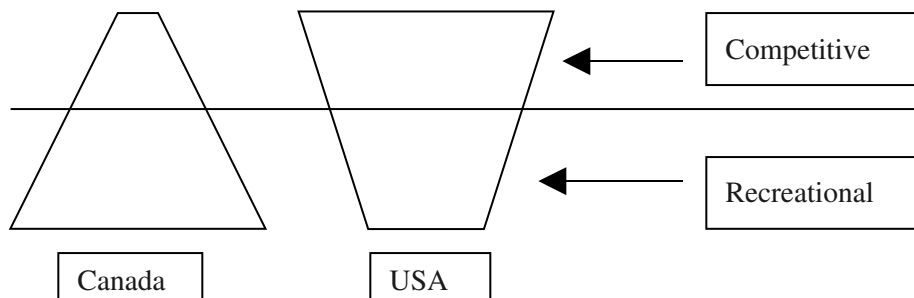


## UPA Conference 2009 Report

### **Difference in Sport Systems**

Canada & the US have extremely different models for Ultimate. In the US, there are a large number of college & club players that play at a competitive level with many small to medium sized volunteer run leagues. In contrast, Canada has fewer competitive players and teams, but many more large leagues.



This fundamental difference is illustrated by the distribution of paid staff in both countries. In Canada, leagues and PSOs have 13.5 full-time positions, while the US only has 3 full-time positions. In contrast when you examine the national level, the UPA has 8 full-time positions, while the CUPA only has 1 full-time position. As a result, the staff resources of each country are located in very different places. Most of the staff resources in Canada are at the local level, while most of the resources in the US are at the national level. This has shaped the development of the sport in both countries.

Another significant difference between the two countries is the sport system that each follows. In Canada, there are three levels of organization: league/club, provincial/territorial organizations and the national level. In contrast, the US only has two effective levels with league/clubs and the national level. One of the benefits of the Canadian sport system is that there is funding available for PSOs, TSOs & NSOs, which has given financial incentive to develop these bodies, helped in the development of a national sport system and helped develop the current relationship between CUPA, PSOs/TSOs and leagues. At the UPA conference, the UPA began the process of examining how affiliation between leagues and the UPA would work.

Despite these differences, both countries share a number of goals. Many of the services that US leagues want their national body to provide are shared by Canadian leagues which include items such as: sharing resources, standardization of programs, coaching & competitive opportunities for players. Both countries also want to see Ultimate and the Spirit of the Game continue to thrive.

## **Meeting with UPA regarding future relations**

The CUPA and the UPA had an official meeting at the UPA conference. The two organizations have not officially met in person to discuss working together for quite some time. In attendance at the meeting were: Danny Saunders (CUPA executive director), Jeff Malmgren (CUPA chairman), Sandie Hammersly (UPA executive director), Will Deaver (UPA championship director) and Peri Kurshan (UPA president). At the meeting the current status and future direction of both organizations was discussed.

### General Notes

- The UPA would like to have CUPA more involved on the international stage. Specifically the UPA would like to have some CUPA representation on the WFDF Ultimate community.
- The UPA will begin to charge a higher fee to non-US residents for UPA membership. This is based largely on the increased mailing costs for the UPA magazine, and it was suggested that Non-US members be allowed to opt out of receiving the print publication, and also that an e-version could be created
- The UPA and the CUPA agreed that we should work together and make resources that are developed available to each other through licensing agreements.
- The UPA supports the development of a Canadian observer program and will work with the CUPA to develop a licensing agreement.
- Generally, the UPA is looking to pull back services to just the US for a number of programs. The UPA club series and the UPA college series are two areas that have longstanding ties with Canada and there will not be any changes made to these areas in the next 2 years.
- There was some discussion around a new international championship event that would come after the UPA Clubs each year

### Key Dates

2009: UPA to stop sanctioning events outside of the US. There were no UPA sanctioned events held in Canada in 2008. This will effectively mean that: Canadian teams cannot participate in the UPA high school championships as they cannot host a UPA sanctioned provincial championship, UPA sectional championships & regional championships will only be held in the US and that UPA coaching clinics and observer clinics will not take place in Canada anymore.

There was some discussion around recognition of sanctioned events

There was some discussion around reduced UPA fees for CUPA members

2010: Only US teams can participate in the UPA Youth Club Championships.

2010: The UPA is looking at a different price for Canadian UPA members due to postage costs. We discussed the possibility of having Canadian members get memberships through CUPA as well as having the option not to have the magazine mailed out.

2011: The UPA will explore the desirability of having non-US teams participate in the UPA club championships and the UPA college championships. The UPA emphasized the word “explore” in this statement. Based on their “Ultimate Revolution” consultations most of the UPA membership is apathetic as to whether to make any changes regarding the participation of Canadian teams and indicated that the status quo is fine.

#### Considerations for the future

- Consider nomination of a CUPA Board member for membership on the WFDF Ultimate committee
- Examine the potential to invite the UPA and US leagues to the CLC
- Look into potential areas for joint-projects

#### **Conference Content**

Below is a summary of some highlights about the UPA conference’s content:

1. Several speakers from outside of Ultimate were brought in to discuss professional development skills such as persuasive presenting and leadership following the Spirit of the Game.
2. Many sessions for new administrators including: tournament directing for beginners and teaching introductory skills.
3. Several timeslots had sessions to choose from.
4. Organizational development sessions: financial management, non-profit status, sponsorship, volunteerism, spirit of the game, recruiting women, securing fields, starting youth leagues, green programs
5. Future affiliation between leagues and the UPA was discussed

There was a diversity of presentations and topics, but many of them were quite short on time. The overall feel of the conference was different from the CLC based on the number of participants and the amount of small group discussion time for participants.