

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of October 3, 2015
General Membership Meeting

- 844: The meeting of the membership of the Washington High School Boys Lacrosse Association was held on Saturday, October 3, 2015 at 10:00 AM at Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington.

Board President/North Rep: Peter White
Division I Rep: Brandon Fortier
Division II Rep: Greg Hill
East Rep: Henry Valentine
West Rep: Rob Hawley
Metro Rep: Kris Snider
Eastern Rep: Chris Leshner
At-Large: Ian O'Hearn
At-Large: Vern Smith
Board Executive Secretary: Kathi Lucchesi

General Membership Present:

Archbishop Murphy, Auburn Riverside, Bainbridge Island, Bellarmine Prep, Bellevue, Bellevue Christian, Bethel, Blanchet, Bonney Lake, Bothell, Burlington-Edison, Camas, Cascade, Central Valley, Columbia River, Curtis, Eastlake, Eastside Catholic, Emerald Ridge, Franklin, Friday Harbor, Garfield, Gig Harbor, Gonzaga Prep, Inglemoor, Issaquah, Jackson, Juanita, Kamiak, Klahowya, Lakeside, Lake Washington, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Lynden, Mead-Mt. Spokane, Meadowdale, Mercer Island, Monroe, Mt. Si, Nathan Hale, Newport, North Kitsap, O'Dea, Olympia, Overlake, Peninsula, Port Angeles, Redmond, Richland, Roosevelt, Sammamish-Interlake, Seattle Prep, Sehome-Bellingham, Selah, Skyline, Snohomish, Southridge, Stadium, Stanwood, Sumner, Tahoma, Union, Vashon, Wenatchee, White River, Woodinville

Absent:

Ballard, Providence, Seattle Academy, Shorecrest, South Kitsap, West Seattle

- 845: Peter opened the meeting and announced that attendance was taken as members checked in and reminded all to see Kathi for any contact updates.
- 846: Peter reminded the membership about the ground rules for speaking. Everyone can speak once on every topic. If someone wants to speak twice they must wait until everyone else has the opportunity to speak once.

- 847: The newest provisional members were welcomed to the league: Bellevue Christian, Cascade, Olympia and Sammamish-Interlake
- 848: Each of the 9 board members introduced themselves and reminded the general membership of the areas they represent. Members were encouraged to reach out to their respective board members with any questions or concerns they may have throughout the year.
- 849: Ian gave a status update on WIAA and lacrosse: Although there is no real update to give, it was pointed out that after more than a decade of working toward WIAA status, the WHSBLA continues to work toward that goal. Both WHSBLA and WIAA are nonprofit organizations governed by a board of directors. The WHSBLA is lacrosse specific whereas WIAA includes all but a few sports that are in the high schools. Ian urged members looking to bring lacrosse to their school to reach out to the many examples where it is an ASB varsity club sport in the school. Free field use was listed as one of the many possible benefits to being a school sponsored sport.
- 850: Ian reported that the 2016 season State Championships will be held on Saturday, May 28, 2016. They will again be held at Starfire Sports Complex in Tukwila. The Washington Chapter of US Lacrosse has been running the championships for the past 10 years and will again for this season while the WHSBLA is in the process of taking back the event over a 3 year transition period. The profits from the event are split with the Chapter however once the event is fully run by WHSBLA, all proceeds will benefit the league offering opportunities to better support its members.

This year will be a bigger event with youth games in the morning, clinics, and the All State games leading up to the State Championship games. We are asking everyone to push to get people out there.

- 851: Brandon introduced the vote on the proposed bylaws amendment. He reminded all that there had been quite a lot of positive energy last fall to restructure the championships. Many stated that they wanted to move toward a school size structure. He further explained that should the current structure change, where a team is in the conference and who they play does not change although it may be altered only slightly to maintain geographic scheduling and keep natural rivals.

Each member in good standing was given a ballot upon checking in to the meeting. The following vote was called for:

Vote for Option 1 or Option 2:

Option 1: Retain the current two classification/championship system (DI/DII)

Option 2: Change classification/championship system adding more levels/championship

The vote on the bylaw amendment regarding classification structure for post-season championships was announced. Because it is an amendment to the bylaws, 2/3 of the membership must vote for Option 2 for it to pass. The vote failed by a slim margin. Classification/championship system will stay DI/DII.

852: Other bylaw amendments were on the agenda and had been emailed out to the membership to review prior to the meeting. Brandon displayed these proposed changes on the overhead projector and went over each. The highlighted proposed amendments are attached.

