

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of October 5, 2013
General Membership Meeting

- 733: The meeting of the membership of the Washington High School Boys Lacrosse Association was held on Saturday, October 5, 2013 at 10:00 AM at Bertona Hall, 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

Division I – Auburn Riverside, Bainbridge Island, Bellarmine Prep, Bellevue, Bothell-Inglemoor, Curtis, Eastlake, Eastside Catholic, Emerald Ridge, Issaquah, Kamiak, King's Way, Lakeside, Lake Washington, Mercer Island, Sammamish-Newport, Skyline, Snohomish, Tahoma, Woodinville

Division II – Ballard, Blanchet, Burlington-Edison, Camas, Everett, Franklin, Friday Harbor, Gonzaga Prep, Kennedy Catholic, Klahowya, Lewis & Clark, Liberty, Lynden, Mead-Mt. Spokane, Meadowdale, Monroe, Mt Si, Nathan Hale, O'Dea, Overlake, Peninsula, Port Angeles, Providence, Redmond, Richland, Roosevelt, Seattle Academy, Sehome-Bellingham, Shorecrest, Southridge, South Kitsap, Stadium, Union, University, Vashon, Wenatchee

Absent: Highline, North Kitsap, Seattle Prep, Selah, Stanwood

- 734: Roll Call was taken and Peter welcomed the three new programs to the league: O'Dea, Seattle Academy (SAAS) and Southridge. With the addition of 3 provisional teams, there are now 60 programs in the league.
- 735: Peter introduced each of the 7 board members and reminded the general membership of the areas each represents. Members were encouraged to reach out to their respective board members with any questions or concerns they may have throughout the year.
- 736: Kathi announced that a copy of the current contact list is circulating 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.

- 737: 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.
- 738: The meeting agenda was modified to hold the board elections at the start of the meeting.
- 739: 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
- 740: The Board Election results were announced:
- Division I Representative: Brandon Fortier
Division II Representative: Greg Hill
At-Large Representative: Ian O'Hearn
- 741: 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. A point of emphasis was made to include the field dimensions information for home game fields.
- 742: Kathi announced that the 2013-14 budget looks to be about the same as last year and membership and game fees should remain consistent.
- 743: Membership fees are due at the February 1, 2014 Coaches meeting. Membership fees are \$275 per Varsity team and \$175 per JV team. Invoices will be emailed out to each program.
- 744: The initial game fees payment will be due March 1, 2014. Members are encouraged to bring this payment to the February 1st Coaches Meeting or mail them to Kathi prior. Kathi announced that if any programs have difficulty with meeting the payment deadlines due to school or program constraints to please contact her to work out a payment plan.
- 745: Henry reminded members that uniforms must meet NFHS compliance. He stated that all programs had been given a grace period of two years

- from when the rule went in to effect to become compliant. With the number of illegal uniforms still used last season, it was announced that penalties will be stricter for 2014 – beyond just losing the opening face-off. The two biggest issues last season were the numbers not being of a contrasting color (so as not clearly visible) and the shoulder artwork not being of just a single color. Examples were given. A reminder was also given that in Division I, all helmets are to be the same color.
- 746: 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.
- 747: Brandon announced plans to have the schedule out by December 1st and asked everyone to look for an 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.
- 748: 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.
- 749: 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.).
- 750: No contest of any kind against an opponent is allowed until after players have had 10 practices.
- 751: 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. 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.
- 752: 2014 Season
Dead Period – August 1, 2013 thru March 2, 2014
- i. No coach may have any lacrosse coaching contact with his players, including incoming freshmen, during the Dead Period

- ii. For details, see Handbook Sec.8.2.0
- iii. First day of practice: Monday, March 3, 2014
- iv. Championship Day: Saturday, May 31, 2014 (Note that this is not Memorial Day weekend)

753: Henry announced the new Referee Pool policy for 2014. 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.

754: The new WHSBLA policy for coaching standards was announced. Each head coach must be Level 1 certified with US Lacrosse. Coaches with 10 years or more experience coaching in the league are exempt. It was explained that this policy will make it easier to track certification as coaches can simply print out their completion certificate or a screenshot of their membership from the US Lacrosse online system.

755: Brandon explained that a national scope background check is required and that programs can do this through US Lacrosse and print out the results for the binder.

