

## WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of October 1, 2016  
General Membership Meeting

897: The meeting of the General Membership of the Washington High School Boys Lacrosse Association was held on Saturday, October 1, 2016, at 10:00 AM at Otto Miller Hall, SPU, Seattle, Washington.

Board President/At-Large 1 Rep: Vern Smith  
Region 1 Rep (Wesco-Northwest): Greg Hill  
Region 2 Rep (KingCo): Brando Fortier (absent)  
Region 3 Rep (Seattle-Metro): Kris Snider  
Region 4 Rep (Narrows-Olympic): Rob Hawley  
Region 5 Rep (SPSL to Greater Vancouver): Rod Amell  
Region 6 Rep (Eastern-Spokane): Chris Leshner  
At-Large 2: Ian O'Hearn  
At-Large 3: Henry Valentine  
Board Executive Secretary: Kathi Lucchesi

2017 Season Membership Programs present:

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

Absent: Port Angeles; Southridge; Vashon; West Seattle

898: The meeting was called to order by board president, Vern Smith. He welcomed all 82 programs and reminded coaches to check in with Kathi if arriving late to the meeting to assure attendance is recorded.

899: Vern 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.

- 900: The WHSBLA Board of Directors was introduced. Chris Leshner was thanked for his service to the board as he is stepping down as the Region 6 Representative and not seeking re-election. It was also announced that Kathi Lucchesi is resigning from the position of Executive Secretary. Vern announced that the board is looking for someone to replace her and members were asked to let Kathi know if there is someone interested in the position.
- 901: Vern gave an update on the status of WIAA sanctioning and future endeavors. A proposal was put together to present to WIAA seeking to sanction boys lacrosse for the 2018 season and girls lacrosse for the 2019 season. During the process, it was made known that the girls league does not support WIAA sanctioning. Without girls' lacrosse, it is unlikely that sanctioning will happen in the near future. Vern announced that without a focus on WIAA sanctioning, the league would keep the state championships and can use the money raised to reinvest in boys high school lacrosse specifically.
- 902: Three years ago, the board approved to transition the state championships from being run by the USL Washington Chapter to WHSBLA running the event. The 2017 championships will be the first year that WHSBLA will have full control of the event. It takes many volunteers to run the all-day event and the board is seeking three members to be on a committee to assist Co-Chairs, Ian O'Hearn and Rob Hawley. Please contact them if interested.
- 903: Kris Snider was introduced to give an update on the US Lacrosse Washington Chapter events. The Seatown Classic is coming up on October 8<sup>th</sup>. This is the first time they will be featuring both a men's and women's collegiate game on the same day. It is an important event for the state as it provides good exposure to the sport. Tickets are on sale today and online prior to the event. There will be youth clinics run by the players and coaches of Army and Michigan (boys) and Army and Cal (girls). Please get the word out to your players and families. In order to continue with events such as this in the future, it is important that there is a strong showing in the stands.
- 904: Kris announced the passing of Chapter board member, Chris Hall, who lost his battle with cancer. He was a hard working board member, volunteer and champion of growing the game of lacrosse. A moment of silence was observed in his honor. Chris' wife, Dani, was in attendance representing new program, Orting. It was Chris' dream to start a high school program at Orting. Members of the Orting community are working

hard to make that dream a reality. Chris was also in charge of coaches' education at the Chapter and they are now in the process of finding a replacement and setting up the coaching clinics for the area.

- 905: The national US Lacrosse convention is January 20-22, 2017. Kris announced that US Lacrosse has opened its new headquarters building and noted that 100% of the \$15 million needed to build the headquarters came from private donations (not from membership fees).
- 906: Chris Bergen was introduced. He announced that he is stepping down from coordinating the USL high school awards (Bob Scott, All American, Academic All American and Coach of the Year). If interested in taking over the coordination of the awards, please contact Chris.
- 907: Vern presented the new Conglomerate Programs policy and shared with members on the overhead screen. The WHSBLA board recognizes that conglomerate programs are an essential part of growing the game and that they have value in that. The new policy was drafted and accepted in an effort to address issues that have come up once a split is attempted and subsequently strongly resisted by the program. This new policy is on the WHSBLA website and goes into effect immediately:

Conglomerate programs will be classified as follows:

- a. CPO – WHSBLA approved partnership (such as Overlake-BC)
- b. CP1 – 2 years, then must split or remove additional schools
- c. CP2 – already had 2 years, granted waiver for one year
- d. CP3 – ineligible for post season play & player all-conference honors

When a conglomerate program splits and either one or both of the resulting new programs are by definition still a conglomerate program, then they by default are classified as a CP1 with a new 2 year window.

