider the ranking obtained by referees, but leave room for other considerations, including the possibility that there may be referees with comparable rankings or no Canadian referee attending the event. Not all sports have a peer-assessment process. The series of motions would de facto have the Executive turn its mind to appointing the Chief Referee after each Elite World Championships and inform membership accordingly.

Also, the current wording of the Constitution and By-laws implies that there is one Chief Referee for Canada, regardless of the number of active sports. With underwater rugby expanding across the country and having their own set of rules, each active sport should have its own Chief Referee to best serve members and fulfil responsibilities.

**Discussion:** A question was raised about when the current chief referee position will be elected given it is already 28 days past the prior Elite World Championships. It was decided that this would be a decision left up to the incoming executive. There was also a question raised about the process for replacing a chief referee should they step down before an end of their term. It was advised that the executive can appoint someone in an interim position as they do for other executive-director positions.

**Motion carried** (0 opposed, 8 abstentions)

## 6. **Changes to policies**

Submitted by: Bonny Chan and Marie-Renée Blanchet; Seconded by: Melanie Johnson

### **Representing Canada as the sole country**

*Proposed wording:*

Any player, selector, coach or steering committee member for Team Canada is prohibited from playing, selecting, coaching or being part of an underwater sport committee or organization (e.g. steering committee, association executive, etc.) for another country/federation during their term with Team Canada.

*Rationale:*

This rule is important to avoid any conflict of interest for our players, selectors, coaches or steering committee members. If passed, this motion will be added to the National Team Selection document.

**Discussion:** Comments were raised prior to the AGM about the proposed wording being restrictive. Alternate wording was discussed (see below) and this amended motion was voted on. Discussion was about whether this was restricted to World championships or whether it was also desirable to apply to other competitions e.g. Pacific Coast Championships in Hawaii that was very international. It was clarified that this motion only applied when the tournament is an official tournament of the Federation (e.g. CUGA registers the team as a national team) which would not apply to tournaments like PCCs. Discussion also included whether there would be a specific time frame around the World Championships when this policy would apply – for example, from when a team is selected through worlds. It was suggested that this may be something that could be discussed within a specific team.

Amended motion: Any player, selector, coach or steering committee member for Team Canada is prohibited from playing, selecting, coaching or being part of a National Team Program (i.e. Executive member, steering committee or selection committee) of another country or federation during their term with Team Canada at any one specific World Championships.

**Motion (as amended) carried** (1 opposed, 4 abstentions)

## 7. **Changes to policies**

Submitted by: Melanie Johnson. Seconded by Darryl Brambilla.

### **Changes to the fee structure for clubs with insurance**

*Proposed wording:*

CUGA fees – with insurance option

To modify the current fee structure of \$20 per person extra for all club members in clubs wishing to use CUGA insurance to the following:

Club size more than 40 - cost is \$800 flat rate

Club size 40 and under - cost is \$20 per person

*Rationale:*

For most clubs, annual insurance can be about \$1000 even if the club is small. For larger clubs (i.e. clubs with >100 members), paying \$20 per player would make use of CUGA insurance too costly for those clubs and unnecessary. The costs of CUGA insurance other than what is for the directors/executive liability insurance is about \$2600 for the year. To encourage larger clubs to sign on with the CUGA insurance (which can support 450 players and currently is used by about 140 players from 5 clubs: Vancouver, Victoria, Toronto Rugby, Quebec City, York), having a cap to the per player rate is appropriate.

**Motion carried** (0 opposed, 1 abstention)