



Wisconsin State Curling Association

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Wisconsin State Curling Association Members Meeting
Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 10:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting – Stevens Point/Zoom

Minutes

- 1) Call to Order – Terri called the meeting to order at 10:53 AM
- 2) Kampen called roll.
 - a) Officers: Present – Terri Gleason, Brian Kopp, Vietta Kampen, Greg Dunlop, Dan Lilla. Excused – Dan Wiza
 - b) Present: Alpine, Appleton, Blackhawk, Centerville, Eau Claire, Green Bay, La Crosse, Madison, Medford, Milwaukee, Portage, Poynette, Racine, Rhinelander, Stevens Point, Tri-City, Wausau, Wauwatosa
 - c) Absent: Arlington, Clintonville, Kettle Moraine, Loch Wissota, Lodi, Marshfield, Pardeeville, Rice Lake, Superior, Waupaca
 - d) Guests: Jim Wendling, Mark Swandby, Richard Maskel, Trent Schuster
- 3) Approval of WSCA Board of Directors Minutes: David Russell moved to approve the minutes, 2nd Todd Good. Motion passed.
- 4) Dean Gemmell – USA Curling Updates – Thanked the WSCA for their support in the past year. New membership model has been well received and generated more revenue than expected. Open to ideas of how to go forward. Will review things at the end of each season and make adjustments. Took questions. Revenue side he discussed the number of members (down slightly) and revenue that was generated. Generated more revenue than what was budgeted for. About 75% of the clubs are still collecting the Basic Dues as they have in the past. Need to increase the appeal of the premium and gold memberships. Most of the GNCC clubs have joined the At Large Region. GNCC is voting on rejoining in May. Discussed the makeup and history of USCA's Board of Directors and the role that the USOPC takes in the size of the boards of the NGBs of sports and the frustrations of working with the USOPC and their understanding of what curling is all about. Dean said that USCA needs to engage the standing committees (HR, Audit/Finance, Judicial, Ethics, Nominating/Governance) more as they have good ideas to help the organization. There are several working groups – Arena Club and Club Council meets once a month. There was a discussion of a junior playdown dates and conflicts with the Tietge and high school championship dates. Also discussed a set of standard procedures for the junior playdowns. Revenue sources – merchandize, sponsorship revenue. Currently, he is looking for a beer sponsor. Men's and Women's Nationals need to become a source of revenue.

Grants – need to be better at applying for them. Partnered with several other NGBs to promote the Coaching You Up vaccine education which was a source of revenue – curling outperformed the other NGBs. Media Guide – the office staff will be working on getting historical information on the website. Need somebody to organize all of the historical information that was found in the Stevens Point office. The WC's website is a great source and could be used as a template for the website. Discussed the WCs loan programs. Business of Curling – still on hold. Partnering with WC's ice tech education modules and programming – online portion and two days in person – first one in June. Content platform is up and is looking for more materials. Clubs can share information. Example – Denver has a spectator guide. Dar Curtis Grant has changed – infrastructure grants – clubs with immediate needs will probably get this year's funding. The Club Council has helped clubs a lot. Clubs who are not attending should try to find somebody that will attend the meetings that are held once a month. Suggestion was made to follow Shawn Olesen around while he is making ice so clubs who are hosting events will know what they will be doing and also to make an event checklist for doing ice. Most of the events for 2024-2025 are going to be finalized in the next few weeks and half of the hosts for 2025-2026 are planned. Members Assembly Aug. 9 – 11 at Chaska. Meeting is August 9th in the evening. Offering certification opportunities – coaching, ice tech. Also, Mixed Double trials are that weekend in Chaska. Changed the date so it wouldn't be when the clubs were busy and starting to make ice. Looking to add a Junior Mixed Doubles Championship as there is going to be a Worlds Mixed Doubles Championships. Dean would also like to do a High School National Championships. Working on hosting a World Championship, but there is too much risk for the club and other requirements and expectations. WC is still looking at going to a sixteen-team format for championships but it probably won't happen until after the next Olympics. Moving the headquarters – now in Eden Prairie in a small office plus warehouse space. Many are working remotely – staff is located all over the US. Moving all of the things from Wisconsin. Will be saving \$20,000 with these changes. A long-term goal is to have a National Curling Center to host many National events, Grand Slams, no longer relying on arena ice plus have a place to display the historical materials.