Any program that does not split when mandated (or receive waiver from league board, thus classified as CP2) becomes a CP3 and subject to the following:

- a. Team is not eligible for post-season play
- b. Players not eligible for all-conference honors

- 908: The following season scheduling items were presented by Rob:

Petition Deadline – Player petition and transfer reviews are due by December 15<sup>th</sup> in order to allow time should a petitioner wish to appeal a board decision.

Schedule deadlines and requests – An email will go out mid-October asking for any scheduling requests. Have your blackout dates ready.

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, the program will be billed at that time and the program can 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.

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

909: The 2017 Season dates were announced:

- Dead Period – August 1, 2016 thru Feb. 26, 2017
- First Day of Practice – Monday, February 27, 2017  
New programs were reminded that they must apply to the board if seeking early practice start. Do not assume it will be granted.
- MANDATORY Coaches Meeting – January 28, 2017. (if Bylaws amendment approved)
- No coach may have any lacrosse coaching contact with his players, including incoming freshmen, during the Dead Period. This includes sharing practice plans, plays, etc. with captains and others who may be running pre-season practices.
- Championship Day: Saturday, May 27, 2017

Reminder – The compliance file must be turned in and approved before any practices can count toward the 10 practices necessary to compete.

910: Rod reminded all coaches of the certification requirements. The purpose of the WHSBLA Coaching Certification program is to enhance the training of student-athletes by assuring that their coaches maintain a certain level of professional development and safety training throughout their careers. It is also the goal of the WHSBLA to advance the level of play by providing

lacrosse coaches the structure and training necessary to strive for the highest level of coaching and sportsmanship.

**Requirements** - Any coach (volunteer or paid) is required to:

1. Maintain a current CPR/First Aid card
2. Undergo a criminal background check of a **NATIONAL SCOPE** (every 2 years). It is recommended to use the **NCSI** as it is partnered with and linked through **US Lacrosse**
3. Complete the NFHS course: **Concussion in Sports** (every 3 years)
4. Complete the NFHS course: **Sudden Cardiac Arrest** (every 3 years)

**Head Coaches** – The head coach of each program (varsity head coach) must also be at least 21 years of age and attend the annual Coaches Meeting at the end of January/beginning of February to include an NFHS/WALOA Rules Clinic. In addition to meeting the above requirements, if having coached in the WHSBLA for less than 10 years, the head coach must provide documentation/proof of having completed the following:

1. US Lacrosse Level 1 ONLINE Course: **Fundamentals of Coaching Men's Lacrosse**  
OR  
NFHS Course: **Coaching Boy's Lacrosse**

**COUPLED WITH**

2. PCA Double Goal Coach 1 ONLINE Course: **Coaching for Winning and Life Lessons**

**Documentation:** Each year, every WHSBLA member program is required to submit to the WHSBLA Board a compliance file providing proof of the above, for each coach, paid and volunteer, for that program.

**REMINDER** - Members were reminded that the background check takes at minimum 2 weeks to complete. Do not wait to get all items for the compliance file completed. No practices count until the file is approved.

911: Vern announced that the profit and loss statement for the past fiscal year is available in the lobby to look over and if there are any budget questions to see Kathi. It was reported that the board hired an outside consultant to look over all tax records and it was determined that there were back taxes

owed as well as other related expenses. The board is working to adjust so these expenses will not be owed in the future.

912: The following fees were announced:

Game Fees will remain the same as last year - \$158 per varsity game; \$126 per sub-varsity game. The invoice will be sent out January 1 and due by March 1, 2017.

Membership Fees will remain the same as last year - \$300 per varsity team; \$200 per sub-varsity team. The invoice will be sent out January 1 and due at the Mandatory Coaches Meeting.

Provide the name of one new official to WHSBLA by Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> or pay an added fee of \$158. This money is used to pay travel costs to cover outlying areas.

913: Several items were up for a vote. Vern gave an overview of the first votes.

