

## **WSLA Winter HS Membership Council Meeting | TOPS library | 1.25.2011 | 7:00PM**

*Meeting called to order by President Bruce Reid at 7:00pm.*

**President's Report (Bruce Reid):** WSLA/WHSBLA/USL have been doing outreach to the public school athletic directors. Bruce, along with the WHSBLA and USL-WA presidents met recently with Seattle Public Schools risk management contacts regarding boys/girls programs. Meeting soon with the SPS new Athletic Director, Eric McCurdy. SPS is supportive of lacrosse, they just have some concerns and need more information. Bruce and other league leaders will continue to outreach to other school districts as needed.

Auburn lost their program this year. The program at Auburn Mountainview High School folded when coach John Tomasi resigned. A new team was not formed at the school because the parent organizers were not able to establish a team in compliance with ASB rules. These rules require the advisor to be a staff member at school. The parent organizers were not able to or chose not to meet this requirement. The AD at A-M HS has said that a lacrosse club is welcome at the school as long as they meet ASB requirements for a student club.

USL has a Sportsmanship Director; he was to do a presentation tonight but is ill and couldn't make it. Bruce will distribute that when he gets it. Bruce is serving on the USL board as a girls diversity representative (new position, along with a boys.)

**Washington Stealth Introduction (Matt Hastings):** FYI, Matt is coaching an Everett HS boys team; they'd like to establish a girls team in the future. He is also working with the Stealth and trying to reach out to girls teams. He's asking all of us to contact him with any ideas on ways to outreach to girls and WSLA. They are sponsoring an 8v8 tournament on Feb 12 for girls teams; 8 total on field, no coaching, min 3 games. Another program that the Stealth is supporting is the Sticks in Schools program, separate 501c3 (separate from the Stealth). Their goal is to get kids active and promote lacrosse. They have "angel" investors that come in and purchase equipment; then Sticks in Schools sets up PE curriculum for indoor lacrosse in schools.

**WWLUA Update (Tsering Short/Jeffrey Grose):** Tsering is our new HS liaison, her phone is 206-650-1651, email is [yuthokshort@comcast.net](mailto:yuthokshort@comcast.net). Please feel free to connect with her if you have any questions, etc. Don't forget there's an online form to provide feedback on officiating (good and bad), go to [www.wwlua.org](http://www.wwlua.org). If you have any assignment questions for officials, don't connect with WWLUA, please connect with your appropriate WSLA division representative (go to [www.wslax.org](http://www.wslax.org) if you're not sure who that is).

*Scorer/timer & New rules clinics:* Jeff Grose reminded everyone that a rep is required from each HS and Youth program to attend one of the scorer/timer clinics and for the New rules interpretation session there must be a coach rep from every team, not just the program. There are three different sessions available. First sessions are this SAT Jan 29 at SPU (new rules 9:15AM, scorer/timer at 1PM.) He also handed out the game verification form (new). This is similar to the card verification form started last year. Please have scorers/timers fill out these forms at end of game and hand to the officials before they depart the field. New umpire clinics are Feb 5, 12, 27 –see [www.wwlua.org](http://www.wwlua.org) for more info.

*Rules review:* If you would like to have a ref go over the rules with your team and didn't sign up previously for this, contact Tsering.

*Safety:* USL is working hard to keep the womens game safe. There are new rules this year designed to help with that regarding yellow and red cards. Survey done last year that showed 39% of cards given last year involving stick checks to the head. This is of great concern to USL and WWLUA. WWLUA and WSLA are working together again this year to continue an observer program where WWLUA will send out an experienced umpire to attend games where officials may need additional support. This happened on a pilot basis at the youth level last year; this year it will happen as needed at all levels.

**Sports Information Director – Public Relations (Mike McQuaid):** He heads up the PR arm of USL and the boys and girls leagues. Main objective is to raise awareness of lacrosse in the communities that we serve in the state of WA. He is also driving the WIAA petition efforts on behalf of the girls and boys leagues this year. Mike handed out a sports info handbook for D1 and D2; he reviewed the handbook (similar to last year) reviewing how to report scores and news surrounding your team. Their goal is to cover every game and they need our help to do that! Please take the time to review this and be sure to text him results no later than 10PM each game day. They will also write weekly press releases and Player of the Week releases again this year; this year POW will be highlighting sportsmanship. He also handed out a USL pre-season questionnaire that he asked all teams to complete before the end of the meeting and hand in to Bruce.