756: Henry gave the following season reminders:

- a. A designated Sideline Manager is required for each home team. It was noted that the league failed as a whole last season in meeting this requirement. All were reminded that this person is NOT part of the table staff but is someone that can be called on to go deal with an issue in the stands.
- b. Lystedt documentation is required of all players and must be kept in the binder. Brandon demonstrated where to find on the WHSBLA website an explanation of the law and a sample document that can be used.
- c. Members were reminded to use the online Officials Evaluation form found on the WHSBLA website after each game. This tool gives everyone a voice and is helpful in relaying both positive and negative information to WALOA. The form is to be used for all levels of games.

757: Brandon explained the need to expand the board to represent all programs as the league grows throughout the state. Board expansion

would include two new board positions (one Regional Representative and one At-Large Representative) to maintain an odd number of board members. Notice will be sent to all members announcing the proposed change to the bylaws prior to the February 1st Coaches Meeting. The proposed bylaws change will be voted on at the meeting and if successful, nominations will be sought to be voted in at the October 2014 Membership Meeting.

- 758: Rob explained the WHSBLA philosophy with history and new policy document regarding conglomerate programs. The document was presented on the overhead screen for review. Rob noted that this policy gives control to the individual programs allowing them to determine how a split will occur rather than a potential 'forced split'.

The timeline for conglomerate programs deemed at or near having met the criteria for a split was pointed out and questions were addressed. The document can be found on the WHSBLA website under the League Info tab.

- 759: Division I/II Reassignment and Conference Realignment was next on the agenda and Brandon took time to explain how this has historically worked in the past including the last big shift to realign and rebalance the conferences took place in 2010. Staying the same would create a strong imbalance (20 DI and 40 DII programs) and so feedback from membership was sought via a prior survey sent to all members. The board came up with two models to present to the membership and Brandon explained that the goal today was to walk through each, explaining them and finishing with a straw poll so the board could go back and make an informed decision.

- 760: Both models (A & B) were put up on the overhead for all to see and Brandon explained the specifics of each. Model A is most similar to the current conference alignment. Model B is a geographic model aligning conferences as a whole throughout both divisions similar to some WIAA conferences (i.a. KingCo 3A/2A football). Several questions were asked and there was discussion regarding the specifics of Model B.

- 761: A straw poll of the membership was taken to determine preference for the league alignment models presented. Poll results:

Model A: 1

Model B: 46

Undecided: 8

- 762: Keith Macfie, WALOA referee and trainer, went over the new NFHS rules and points of emphasis for the 2014 season. Following is a summary of

what was presented. For full rule clarifications, see the 2014 NFHS rule book.

- a. No sideline substitution horn. Subbing will only be on the fly.
- b. Penalty stacking – there are to be no more than 3 players from a team in the box serving a penalty at the same time. If there are more than 3 penalties at a time, the 4th will wait to serve time until after 1 is released. That 4th penalty player must leave the field but a substitute will take his place on field until after penalty time is served.
- c. Offsides is redefined as having more than 6 players in the offensive end or more than 7 in the defensive end.
- d. Electronic devices can be used in the table and bench area only but not allowed on the field.
- e. Only a single swipe of eye black is allowed.
- f. Bench authority – jurisdiction of officials is extended to after the game while officials are still on premises.
- g. Restart balls are required coming up the sidelines as well as on the end lines and on the table.
- h. Penalties to be assessed when checks are made on “defenseless players”. Much discussion followed and it was announced that referees will be trained to use best judgment.
- i. The substitution box will be extended 5 yards in each direction.
- j. Face-off sticks may not have tape extending from the head to the shaft. An illegal procedure will be called. The stick can be fixed and may come back in to play.
- k. All game balls must be marked with the NOCSAE seal.
- l. A team is no longer allowed to bring up a player from the offensive or defensive end when man-down. If a team has 3 players in the box, they are allowed to bring a defensive player only up for face-off.

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

Question: Do new teams moving up to Division I have to conform to the rule that they must have same color helmets and gloves? Yes.

Question: Is there help from the league for the eastern teams in regards to issues of bad officiating? Peter asked that they send an email with bullet points of concern so that feedback can be forwarded to WALOA.

Question: Can I coach against players from my team in a fall ball league? It is not a good idea as the potential to coach your players during the game is too easy. In addition, the perception may be that you are coaching your players and that is what will be reported to the board.

764: Mandatory Coaches meeting – February 1, 2014 at Bertona Hall, Seattle Pacific University.

765: The meeting was adjourned at 12:26 PM.

Kathi Lucchesi, Executive Secretary