Three separate votes were taken by show of hands:

- 1) Yellow highlighted – includes minor edits and clarifying language, clarifying the appeal process and shortening days' notice. All were in favor of this change. None were opposed. Amendment passed.
- 2) Blue highlighted – includes clarifying language in regards to structure of classifications for championship purposes. All were in favor of this change. None were opposed. Amendment passed.
- 3) Green highlighted – edits to the structure of the board and the addition of a Southern Rep. Specifically, the board will consist of 6 Regional Representatives and 3 At-Large Representatives. By show of hands all with the exception of one were in favor. One was opposed. Amendment passed.

853: Henry announced that the 2015-16 budget information is available from Kathi after the meeting.

854: Membership fees are due at or before the January 30, 2016 Coaches Meeting. Invoices will be sent out January 1.

855: The initial game fees payment will be due March 1, 2016. Members are encouraged to bring this payment to the January 30th Coaches Meeting or mail them to Kathi prior. A game fees invoice will be sent out January 1.

856: The following season scheduling items were presented by Brandon:

Schedules – Your regional rep will contact you regarding blackout dates and other information to assist with scheduling. Please start gathering blackout dates. Schedules will again be built by conference representatives.

Declaring sub-varsity teams – if you declare a JV or C team, make sure you have the numbers to support them. If a schedule is built for a declared team and they have to pull out, the membership fees will still be assessed to the program. If a program is unsure in any way that there will be a sub-varsity team, it is better to say 'No'. If the JV or C team is added later, Brandon will help to build a schedule

Maximum number of games - Members were reminded of the game limits: Each team can play a maximum of 20 games plus 1 jamboree. A jamboree is 3 shortened (40 minutes running time) games per day. If attending a two-day jamboree, the first day counts as the jamboree and the second day counts as 1 game toward the total of 20. Anything that is a contest with an opponent counts toward the game count.

All were reminded that players must have 10 practices in prior to any on field contest with an opponent. The question was asked as to whether or not 'two-a-day' practices were allowed. You may have two practices in a day but it only counts as one practice toward the 10 needed.

Other games scheduled – Brandon reminded members that games may only be scheduled against teams that are sanctioned by their state leagues.

Boundaries/Expansion - Members were reminded that they must make sure that all players on their roster are already tied to their program by the WHSBLA boundary document. It was explained where to find the boundary document on the WHSBLA website. If a player seeks to play with a program and is from a school not included in the boundary document, the program must notify the WHSBLA board to determine correct placement.

A member asked about what to do if a player transfers into your program. Brandon explained that there is a new form on the WHSBLA website – the Transfer Review Form – that needs to be submitted to the board for review. He noted that if the player physically relocated from out of state or transferred prior to the start of high school (prior to freshman year) then no review is needed. If transferred due to physical relocation in state then review must be filed but they will most likely be ruled fully eligible if due to physical relocation of family residence. It was noted that WHSBLA follows the WIAA ruling on this.

857: The 2016 Season dates were announced:

Dead Period – August 1, 2015 thru Feb. 29, 2016 (first day of practice)

- MANDATORY Coaches Meeting – January 30, 2016. This meeting was moved from the first weekend of February due to that being Super Bowl weekend.
- No coach may have any lacrosse coaching contact with his players, including incoming freshmen, during the Dead Period. For details, see Handbook Sec.8.2.0
- First day of practice: Monday, February 29, 2016
- Championship Day: Saturday, May 28, 2016

858: Ian announced that immediately following the January 30th Coaches Meeting, there will be a Coaches Convention and encouraged all to attend. Clinics and nationally recognized speakers will be part of the convention.

859: Rob introduced the new certification that is required of all coaches in regards to sudden cardiac awareness (SCA). All coaches must pass the NFHS courses on Concussion and SCA. It was noted that this is also a WIAA requirement for all high school coaches and that it only needs to be taken once per year. The courses are free and can be found on the NFHS website. When a coach has completed the course, they are to print out their certificate as the verification is needed for the program compliance file submitted to the league.

860: Members were reminded that all head coaches must complete the online Level 1 course through US Lacrosse.

861: Kris introduced himself and Ian as members of the US Lacrosse Washington Chapter board. There are many initiatives and events going on with the chapter including Level I & Level II clinics, the Coaches Convention and more. Activities can be found on the USL website.

In the summer of 2016, the U19 Championships will again be held in British Columbia. As part of this, there will be a local training camp and exhibition game in early July.