- 5) Treasurer's Report (Dunlop) – report was skipped over
- 6) President's Report (Gleason) – Terri thanked everybody for their support and people who have stepped up to support the WSCA. Recognized the Gifts and Grants as a way to give back to the clubs.
- 7) USCA Director's Report (Kopp) – Brian covered his topics during Dean's report
- 8) WC Report – included above.
- 9) Committee Reports
 - a) Rules (Maskel) – No report
 - b) Website (Hartman) – No report
 - c) Bylaws (Russell) – Nothing on Bylaws, but would like the Nominating Committee to inform the Directors of the slate of officers prior to the meeting. Dave will be handing his directors position over to Brian Bessert, but he is willing to stay on in a bylaws and historical role.
- 10) Competition
 - a) Juniors (Wendling) – See below – Jim modified the trophy to show the changes from U21 to just U18, plus additional qualifying teams. Also, discussed the Youth Olympic Games and the qualifiers. Discussed getting together a group of coaches and junior coordinators together to discuss promoting our events and setting up a FB page. Developmental programs are hurting the most. Discussed the U21 and U18 age cutoff dates. Looking for clubs to host mixed double bonspiels. Also, discussing mixed doubles for the high school state championships.
 - b) Mixed, Men's and Women's (Wiza) – Vietta read these reports into the records – see below
 - c) Seniors (Molter) – Vietta read these reports into the records – see below
 - d) High School (Wendling) – See below

- 11) WSCA Service Award – the 2024 award goes to Steven O’Connor who has curled 65+ years and has been involved at the Madison Curling Club, with WISCA and the Scot Tours.
- 12) Gifts and Grants – The Executive Committee brought forth the Racine Curling Club for the \$3,000 grant. Greg moved that the WSCA award the Racine Curling Club the \$3,000 grant. 2nd Doug Anderson. Motion passed. Previous awards went to Alpine and Rhinelander. Brian encouraged other clubs to apply for this grant.
- 13) Old Business
- 14) New Business:
 - a) Arena Playdowns – Procedures because La Crosse and Rhinelander will need to have a playdown this year. Brian will help develop those procedures with the two clubs and Dan Wiza, plus reach out to USA Curling.
- 15) Election of Officers – Terri presented the slate of officers: President – Brian Kopp, VP John Bazley, VP of Championships – Dan Wiza, Secretary – Miranda Hofmann, Treasurer – Greg Dunlop, past president – Terri Gleason. David Russell moved to close the nominations and the secretary instruct that the directors cast a unanimous ballot for the slate of officers, 2nd Dan Lilla. Motion passed. David Russell also moved to elect as an executive committee be the officers in addition to the past president. 2nd Doug Anderson. Motion passed. Now that Vietta has stepped down, the board has discussed going back to the progression of the officers...secretary becomes the VP and VP becomes the president going forward.
- 16) The board presented Vietta with a wood curling stone to honor her years as secretary. Brian presented Terri with her past president’s pin.
- 17) Set Fall Date and Location – October 12, 2024 in Madison
- 18) Adjourn

VP of Championship Report:

Kettle Moraine hosted the 2023/2024 Wisconsin Club playdowns. 13 men's teams and 4 women's teams competed for the Wisconsin state title and a spot at nationals in Fargo, ND. On the men's side, team Ryan Carlson of Wauwatosa won the state title and finished 2-3 at nationals. On the women's side team Sidney Schroeder of Madison won the state title and then at nationals went 4-1 in pool play and then stole the 8th end in the semifinals and again in the finals to win the national championship while playing 3-handed all week long.

