

2008 Nationals- Development Symposium Women's Development

Some of us are content with our hockey lives just the way they are, and some of us wish there was more—more tournaments to choose from, more high level games, more instruction, more people at your club to show up to practice, more pools to play at and more people that don't look at you sideways when you say "underwater hockey." That's what development is striving to take on.

My task as Women's Development Director is to work specifically on a subset of the US hockey world. We ladies are usually quite outnumbered on the bottom of the pool and although we generally don't mind being part of "one of the guys", we do like to spend time with other hockey women. Women not only enjoy each other's company, but they often find that they really enjoy playing in an all-women's game as well; teamwork and skills dominate over brute force.

My first two tasks is to make communication between women more accessible and to foster our connections.

There is an women's email list in place that I encourage all US women to join (usauwhwomen@yahoo.com). All you have to do is send a quick email to usauwhwomen-subscribe@yahoo.com and you'll be placed on the list. I would like to ask all club leaders to encourage any new women players (or others that didn't know about us) to sign up as well.

Our email group is excellent forum to have discussions on:

- What tournaments are coming up?
- Which tournaments have women's games, and how do I sign up?
- Where can I stay when I'm in your town?
- Who do I talk to if I want to train for US Worlds Women's team?
- When is the next instructional clinic?
- How can I recruit more players to my club?
- How can I improve my shot (and other questions about skills)?
- ...and anything else you might need an ear for...

Another thing that I would like to do is to resurrect the newsletter. We had one going for a year and then our editor moved to Italy. This newsletter would have a compilation of upcoming events, a special profile spotlight of one of our women hockey players, skills info, and other fun stuff such as personal news (who's having a baby, who's got a new job, who got into a great college, what happened at the last camporama, or stories from past tournaments). If any of you are interested in contributing to the newsletter or being the editor, I'd love your help.

Once the communication grid is established, we can start building on development of other aspects of women's hockey, such as skills clinic, women's tournaments, recruitment ideas...

If there are any suggestions on how we can better or build the experience of underwater hockey for women, I'd be open to hearing your thoughts, this weekend, and any time. I'll be around the pool area all weekend and I'll spend some time at the Development table. If you don't catch me there, but sure to email me at hockeybrigit@comcast.net. The Development table will also have a signup list for those that want to join the women's hockey email list.

Brigit Grimm
US Women's Development Director