

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of August 27, 2011 Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 10:15

Attending: R. Hawley, B. Fortier, K. Martin, H. Valentine, R. Wright, P. White, K. Lucchesi

Absent: I. O'Hearn

1225. The status of Franklin as a viable program in the league was discussed. The question was raised as to whether or not they meet requirements for a varsity program. It was noted that they are truly an ASB program possibly without strong parent involvement. The board determined that in order to help preserve and help build the Franklin program, a move to field a JV team rather than varsity would be in their best interest. **MOVED: That the Franklin program shall be placed on probationary status allowing them to play at the JV level. (RW/HV). PASSED 5-0. (KM absent for vote)**
1226. The status of new teams entering the league was discussed. Follow up with Monroe is needed as the board is waiting for formal paperwork requesting to be admitted to the league. It is the board's opinion that Monroe should enter at the varsity level.
1227. BF suggested that one letter in the form of email be sent to each of the 3 new teams (Monroe, Union, Edmonds) welcoming them to the league while explaining the paperwork requirements.
1228. Discussion about the 2011 season in regards to WALOA continued. RH had spoken with Aaron K. about how things went and where improvements are needed. The issue of travel tax and how to get it to the coaches was mentioned. KL stated that she is waiting for WALOA to enter the information in to the Arbiter system before she is able to pay out the travel tax.
1229. WALOA stated that the L&I fee will go up for officials in the coming year. The increase is expected to go up by about \$1 per game. It was also reported by WALOA that along with US Lacrosse insurance, there is need for a third party insurance. There were questions about the implications for our league and more information is needed. RW will research the insurance issues and find out more from WALOA of this potential impact.
1230. It was reported from WALOA that play was improved from the officials standpoint.
1231. WHSBLA is looking for members to serve with Ian O'Hearn on the WALOA negotiations team and it was noted that at least one member should be from outside the board. A few names were given as suggestions and RH will send an email to IO with those names.
1232. It was noted that KL should be involved in the discussion with WALOA to offer input concerning the evaluation of the RefPay process. KL reported that although there were some issues to work out, the system to pay officials is more efficient.

1233. The input received from the 2011 league survey was discussed at length looking at each area specifically:
1234. 1) Media coverage - it was mentioned that more print coverage is needed. RW suggested that we summarize media comments and forward on to Mike McQuaid.;
1235. 2) Injury tracking – most respondents were okay with keeping and reporting injury information. The few that disagreed with tracking information gave good reason. Having data to backup problems that presented during the season would be helpful but showing a direct cause could be difficult. Much discussion followed in regards to the discrepancies between the high number of complaints WHSBLA received and the low number of ejections and non-releasable penalties reported. It was asked whether or not WHSBLA should mandate the collection of injury data. KM stated that we would need to be able to show a direct reason and use for collecting such. It was decided that WHSLBA will not require the tracking of injuries;
1236. 3) Regarding officials – there was discussion about the comments given regarding the quality of officiating. It was suggested that coaches attend referee training and, if possible, officiate a few games to help raise awareness of the rules and what officials are looking for. A recommendation was made to add referee training as an acceptable means to meet the coach training requirements and that we grant 3 hours to each coach for successfully completing the officials test. RH will include this information in the annual report to members;
1237. 4) Regarding WHSBLA feedback – questions were raised as to how and when teams are moved up or down a division and discussion followed. There was also discussion regarding term limits on board positions and open board positions. It was noted that with the election schedule in place, there is regular opportunity for new members to join the board while maintaining some consistency so that we are not faced with an entirely new board lacking history and experience. This board often faces an election with incumbents running unopposed. It was suggested that another personal note be sent out to all members asking for nominations. At the suggestion from one survey, the annual report will include information regarding the number of sanctions and petitions addressed during the 2011 season.
1238. A request was received to include Cedar Park Bothell in the catchment of the Providence program. Much discussion followed. **MOVED: To deny the request from Providence allowing Cedar Park Bothell be part of their program. (HV/KM). PASSED 6-0.**
1239. A request was received from Lynnwood coach, Tedd G., asking for a refund of all fees paid to WHSBLA for the 2011 season. Discussion followed regarding the efforts put forth by WHSBLA to work with Lynnwood to become compliant and the number of areas found to be in violation resulting in late notice forfeitures. **MOVED: That a refund be given to the Lynnwood program for the one game on May 4th vs Northshore that was canceled with enough time to not**

incur referee fees. No other refunds shall be awarded. (KM/HV). PASSED 5-1.

1240. The final program audits were conducted and programs were invoiced for playoff games. There are just 3 programs that have yet to pay and KL will follow up.
1241. RW reported that Bainbridge Island had questions and needed clarification regarding the final audit and placement on probation. BF noted that 4 other programs that had been placed on probation for infractions during the season had also questioned this action and after clarification, seemed to understand. RH recommended that a note be sent to B.I. explaining the process and their right to appeal.
1242. It was suggested that the proper escalation process to air grievances be presented to members. RH will include this information in the annual report.
1243. 2011 membership fee structure and recommendations for 2012 fees was discussed. After review, the board realizes that the first year of set membership fees was a bit high noting that many teams have less than the anticipated number of players per team. It was decided that membership fees for the 2012 season be set as follows: Varsity team - \$300; JV team - \$200.
1244. It was decided that for a JV team to be placed on the WHSBLA league schedule, membership fees for the team must first be received.
1245. A new schedule to invoice teams for game fees was discussed. It was decided that programs will be invoiced twice for game fees with the first being at the start of the season for all league games scheduled. The second and final invoice will be at the end of season to include any late additions to the schedule and playoff games. Specifically, payment due dates shall be: March 1st (invoice sent Jan. 1st) and July 1st (invoice sent June 1st)
1246. Dates for the 2012 season were determined: February 27th is first practice and May 26th will be Championships. As feedback from the surveys suggested another venue for championships, options were discussed. It was decided to keep them at Memorial Stadium for at least one more year.
1247. Discussion about the DI Conference alignment included survey responses. Surveys showed a desire to maintain geographical alignment while also spreading the talent. BF noted the possibility of moving Mercer Island to the other conference to fit that suggestion. **MOVED: That Option 1 of the DI Conference alignment is implemented. (HV/PW). Discussion followed regarding the implications for all with this option. PASSED 5-1.**
1248. There was discussion about allowing out of conference games to be counted toward playoffs. **MOVED: To have all league scheduled games count toward playoff determination. (KM/HV). PASSED 6-0.**
1249. There was a very lengthy discussion about the configuration of DII conferences. According to the survey responses, it was determined that there is a mix in preference, but the 6 conference format was most favored. A number of factors

were considered taking in to consideration geography, including new programs anticipated joining the league.

1250. An alternate to the 6 conference format was proposed. This option would be a 4 conference format with approximately 8 teams per conference with teams playing each other one time at home and one away. This option helps to balance the travel across the league. KM suggested that both options be presented to the membership for a vote. This vote would go out to DII coaches only. The two options include a 6 conference option (6 teams per conference) and a 4 conference option (9, 8, 8, 7 teams per conference).
1251. Division II Conference alignment is not yet finalized and discussion is ongoing.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 PM.

Kathi Lucchesi
Executive Secretary/Treasurer