Clintonville hosted the 2023/2024 Wisconsin Mixed playdowns. 5 teams competed with team Nina Spatola winning and going to nationals in Denver, CO where they went 2-3 in pool play.

Next season Medford is up next in the rotation to host club playdowns (tentative dates being Dec 12-15, 2024) and Marshfield is up next to host mixed playdowns (tentative dates being Feb 7-9, 2025). I will be contacting both clubs in the next few weeks to confirm. Milwaukee looked into hosting club playdowns this upcoming season but has elected to keep their spot in the rotation to host the 2025/2026 Wisconsin Club playdowns.

Dan Wiza

2023-24 Wisconsin Junior Curling Report (Spring Meeting: April 27, 2024)

It was a very successful year of curling for the Wisconsin Junior Curlers.
High School:

32 teams once again competed for the State Championships in Wausau on Feb 16-17. On the girls side, Poynette defeated Stevens Point in a re-match of last year to win the state championship. The team is composed of Teagan Thurston (skip, senior), Savannah Koch (3rd, senior), Madeline Serwe (2nd, sophomore), Peyton Voegli (lead, sophomore), and Adrya Riedasch (alternate).



On the boys' side, Wausau West defeated Poynette to win the state championship. The team consisted of Carson Kirsch (skip, senior), Ryan McCallum (3rd, junior), Micah Mathias (2nd, junior), and Hunter Britton (lead, junior).



On a side note, a letter from coaches was sent to the USCA in regards to scheduling of qualifiers for U21. The question is essentially if they can solidify their dates so that we don't have conflicts with the Tietge Bonspiel in January and the State Championships in February. We will be willing to move our dates as long as they can solidify a date that won't move the following year to conflict once again. They are having a meeting with hosts of qualifiers and developing a junior council to examine the issue. On the USA Competitive side of juniors, the transition to strictly a U18 format was successful. The U18 qualifier was held in Wausau on Dec 1-3. There were

3 girls teams and 5 boys teams that attempted to qualify for nationals. One Wisconsin team (Team Hebert) had already qualified via winning the previous year.

On the girls side, Team Wendling (from Wausau, Poynette, and Stevens Point) won. The team consisted of Ella Wendling (skip), Savannah Koch (3rd), Emily Rubenzer (2nd), and Adrianna Fisher (lead).

On the boys side, Team Lannoye (from Poynette, Portage, and Stevens Point) won. The team consisted of Matthew Lannoye (skip), Brody Weichmann (3rd), Ethan Macomber (2nd), and Joey Dobbs (lead).

Team Hebert from Eau Claire qualified via winning the previous year and consisted of Caden Hebert, Jackson Bestland, Benji Paral, and Jack Wendtland.

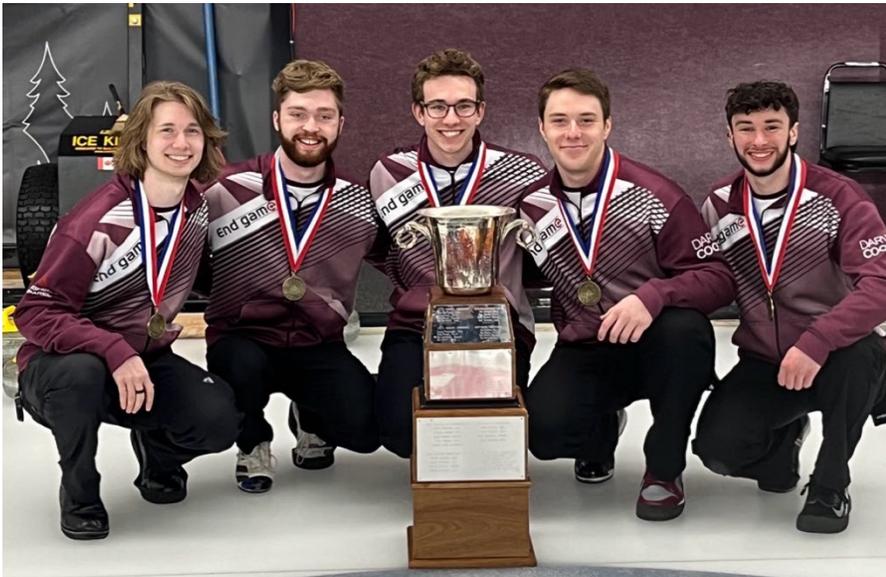
The teams performed really well with both Team Wendling and Team Lannoye both making the playoffs and finishing 4th at the event. Team Hebert defended their title and won the U18 championships once again.



