

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of October 4, 2014
General Membership Meeting

- 791: The meeting of the membership of the Washington High School Boys Lacrosse Association was held on Saturday, October 4, 2014 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
At-Large: Ian O'Hearn
Board Executive Secretary: Kathi Lucchesi

General Membership Present:

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

Absent:

Franklin, Gonzaga Prep, Kennedy, Shorecrest

- 792: Roll Call was taken for those unable to check in prior to the meeting and Peter welcomed the eight new programs to the league: Archbishop Murphy, Bethel, Bonney Lake, Garfield, Inglemoor, Juanita, Sumner, White River. Friday Harbor was also welcomed back. With the addition of 8 provisional teams, there are now 70 programs in the league.
- 793: Each of the 7 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.

794: Kathi announced that a copy of the current contact list is posted at the check in desk and to please provide updated information. It was requested that each program double check for accuracy, listing the head coach and one other person in charge of the program.

795: 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.

796: Peter introduced the vote on the proposed bylaws amendment. Each member in good standing was given a ballot upon checking in to the meeting. The following are the specific proposed changes to the WHSBLA Bylaws. The changes are to Paragraph G of Article IV – Association Governance. Changes are shown in bold:

Article IV – Association Governance, Paragraph G:

G. The Board of Directors shall consist of an odd number of positions:

1. One or two At-Large Representatives elected to a two year term by a majority of the General Membership.

a) The number of At-Large Board members shall be either one or two to always ensure an odd number of Board members should the number of Board members grow in the future.

2. Two Division Representatives, one elected by each of the two high school divisions:

a) Division I teams

b) Division II teams

c) Future Division Reps are anticipated as the Association grows.

3. **Five** Regional Representatives, one from each of **five** geographical regions of high school lacrosse:

a) Westside teams

b) Seattle Metro teams

c) Eastside teams

d) Northside teams

e) Eastern Region teams

f) Future Regional Reps are anticipated as the Association grows.

797: The vote on the Bylaws amendment was announced. With a vote of 43 in favor and 3 opposed, the amendment passed.

798: 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.

- 799: Brandon announced that the 2014-15 budget information is available from Kathi after the meeting.
- 800: It was announced that with additional costs associated with obtaining control of the Arbiter administration, fees will likely be increased this year.
- 801: Membership fees are due at or before the February 7, 2015 Coaches meeting. Membership fees for Varsity and JV teams will be announced and invoices will be emailed out to each program.
- 802: The initial game fees payment will be due March 1, 2015. Members are encouraged to bring this payment to the February 7th Coaches Meeting or mail them to Kathi prior.
- 803: Members were reminded that uniforms must meet NFHS compliance. To ensure that uniforms are compliant, the specific information is available on the NFHS website.
- 804: Members were told to get petitions (player transfers, etc.) in early (by December) if they know of them. If there is need for an appeal to the membership following a ruling, experience shows that gathering the necessary numbers of members to hear the appeal is very difficult. Chances are greater if it can be done in conjunction with the February meeting. This also gives the board adequate time to evaluate any petitions prior to the season start.
- 805: Brandon asked members to look for an email from him in the next two weeks asking for a vote on conference preference and reply to that immediately. He also announced plans to have the schedule out by December 1st and asked everyone to look for a second email from him asking for blackout dates and other scheduling information. The deadline to return this information is November 15 to be considered in the scheduling.
- 806: Members were reminded that if they have a JV or C team, to make sure they 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.
- 807: 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

must be reported – including scrimmages. The only contest not needing to be reported is if it is kept within the program (i.e. Varsity vs. JV, etc.).

- 808: Brandon reminded members that games may only be scheduled against teams that are sanctioned by their state leagues. The following verbiage was added to the League Handbook (Section 7.3.0):

“During the WHSBLA season only contests scheduled against WHSBLA sanctioned teams or teams sanctioned by their state’s lacrosse sanctioning body are permissible.”

- 809: 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 question was asked about determining where home-schooled players shall play. Such players will play for their resident public school program.

- 810: The 2015 Season dates were announced:

Dead Period – August 1, 2014 thru March 1, 2015

- 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, March 2, 2015
- Championship Day: Saturday, May 30, 2015

- 811: Henry announced that WHSBLA will continue with the Referee Pool policy for 2015. It is designed to help increase the referee pool within the state. Each program is required to supply one new qualified referee to work high school games. If a program does not submit a referee, they will be assessed a fee equaling to one varsity game fee. The money collected will be used to help offset the cost of getting referees to work the outlying areas. To be qualified, the new referee must register with WALOA as being with that program and work a minimum of 5 games.