Last year's Seatown Classic was a big success and had nearly 5,000 spectators in attendance at Starfire Sports. There will not be a Seatown Classic this year but it will return again in the fall of 2016.

862: Brandon reminded each program to go to their team page on the WHSBLA website and double check that all information is correct. Additions and changes need to be emailed to him.

863: Brandon shared the following league compliance reminders:

Coaches Packet: This must be turned in at the January 30th Coaches Meeting. The signed declaration states that your program agrees to have all requirements in place.

Compliance File submission deadline: Brandon reported that last year's submission of compliance files was not good and needs to be cleaned up. Many programs submitted incomplete files and others sent files patched together in several emails making the task of documenting extremely difficult.

All programs must have the complete file turned in by the deadline before they are allowed to take the field. The only exception to submitting a completed file is if a coach is hired after the deadline or late enough that all paperwork cannot be completed in time. All were reminded to start the process early and to ask questions. There is plenty of time to get all of it completed if not waiting until the last weeks to start. The file will be explained in detail at the Coaches Meeting and a program example will be given to make it simple to follow.

Ejections reporting: It was reported that the league as a whole did not do a very good job of reporting ejections last season. When the referees report an ejection, it puts the board in a bad position if this is the first they have heard of it. Brandon explained that the rules state any ejection must be reported within 24 hours of the occurrence. If a coach fails to report within 24 hours, they will be suspended from their next game.

Conglomerate Programs: The board had heard rumors and the mention of conglomerate programs that were cutting players or closing registration early so as to cut player numbers. Brandon cautioned all conglomerate programs that if this happens, the program will certainly be placed on the clock to split for the following season. If there are enough players that cuts have to be made, a split is warranted.

864: Brandon, stepping in for Jim Franklin, from WALOA, reported on the NFHS rule changes for the 2016 season. For specific rule changes, go to the US Lacrosse website and then click on the NFHS Rule Changes link. Brandon gave a summary of three changes:

- 1) Stick heads will be changing but not for the current season as the changes will be phased in. The use of pull strings is illegal for 2016.
- 2) There are changes to procedures and rules surrounding the face-off. Take special note of part N) stating that the stick must have 6" of

contrasting colored tape from starting just below the head – but not touching the head.

3) The 'over and back' rule (similar to basketball) will be in effect

A representative from WALOA will be at the January 30th Mandatory Coaches Meeting to explain all rule changes more thoroughly.

865: There was time in the meeting for a Question and Answer period.

Question: There was a concern that when voting for post-season awards, coaches are only allowed to vote within their division/conference. Brandon noted that he had spoken to Chris Bergin (with the USL WA Chapter) about this and the process will be looked at and possibly changed to a better selection process.

Question: How do you determine when a team will move from DI to DII? Parents are asking questions and programs are seeking guidelines used that they can share. It was noted that every year the board has to evaluate programs on a number of different criteria such as record and number of schools a program draws from but there are no set parameters. If programs have questions about this process, they are encouraged to talk to their regional representative.

Question: How do we choose which teams a program will play? Members were directed to look at the regional conferences.

Question: Is there a possibility that the league could start recording the occurrences of concussions as this is a continued concern? Kris mentioned that US Lacrosse has some regional studies in the works and that there is a good working relationship with Seattle Children's Hospital. They would be a good resource. It was noted that this would be added to the agenda for the board to look into.

Question: Is there a list of schools that have lacrosse as a club or school varsity sport to help when approaching local school board? There is not such a list but members were encouraged to ask their regional rep for help in getting that information. It was suggested that it would be helpful to gather large numbers of parents to attend a school board meeting to further press the issue.

Peter asked that members forward any comments or questions to the board via email. The board is there to help guide and answer questions as well as are looking for feedback and input from the membership.

866: Board elections were announced with the following positions and nominees on the ballots and it was noted that there is space on each ballot for write-in nominations:

Division I Representative: Brandon Fortier

Division II Representative: Greg Hill

At-Large Representative: Ian O'Hearn

At-Large Representative: Vern Smith

867: The Board Election results were announced:

Division I Representative: Brandon Fortier

Division II Representative: Greg Hill

At-Large Representative: Ian O'Hearn

At-Large Representative: Vern Smith

868: Reminder: Mandatory Coaches meeting – January 30, 2016 at Seattle Pacific University. Items due at the meeting – Membership fees and Coaches Packet. Start gathering info and items now.

869: The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 AM.

Kathi Lucchesi, Executive Secretary