**Vote 1** is whether or not to add additional championships (currently per WHSBLA rules, there cannot be more than two championships).

**Vote 2** is an advisory vote to determine preferences of the membership should Vote 1 pass. This vote will be used for guidance to the board.

Ian presented information about the possible scenarios for additional championships and league structure. The models presented were emailed to all coaches, made available in the lobby and presented on the overhead screen for explanation and further discussion (attached). Ian explained each and gave pros and cons. It was noted that in each of the models, additional games may be scheduled up to the 20 game max.

There was much discussion in regards to private school programs and to the possibility of additional championships giving more teams an opportunity for post-season play.

914: Vern presented the proposed amendments to the bylaws which had been emailed out to members prior to the meeting for review. The board asked for the following bylaws amendments summarized here:

1. P. 1. Added language in regards to duty to cooperate in any investigation (see III.A.2.a.)
2. P. 2. Section B has been modified to move the February meeting to January and to clarify "co-head coaches".

3. P. 4. add to section IV.A.1.c.
4. P. 4. shortening timelines on notice of annual elections.... making time lines consistent on pp. 4 and 5.
5. P. 5. simplified naming of each regions so change isn't needed when conference names change
6. P. 6. Cleaning up some language in section I.

915: 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. Each candidate was given an opportunity to introduce themselves and share their reason for wishing to be on the board:

At-Large Representative: Ian O'Hearn  
Region 2 Representative: Brandon Fortier  
Region 4 Representative: Rob Hawley  
Region 6 Representative: Dylan Hummel (Wenatchee) and  
Damon Sanders (Lewis & Clark)

916: Vern announced that the Bellingham program was appealing a decision made by the board and had received the necessary support from the membership to have the appeal heard and voted on. Bellingham board president, Mark Hoemann, was introduced along with head coach, Tyler Farrar. Mark and Tyler presented the reasons they felt the decision mandating the split of the Sehome-Bellingham program into two programs for the 2017 season should be overturned.

Vern presented the reply from the board supporting the decision.

There was time for questions and comments from the membership before the appeal vote.

917: Members eligible to vote were given ballots upon checking in to the meeting. A short break was taken while board president, Vern Smith, and executive secretary, Kathi Lucchesi, counted the ballots.

918: The league structure vote results were announced:

Item 1 (Classifications for Championship Structure)

Vote #1:

Remain at two championships (Model A) – 5 in favor

In favor of adding championships (Model B) – 60 in favor  
It was approved to add additional championships.

Vote #2:

Option 1: 3 championships (4A; 3A; 1A/2A) – 35 in favor

Option 2: 4 championships (public D1 & D2; private D1 & D2) – 30 in favor

919: The amendments to bylaws vote results were announced:

Vote to approve “YES” – 59 in favor

Vote to approve “NO” – 1 in favor

It was approved to amend the bylaws as presented to membership.

920: The Board Election results were announced:

At-Large Representative: Ian O’Hearn

Region 2 Representative: Brandon Fortier

Region 4 Representative: Rob Hawley

Region 6 Representative: Dylan Hummel

921: The Bellingham appeal vote results were announced:

Vote to overturn the board’s decision – 24 in favor

Vote to maintain the board’s decision – 38 in favor

The Bellingham program did not receive the required 2/3 vote of the membership necessary to overturn the board’s decision to split for the 2017 season.

922: The meeting was opened up to questions and brief discussion by members:

Question – Is the new CP policy an actual policy or just a guideline? It is a board policy.

Question – When will the new league structure be introduced? It is high on the agenda to come up with the new structure and will be a top priority of the board.

Question – With all of the splits, how is WALOA going to keep up with the growing league and supplying refs to cover all games? It is the responsibility of all in the league to work to provide qualified referees and get the word out. Even if referees are unable to work high school games right away due to experience or age, continue to recruit at all levels to build the referee pool.

Question: When does the new CP policy start? It starts immediately and all CPs are now on the clock.

A representative from the new Orting program asked that special consideration be given to their program while they work through trying to get the program going. They will submit their request to the board.

923: Reminder: Mandatory Coaches meeting – January 28, 2017 at Seattle Pacific University. Items due at the meeting – Membership fees and Coaches Packet. Start gathering info and items now.

924: Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:57 PM.

Kathi Lucchesi, Executive Secretary