**Financial Report (Jessanne Allen):** Jessanne handed out the current budget. She passed out invoices to teams in attendance; she'll be emailing those forms to teams as well. Don't forget to get rosters into Sportability (name, position, number, grade) by March 14; invoices and rosters are also due to Jessanne by then. Review the rules in the handbook if you're unclear on this.

**Washington Regional Team – High School (Jason Hennig); U-15 (Kate Roper):**

*HS regional team:* Jason talked about the HS regional team; tryouts will be March 20 (Sunday), 11A-2PM is tentative time at Lakeside HS turf field. (The national tournament is in Stonybrook NY on Memorial Day weekend.) They'll get emails out asap when they have confirmation on above.

*U-15 regional team:* Kate reports that the youth numbers are growing at 70%. This year we'll field a U-15 team at the national tournament. They will follow USL age requirements for this team. 9<sup>th</sup> graders are eligible to tryout for the team if they meet the birth date requirement. [www.waglux.org](http://www.waglux.org) is the URL for the new Youth League site; go there for the U-15 regional team tryout info. They're also looking for coaches for this team. They will hopefully participate at the national event in July 2011 in Maryland; if not they'll go to Texas in June for a regional event.

**Players Clinic – February 26 (Craig Van Der Horn/ Tony D'alessio):** They will be conducting a beginners clinic for MS and HS girls on SAT Feb 26 at Ballard High School in Seattle. They need coaching help that day if anyone is interested. Please encourage all of your players to attend as well. This is a fundraiser for WSLA. More information and registration forms will be emailed to all teams soon.

**Scheduling Report (Sue Haviland):** Sue not able to attend, but Bruce reports that she's still working on the JV schedule. Don't forget that if you're scheduling a non-league game, please report those to the WSLA board and Sue Haviland (scheduler). (This is mandatory.) D2 has two conferences again this year, new this year: only conference games count towards standings, crossover games do not. Playoffs will consist of top four in each conference in a standard crossover format (NW1 to SE4, SE1 to NW 4, etc)

**Championship & Jamboree Planning (Claire Merrill):** Championship is May 21 at Eastside Catholic HS; Claire needs about 100 volunteers for the event, she's hoping to get 2-3 volunteers per program. They're also hoping to increase attendance at the event—encourage your teams to attend. Jamboree will be at two locations on SAT March 12: Bainbridge and Lakeside (2 fields at each location). The first 8 D1 and 8 D2 to connect with Claire will participate (16 teams total). Cost will be approx \$250 per team. Claire will distribute an email to the teams to sign-up. She needs LOTS of volunteers—please help!!

**WIAA Petition Status Report:** Mike McQuade mentioned already; doing combined filing with the boys league. Keep reaching out to AD's and others in your community who may be influential in this quest.

**Website Refresh – League Handbook Review:** We have money in our budget to pay someone to update our website – we may have a candidate to help with this. Bruce has received some great ideas for updating the League handbook. Keep forwarding ideas for revisions to any board member.

**Other matters:**

*Other tournaments/jamborees:* Wenatchee is hosting a JV tournament on March 19. Three Rivers is hosting a youth – HS tournament on April 16.

*Looking ahead to 2012:* SPS was asking Bruce about certification for coaches in our league. Bruce is suggesting that we think about installing some objective criteria for coaching certification.

Bruce discussed the fact that we are initiating a Strategic plan task force to investigate how to grow our umpire numbers. (WWLUA, WSLA and other stakeholders.) If you would like to participate please let Bruce know. Group will start to get together after this season.

D2 now has 20 teams; D1 has 13—we need to figure out a way to even that out a bit.

Bruce asked all teams to put together correct directions to fields now; we'll send an email requesting those soon.

We are not having a level 2 coaches clinic this Spring; but it will happen in the Fall.

Meeting adjourned at 8: 42 PM by President Bruce Reid.

***Upcoming:***

**WSLA Jamboree:** Saturday March 12, 2011

**HS Championships:** Saturday May 21, 2011

**HS Membership council meeting:** June 7, 2011