

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of June 2, 2012 Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 10:20 AM – at Issaquah High School

Attending: R. Hawley, B. Fortier, H. Valentine, R. Wright, I. O'Hearn, K. Lucchesi, P. Sidebottom and Guest, Rick Jenness. Absent: P. White

1293 Guest, Rick Jenness, was in attendance to present a proposed change to the current alignment structure. A PowerPoint presentation was shown to the board, highlighting the key points:

- The league would consist of three divisions
- The division alignment is based on program size for the following reasons:
 - o It is felt a wide disparity of skill is driven by the program size
 - o programs potentially start to lose numbers as athletes have to make choices between sports – this could present a more favorable choice
 - o There would be a smaller division where new/small programs can start and grow
- The divisions would be named: 3A, 2A and 1A (to better align with WIAA)
- Programs would be promoted up and down based on size – not how performed in previous season.
- Provides a structure where teams of every size can be successful.
- Encourages schools to get more involved in supporting and promoting the program.
- Program size would be determined by board's chosen methodology such as the number of high school players over a 3 year average or the number of freshman players over 3 year average.
- Key Principles: 1) WHSBLA would never force a team to a lower level; 2) "promotion by request" if size/growth allows – by approval; 3) "required promotion" – 3 year average supports AND plays in final four for current division; 4) Promotion is not required if a team wins a championship or is runner up.

Questions were asked and much discussion followed the presentation. It was noted that much of what is proposed, the WHSBLA already does when determining league alignment. Much discussion followed about the possibility of adding a third division.

Items for the board to consider: 1) Two or three divisions; 2) Naming of divisions; 3) The number of teams we currently have (52) and does it warrant another division; 4) Is a "state championship" warranted for a 1A (or startup teams) league?; 5) What would travel look like?

1294 Alignment and division discussion for 2013

Discussion continued about whether or not to add a third division and the possibility of a Private School division. Ian submitted a proposed alignment that shows what that could look like when all the teams are placed. The suggestion was to have three divisions: DI, DII and Private.

There have been other suggested alignments as well including one proposed in email by Brian Main. Under that proposal, there would be two separate leagues – a club league and a school based programs league.

The board will seek input from the membership through the end of season survey and include a question about league alignment and divisions.

1295 Seattle Addendum discussion

It was noted that when the Seattle Addendum was created, the Seattle Public Schools had open enrollment and so there was a need for this policy. There is no longer open enrollment so the policy is no longer necessary. The board reviewed numbers of players by private school in each program and noted that simply removing the Seattle Addendum without aligning some of those schools with a program would be detrimental to existing programs. It was determined that only private schools that have a mass number of players and schools that already have a formal alignment would be given a program designation.

MOTION: It was moved by R. Wright and seconded by H. Valentine to remove the Seattle Addendum and edit the section on “Program Eligibility” in the league documents to reflect this change. Motion carried 6-0.

- 1296 The question was asked of the board as to whether or not a player, Sean Holland, who will be attending the SAMI school in Tacoma, needs to file a waiver to play for his resident program, Lake Tapps. Although SAMI is part of the Tacoma Public Schools, it is a program that takes students from outside the area and does not have any sports programs. It should be treated the same as a private school and therefore a waiver is not necessary.
- 1297 A group of parents from the Clark County area (which includes King’s Way, Union and Camas) have requested to meet with members of this board to discuss the area and potential splitting into two or three programs. The group was not able to make it to this board meeting so it will be proposed that Rob and Ron go down to meet in person at their location or for more WHSBLA members to hear a proposal, a conference call may be set up in the next week. Rob will contact and arrange.
- 1298 Rob gave a report on a meeting between the WHSBLA and the WSLA schedulers. WSLA will work to get their schedule done earlier than in the past so

as to coordinate better with the WHSBLA schedule. In the past, it has been difficult for programs to schedule girls' home games after the boys have already been scheduled. Brandon has always accepted and worked into the schedule, days of the week requests that work best for a team to host home games. It is suggested that coaches meet within their own programs to work out home schedule days of the week to give to their respective league schedulers. This will be communicated out to the WHSBLA coaches.