- 812: The following reminders were given to members:

- A Sideline Manager is required at each home game and said person needs to be in place and identified prior to the start of the game. If possible, introduce them to the referee.

- Lystedt Law Concussion Documentation is still required of every player on the team. The hard copy of the signed form should be kept in the binder and with the team.
- The Referee Evaluation form on the website is used to provide feedback after games. Please do not contact referees or WALOA directly but rather use the form and the information will be shared.
- All forms are to be kept in the team binder

813: Kris gave an update on USL Washington Chapter activities:

- The Seatown Classic will be held on Saturday, October 18th, at Starfire Sports in Tukwila. It will feature the US National Team vs Notre Dame with coaches and youth clinics held prior. Registration for clinics as well as to purchase tickets is found online at seatownclassic.org. Brooke Hartley is in charge of volunteers and asking all to spread the word.
- There will likely be another Coaches Convention in January of 2015. Look for information about this via email in the near future.

814: In preparation for discussions regarding the conglomerate program assessment and the league division structure, Brandon gave background explanation as to why such discussions are necessary. As lacrosse is not yet a WIAA sport, the board uses best judgment in setting up the league structure. Although decisions are made after thorough discussion and investigation, it is understood that not every member will be happy with every decision. It was asked whether the league should continue with the board using discretion to make informed decisions or take the board out of it some by making policies that are hard and fast rules regarding program size (CP Assessment) and division structure and placement. These are the two areas that come up for review with much discussion each year.

815: Rob presented the Conglomerate Program Assessment (CPA) on the overhead screen, explaining that this was introduced last season as a tool to guide and use for planning. As no two programs are the same, a lot of discussion and research goes in to each decision allowing the board room to do what is best for the league.

Much discussion followed and members were given opportunity to express their opinion about the CPA. It was noted that the tool not only helps the board in making informed decisions but is also a good tool for programs in planning for the future.

The Water Polo model was presented as an example of what the league could do in regards to working with conglomerate programs. The Water

Polo league allows programs to operate with several schools under one team however only single school teams are eligible for playoffs. A straw poll was taken to determine whether or not the board should look further into such a model. By vote of hands, it was determined that this is not a model the membership is interested in.

- 816: Brandon opened discussion about the league division structure by presenting some pros and cons of two options: 1) The current DI and DII structure which allows for flexibility but also requires that decisions be made each year regarding the status of a team, and; 2) A structure utilizing WIAA classifications of 4A, 3A, 2A and 1A which provides for a clearer and more direct team placement based on size of school.

Both models were presented on the overhead screen as a starting point for discussion with a note of warning that the structures presented are for discussion only. Much discussion followed and it was determined that the league is still in a position to have elected board members use best judgment with input from members when making league structure decisions and continue with the current DI/DII model.

- 817: Brandon announced that in preparation of scheduling, an email will go out in the next few days giving options for scheduling and asking for all to respond. There will be 2 or 3 options to vote for depending on the conference.

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

Question: Where are we at with WIAA Sanctioning? Tim Thomsen, Sumner School District AD, answered that the last vote was two years ago. It seems that the biggest hurdle is that some schools think they must offer the sport if it becomes a WIAA sport and that brings concern.

Question: Can we hold clinics for our players during the out-of-season time? A high school coach cannot but clinics can be held using a youth coach or other that is not affiliated with the high school team.

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.

- 819: 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:

Westside Representative: Rob Hawley and Julius Ifurung
Northern Representative: Peter White
Metro Representative: Kris Snider
Eastside Representative: Henry Valentine
Eastern Region Representative: Chris O'Dougherty
At-Large Representative: Vern Smith

820: The Board Election results were announced:

Westside Representative: Rob Hawley
Northern Representative: Peter White
Metro Representative: Kris Snider
Eastside Representative: Henry Valentine
Eastern Region Representative: Chris Leshner (write-in)
At-Large Representative: Vern Smith

821: Reminder: Mandatory Coaches meeting – February 7, 2015 at Seattle Pacific University

822: The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Kathi Lucchesi, Executive Secretary