

## **CUC 2005 Juniors Meeting Minutes - August 13, 2005 (8pm-11pm)**

**present: Jay (Sherbrooke), Chap (Sherbrook), Will (Blitz), Teresa (DIRT), Geoff (an interested school coach from BC), Dave (Blitz), Iain (Blitz), Colin (MOFO, CUPA Jr. rep), Denise (Jailbait), Shiellah (CUPA exec), Reg (Vortex, Jr. coordinator)**

**Thank you everyone who was able to attend - I know there were some with conflicts :-)**

1) Juniors at a cross roads - how do we increase Regional participation and National participation?

\* 8 spots - good or bad?

\* impact of potential coaches who opt to play at Nationals, abandoning their juniors team or not organizing their team

The juniors tournament alternatives:

a) juniors in May at a different tournament than the other divisions

b) juniors in Summer at a different tournament than the other divisions

c) juniors start 2-3 days prior to the other divisions starting, with the finals held at a time when there are no other games in the other divisions being played (an extended lunch, for example on the Thursday that the CUC normally starts)

d) juniors could have two champions: single school and club.

e) juniors could split gender - why did UPA do this? etc.

f) status quo?

g) other

\* General consensus that removing limits to bids was desired - to increase teams and participation. BUT the primary reason for having bid limits is field space. We talked about moving Juniors to a few days earlier at the same CUC site to eliminate field space restrictions, with the finals and possibly semi finals overlapping the first day of the general CUC tournament at a time when there are no other games being held and teams can watch the juniors. Agreed reasons for this move would be possible increased participation from players who happen to be coaching and who prefer to play than coach at CUC. We felt these coaches would be able to do both and the juniors would benefit from this. However, there is a problem with the CUC2006 and WJC2006 overlapping that might impact what we do for CUC2006.

\* Briefly discussed moving the date out of the summer, but the feeling was that the experience of juniors being at the CUC was too valuable. Though it was recognized that there would be less legal issues if the juniors were moved to the school year. There was also the suggestions that maybe more players would be able to go if the tournament were held during the school year, and thus not on vacation. There was also the concern that tournament directors would be asked to run two tournaments in close proximity, and this could be unfair to ask of them.

\* D&E were not seriously commented on, except to say that we're not ready for this yet, but that split gender does seem to be something that some countries are doing. **Reg** - talk to UPA rep Kyle Weisbrod about this.

\* Agreed to consider three alternatives for CUC2006 1) keep dates as is 2) move dates just prior 2-3 days 3) move dates 9 days earlier to accommodate a training camp for those players then going to Worlds in Boston.

**Teresa** - look at the cost of having CUC2006 in Halifax, Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Winnipeg, then busing to Boston. Also see which areas would be interested in hosting CUC2006 juniors if we separated the location. This is not a for sure, just looking at alternatives with cost as a consideration. We don't know how many players won't be age eligible for Nationals anyway as members of the Canadian team (college/university players). **Reg** - let Atlantic Regional Coordinator know what is being considered and find out his feelings about this issue. Idea is to give him/Halifax first opportunity to still hold CUC2006 if we have it 9 days earlier or 2-3 days overlap.

Can you think of pros/cons for the above?

2) UPA Qualifying tournaments

a) UPA wants us to pay them fees to hold a Regionals/Provincials in our own Regions to qualify for the UPA Western and Eastern Championships. So what?

\* Discussed possible money grab by UPA to force us to do this. There is a \$5/\$10 one-time fee for a single tournament - Canadian players do not have to become full UPA members to play. The fact is, that if we want to play in the UPA, we have to hold our own regional split gender tournaments to participate in Western/Eastern UPA Jr. Nationals

3) Juniors recognition and visibility in schools

a) medals, trophies, banners at Nationals and Regionals, Provincials, any tournament.

b) do we want this?

c) how could it be done?

d) could it be done consistently among Regions?

\* Mixed feelings about providing trophies etc. for multiple teams - trophies are not always returned as it is. Who do we give trophies to for all-star/ multi-school teams? Feeling was it would be okay to have a plaque that lists past winners/places of teams for this kind of recognition, but this would stay in possession of CUPA.

4) What is being done to promote / facilitate juniors ultimate at the local level in your area?

\* We met Julien Chapdelaine (Sherbrooke) [ultimaction@yahoo.ca](mailto:ultimaction@yahoo.ca) who discussed what his adult team does to promote ultimate in schools - go to schools and gives demos, etc. These school visits created interest for the Sherbrooke all-star team Frisbee Fringants.

\* We talked about the UPA's effort to attract our juniors to the UPA (for a cost) who would then be supported by UPA resources for their development and

coaches development would come with this. We feel we are equally knowledgeable about ultimate, but the truth is that the UPA has created some excellent resources such as *Ultimate 101* cd. **Reg** - speak to Kyle Weisbrod about getting a copy of these resources so that we can see what they are offering and so that we can compare these resources to what we have in schools or available through CUPA connections.

5) The 2006 WJUC will be in Boston, MA next August 13-18.

- a) timeline for coach application / selection
- b) timeline for player application / selection
- c) who players / teams are allowed to go

\* With concern to not repeat what happened last Worlds with some players making the teams who really did not have the elite skill level necessary to earn a spot on these teams, we thought of some ways to have some Regional camps to help the coaches/adult stakeholders make more informed decisions (knowing that there could still be some mistakes made)

\* October/November was the time frame thought reasonable to hold these camps

\* picking 2/3 of each team at this time would enable unselected players to mature, and improve their skills and allow these players to begin early fund raising; the final third would be picked in January/February.

\* coaches would not necessarily have to be picked in September/October, but this would help enable these coaches to consider attending more than one Regionals to help assess talent.

\* Coaches need to be able to "cross list" and rank players from different cities, as one way to limit picking weaker players.

6) Increased use of the Juniors Forum and Juniors Website

- a) Region by Region highlights (photos and student write ups) for recent games
- b) a list of all Canadian Juniors leagues and teams, with local records
- c) something to draw the juniors players to

A juniors website that juniors would visit frequently would be a good thing.

Current websites are being under-used.

Purpose is to celebrate the juniors players, improve visibility, legitimacy

Talked about a site that could have game pics, team pics and game reviews by players from across the country.

We could list all known teams, provide links if any

The forum should be better used as well - use the same format as CUPA

**Reg** - speak to local contacts about finding a webmaster to set up the site. The forum will be dealt with second

7) Out of province players

a) ironically I might need to pickup some Winnipeg players to buttress my roster of female players because 4 dropped out even after committing to Nationals and some fundraising done etc etc. sob. sob. I actually am uncomfortable considering picking up out-of-province players, but at this late stage, how do I not punish the other players on the team? (I might yet be able to pick up some other BC girls). To me the spirit of a rule preventing this would be to prohibit top teams from stacking the odds in their favour and recruiting players from other regions to make an uber-

team. What does everyone think about this issue? I have been on both sides of it now - being beaten by teams that have picked up players (two different teams) and in a position where I will pick up out-of-province players. If I wasn't so time pressed to get a team together for Regionals, I might have had more time to be prepared. Regardless, it still comes down to lack of planning, I think.

b) this was discussed several years ago, but no decision was made.

This was not an issue at this time - the limit is 3 as per other divisions

8) MVP - SPIRIT GAME

\* decided that 2 guys and 2 girls from each team would play. Coaches could decide if they would choose or if their players would choose. Names to be drawn randomly - I later decided one girl and one boy from each team max on red or white would work (GAME WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!)

\* suggestion after the fact (not during meeting) - t-shirts provided for all players (Red or White) prior to the game - players can keep these as a memento.