- 1299 State Championships dates will be moving away from Memorial Day weekend. Due to many factors including other activities and difficult scheduling, the WHSBLA board proposes that State Championships move to one week later in the season.
- 1300 It was reported that the girls' referees will be doing background checks through US Lacrosse. Currently this board only requires a Washington State background check. It was recommended that all coaches and referees have a background check that includes a national search (NCSI). Phil will look in to this further so the board can make a decision. The national search cost is \$35 each.
- 1301 For this season, the league was able to use RefPay without also using the Arbiter scheduling system. RefPay and Arbiter have informed WHSBLA that this arrangement will not be able to continue next year. In order to use RefPay next year, WHSBLA will need to also use the Arbiter system. Meanwhile, WHSBLA has continued to use Sportability for scheduling and maintenance of team statistics. The interface between Sportability and Arbiter is currently problematic. It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be gathered to take a look at the issues we have had in the past with coordinating the scheduling and payment process as well as the league's needs so as to come up with a recommendation for future systems. US Lacrosse is developing software that works with RefPay and that is one possibility. Ron will research this and provide a report of potential options for the board to review.
- 1302 During the 2012 season, a number of issues pertaining to referees was reported to the board and the lack of experienced officials at several of the games seemed to be much of the problem. There was much discussion about how to get more officials certified and out to games. One suggestion was to mandate that each coach officiate at least 2 (or other said number) of JV games during the season or that each program submits at least one new official that will work a certain number of games. It was also suggested that the WHSBLA partner with WALOA to work on recruiting more officials and work together toward dealing with these many issues that were raised during this season.

Some items that need to be addressed are: scheduling issues; coverage of all games; playoff list (referees); contract wording adjustment in regards to playoff list. Ron and Henry volunteered to sit on the committee to represent WHSBLA.

- 1303 The question was brought to the board as to whether or not parents that are acting in a coach capacity (i.e. on the sidelines with the team and not as a member of the table staff) have to follow the same credentialing standards as other coaches. The answer to that question is that they do need to meet the same requirements and it is a violation to not have them listed as a coach in the binder and in the coaches packet turned in to the league secretary. Discussion followed noting that there have been at least one or more teams that have violated this repeatedly. The board will address this at the next general membership meeting.
- 1304 A letter in support of WIAA sanctioning was approved by the board. Mike McQuaid will send the letter to the WIAA sanctioning committee.
- 1305 The board received an inquiry about starting a new program in the Edmonds area. Because there is an existing program, further information was sought to help determine whether or not the new program would deplete the current one. There was also discussion about whether or not the new program could maintain viability. Rob will find out more from both coaches as to the number of players (incoming freshmen) and sustainability for future seasons.
- 1306 There was discussion about some of the larger programs and the possibility that they need to split in to two or more programs. The rosters of those programs were reviewed and discussion continued about possibly helping programs to realize the benefits of a split and the reasoning for one. It was noted that some programs may have a plan in place for growth and a future split such as the Lake Tapps program.
- 1307 Following discussion about program size and with some club teams having multiple high schools affiliated with it, it was determined that programs be required to be identified with one high school. The program will be referred to as that school name in schedules, press releases, WIAA proposals, and any other official reference. Teams can stay the same with no changes to uniforms and unofficial reference to name/mascot while the transition takes place. All programs were required to list a high school affiliation when their team was declared. This will be the high school name used unless a change is reported.
- 1308 During the course of the season, reports of repeated offenses by a program were received. Some of the reports were in regards to coaches on the sidelines exuding unacceptable behavior. The Board has subsequently received reports pointing to a historical pattern of such conduct for one of their coaches. The program also has offenses in regards to league documentation and certification requirements in both the 2011 and 2012 seasons. After much discussion, the board decided to suspend the program from play until they have submitted a written plan to be approved by the WHSBLA board detailing how they will ensure

that such incidents and violations do not occur in the future. The program will not be given a 2013 schedule until a plan is submitted and approved.

- 1309 An audit of program infractions (late payments and paperwork, lack of complete binder, non-reporting of games, etc.) was conducted and reviewed to determine action needed. It was suggested that a notice be sent to repeat offenders of the sanction suspending the head coach for the first game of the next season.
- 1310 The final program audit for game fees will be done the second week of June and invoices will be sent to programs.
- 1311 It was noted that the notification for board elections of open positions must be sent out to the membership by August 1st.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:15 PM.

Kathi Lucchesi
Executive Secretary/Treasurer