The U21 championships were held in Eau Claire over the week of March 25-30. There were several Wisconsin teams/team members that qualified for the event through the 6 qualifying events and WCF

points. Team Hebert (Eau Claire) qualified via WCF points, Team Viau (Stevens Point) qualified via the Broomstones Qualifier, Team Lannoye (Poynette/Portage/Point) qualified via the Blaine qualifier, Team Wendling (included Wes Wendling from Wausau) qualified via Fargo, and Team Giroux (included Savannah Koch from Poynette) qualified via Eau Claire.

Wisconsin juniors performed well with both Team Giroux and Team Wendling winning U21s and will become Team USA for juniors. The women's team will go to Jr. World B's in Finland in December in an effort to qualify for the Jr Worlds. The boys via their 4th place finish last year will be going to Italy in February to compete at Worlds. Note that Team Wendling finished second at the World Jr B's last year. Team Hebert finished 2nd at Junior Nationals.



Wisconsin Junior curling also performed well at the Youth Olympic Games qualifiers. The mixed team included Teagan Thurston from Poynette. They won the qualifier in Denver. The mixed doubles team that won the qualifier in Bemidji included Ella Wendling from Wausau and Benji Paral from Eau Claire. Both of the teams traveled to Korea for the Youth Olympics in late January – early February for the event. The mixed team qualified for the playoffs but did not make the medal round. The mixed doubles team qualified for the playoffs and ended up winning the bronze medal. Ella was also honored with the opportunity to be the flag bearer for the closing ceremonies.



Wisconsin State Senior Men
Spring 2024 Report

The Wisconsin State Senior Men's bonspiel was held at Wausau Curling Club January 19-21, 2024. Forty teams competed. Special thanks to the organizer. Congratulations to all the participants and especially the winners.

1st event winners Masters division – O'Connor Rink (Madison)
1st event runners up Masters division – Geason Rink (Kettle Moraine)

1st event winners Seniors - Smith Rink (Rice Lake)
1st event runners up – Reich Rink (Lodi)

2nd event winners Seniors - Fraboni Rink (Green Bay)
2nd event runners up - Olson Rink (Blackhawk)

3rd event winners Seniors - Ebert Rink (Madison)
3rd event runners up - Jensen Rink (Rice Lake)

4th event winners Seniors - Hosler Rink (Centerville)
4th event runners up - Baldry Rink (Kettle Moraine)

The WI Senior Men's will be held next year at Stevens Point Curling Club on January 17-19, 2025. The following clubs have agreed to host the event for the next 5 years, though the last two still await official approval from those clubs.

2025	Stevens Point	January 17-19
2026	Poynette and Arlington	January 23-25
2027	Medford	January 22-24
2028	Madison (tentative)	January 21-23
2029	Rice Lake (tentative)	January 19-21

The Wisconsin Illinois Senior Curling Association (WISCA) had another successful season, with 24 teams from 11 clubs participating. Thanks to Steve O'Connor for organizing the league, and congratulations to the winner of the league championship, Madison 3 (second consecutive year).

27 Wisconsin teams also competed in the USSMCA Senior Nationals held at Curl Mesabi in Eveleth, Minnesota February 15-18, 2024.

Report submitted April 23, 2024
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