

Mintues were approved at Winter meeting on 1/24/2012.

WSLA HS Membership Council Special Meeting | TOPS library | 11.29.2011 | 7:00PM

Meeting called to order by President Jason Hennig at 7:05pm.

Overview of League Structure (Jason Hennig): Jason recapped the league structure that was presented at the October general meeting. (See updated document on WSLA website.)

Opinion statements:

Mercer Island (Bruce Coffey): Great concerns about “option A”; MI objects strenuously to this option due to the deletion of D2. They feel this is an important part of the HS structure and feel strongly that a change needs to be looked at by a group of league members before being implemented. The elimination of an intermediate/middle division (D2) has unintended consequences the could be damaging to the league. They would like to stay with current structure (option B) for 2012, and put together an ad hoc committee to study a change in league structure and make recommendations for 2013.

Bainbridge (Helen Stevenson): They agree with MI’s statement. In order to have competitive play, schedule will need to be revised to allow competitive play between teams or you need to have a D1/D2 filter.

Klahowya (Laurie Usher): Also agrees with BI/MI, too soon to move to an all Varsity league. Her main concern is that it might hurt competitive balance; growing programs will be hurt the most.

Graham-Kapowsin (Rande Polley): Spoke to his team’s desire to stay with current structure so that they could stay in JV. Their move to D2 two years ago was disastrous and demoralizing to his players; they will lose a lot of girls if they’re moved to Varsity.

Roosevelt (Edith Harris): Spoke in favor of passing the amendment to change to one Varsity (option A). The feel that option A offers the most flexibility and benefit to players, allows long term growth and will beneficially define a team’s level of play.

Bethel (Josh Hirst): He relayed the experience with his girls who are excited to have the chance to move up to Varsity; they welcome the increased level of competition and knowing that they will be a varsity team has increased his recruiting potential.

Wenatchee (Brad Schock): Teams should play at highest competitive level that they can. He challenges every club that can play up to do that. He’s not really promoting either option, but does want programs to realize that we need to work to expand play on the east side of the state in order to really promote growth as a league.

Open discussion: Discussion about need for C level team structure to be able to support three team clubs (like MI), and how that might accommodate longer term growth. Being able to request out of conference opponents will be very important to teams. Board will ask Brian Hultz (scheduler) about adding an area to scheduling questionnaire so that teams can request opponents. Garfield (Margaret Sandvig) brought up the point that if we had been sanctioned by WIAA we would not be having this conversation because we'd be forced to move to Varsity/JV/C structure. Kate Roper (Youth board pres) reminded all that moving to option A is looking at the big picture from a growth perspective as youth numbers are growing hugely.....over 30% for each of the last four years. We really need to consider how we can best accommodate all of these kids, from having a Varsity/JV/C league to recreational play, etc. MI wants to address the intermediate level of player by keeping a D2. Lake Sammamish (Greg Chapman) points out the boys lacrosse league "in between" of having one varsity team in either D1 or D2....lots of merits to moving to one varsity, but we need to take our time to find a structure that will accommodate growth and competitive play. Curtis (Michelle Flaten) relayed their experience of moving up and down each year as their teams skill level changed each year and how that didn't work for them overall. South sound programs don't have good feeder programs, so sustaining three teams won't happen for a long time. Overlake (Sue Haviland) talked about the girls who are not great athletes but love lacrosse and how they aren't being served by a change to all varsity. She also pointed out that college coaches do look at D2 programs. She feels that a middle ground would be important. Forest Ridge (Chloe Dee) wants what is best for the girls and supports one varsity league as she feels it gives more prestige to playing on varsity and compete at the highest level.

The Mercer Island, Bainbridge Island and Klahowya programs all objected in advance to the email and phone-in votes allowed by the board, as they felt that these were in violation of the current WSLA By-laws. President Jason Hennig explained that the board felt that this was an important subject and wanted to ensure that all programs could weigh in regardless of their ability to physically be at the meeting.

WSLA By-law vote: (See end of minutes for exact verbiage of By-law amendment as proposed by the board.) Vote was taken via in-person, conference call and email from 28 member programs. Four programs were absent (Highline, Lakeside, North Kitsap, Seattle Prep) and three programs abstained (Overlake, Puyallup, Wenatchee).

Programs voting for the amendment: Ballard, Bellarmine Prep, Bellevue, Bellevue East, Bethel, Curtis, Evergreen, Forest Ridge, Garfield, Gig Harbor, Holy Names, Issaquah, Kennedy, Nathan Hale, Roosevelt, Snohomish, Spanaway Lake, Tacoma, Tahoma, Vashon (20 total).

Programs voting against the amendment: Bainbridge, Eastside Catholic, Graham-Kapowsin, Klahowya, Lake Sammamish, Lake Tapps, Mercer Island, Mukilteo (8 total).

The amendment passes by a vote of 20 for and 8 against.

WSLA Board vote: Varsity and JV league conference representative nominations were presented as follows:

Alki: Jillian Gant

Nisqually: OPEN

Peninsula: Tami Tommila

North Sound: Kate Roper

Snoqualmie: Sue Haviland

JV League Representative: Sara Towner

All were voted in unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm by President Jason Hennig.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT

WSLA Bylaws

November 2011

The strike through text below is proposed to be deleted from the current bylaw wording. The Amendment will go into effect upon approval.

High School AMENDMENT #1

- Article 1 – Name and Composition of the Organization

B. WSLA is comprised of a girls' lacrosse High School League and a Youth League.

1. The High School League is comprised of ~~three~~ Divisions and Provisional teams.

a. High School Divisions are Varsity ~~Division 1, Varsity Division 2~~ and Junior Varsity Division.