

# AYL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## 10/28/18

Sunday,

Milagro's, S. Priest Drive, Tempe

PRESENT: Bill Lynch (Ahwatukee), Chris Turpen, Lisa Smith (Mesa), Ben Jones (Desert Ridge), Bryan Stokes (Gilbert), Bob Roe (Desert Elite), Kyle Mox (Ahwatukee), Jeff Wilson (North Valley), Connor Williams (Chandler Firebirds), Matthias Lambert (Glendale), Arik Michelson (ALC), Bobby Colwell (Arrowhead), Colleen Bradley (Tucson), Kate Dei Cas (Kyrene), Graham Swanson (Tucson), Bill Eklund (Tucson), Steve DeBiase (Scottsdale), Joe Preston (Chandler Dogs)

NEXT MEETING: Monday, 11/26/19 at 6:30 p.m.

Chompies – Paradise Valley Mall (restaurant is parallel to Tatum Blvd.)

APPROVED: August Board meeting minutes

### AYL BOARD 2018-2019:

Board Election was held:

- President – Chris Turpen
- VP – Bobby Coldwell,
- Treasurer – Steve DeBiase
- Secretary – Lisa Smith
- Officials – Chris Thuman
- Ben Jones
- Jeff Wilson
- Kyle Mox
- Mattias Lambert

### BUDGET:

- Line item added for AYL Board Indemnification policy. (\$500)
- Line item added for Marketing. (Amount to be determined.)
- Line item for police presence at games to deter bad behavior? (\$800)
- Should league charge an extra \$10/player registration for marketing?
- Currently in AYL storage locker: 30 cases of balls, 12 cases of field paint, 2 new Rage Cages, AYL tents, USL equipment.
- Safety nets are in Ahwatukee but will be moved to AYL storage.
- New Rage Cage order will be placed in December. (There have been many problems with the foam inserts. If you need extra parts, email [support@ragecage.com](mailto:support@ragecage.com) or (410) 672-0282. They know this is an issue and will overnight free replacement parts.)

### USL MEMBERSHIP UPDATE:

- AYL is staying with USL for 2019 season, but USL knows it is on notice this year.

- USL insurance never denies coverage to any player or coach.
- All coaches are covered on all fields.
- A separate league policy would have done neither.
- USL will begin providing free background checks on all coaches.
- USL membership discussion to be continued.
- Judson Stone is our primary USL contact. Anyone can reach out to him at any time:
  - Judson Stone, USL Manager, Pacific Southwest  
[Jstone@uslacrosse.org](mailto:Jstone@uslacrosse.org)  
 C: 303-956-4987
- USL secondary contact: Lyn Porterfield, [lporterfield@uslacrosse.org](mailto:lporterfield@uslacrosse.org), (206) 972-8610
- USL Director, Membership & Regional Dev: Steve Kirr, [skirr@uslacrosse.org](mailto:skirr@uslacrosse.org), (410) 235-6882, x122
- USL has provided AYL a \$3,000 grant for this year.

#### SEASON AND FIELD SCHEDULE:

- Ref payments will be the same.
- USL Western Regional Conference Level 1 & 2 training will be Nov 30-Dec 2 in Las Vegas.
- Each program needs to have at least one Level 1 certified coach on each team.
- Each program needs to have at least one CPR-trained person.
- AYL has secured fields for first six game weeks and Cactus Cup.
- Tucson fields are locked in.
- Larger venues provide more scheduling flexibility and more board members on site to handle disputes.
- 2/3 of league has Spring Break on 03/09/19.
- Desert Elite opposes the Cactus Cup dates of Friday, 03/29 and Saturday, 03/30 as it conflicts with Cave Creek School District Spring Break making it hard for them to field a full team. This is further compounded since Desert Ridge broke off from their program last year.
- 03/09/19 field space remains open – may be regional games.
- 14U Friday night games? (Especially two Glendale dates – only 5 fields.)
- Talking Stick for Friday night games? Much easier to get than Saturdays.
- Saturday, Jan 19 - MLK Weekend - Reach 11 fields for 10U and 12U only?
- Last season was 1,000 players. League is almost too big for six fields.
- 12-year old 7<sup>th</sup> graders should be moved to 14U to give them two years to get ready for high school.
- Sell LAX to football coaches as an off-season training method.
- Market program clinics on AYL Facebook page (Steve DeBiase)

#### GAME DAY FIELD MANAGEMENT:

- Should we be investing in more equipment so programs don't have to bring nets?
- Should we be hiring field set-up out?

#### 8U DEVELOPMENT:

- LEAD: Steve DeBiase
- There needs to be a big 8U focus this year.
- Currently 10 programs have an 8U team. Need weekly communication with Steve.
- 8U recruitment drives youth player numbers.
- 8U is key to recruitment for programs struggling with numbers.

- Run 8U-only clinics. Offer pizza – they will come.
- Promote through schools in early August before football sign-ups.
- Peachjar through school works well for recruiting.
- This year there will be dedicated fields for games and real schedule.
- No league team fee.
- Significantly lower program registration fee.
- Scholarships?
- Loaner equipment with small deposit?
- 8U can help pay for your 14U program.
- Some programs don't charge 8U coaching parents registration fee.
- Stagger practice – 1 hour max – 30 minutes skills, 30 minutes game play.
- 14U players can help coach for NHS service hours.
- Environment meant to be an experience for kids, not win games.
- Parents and kids need to feel they belong and not an afterthought.
- Most parents will not travel to Tucson except if brothers are playing.
- Tucson is set up to handle any 8U teams. Can promise a few games with 1-week notice. Has a separate, dedicated field.
- Traveling teams can combine players.

#### PLAYER REGISTRATION PROCESS:

- LEAD: Ben Jones
- AYL enrollment will be open in November.
- This year will be bulk registration.
  - Instead of players registering individually, programs will now send league their team spreadsheets.
  - Program rosters will be certified.
- Any player on the field must be registered or they will not be covered by insurance opening up liability.
- Several programs already have registration up and running.
- Some programs charge one price up until mid-November, then \$15 extra after to encourage early registration.
- January 1 – Program deadline for number of teams.
- The earlier AYL gets team numbers, the earlier a season schedule will be set.

#### PROGRAM BOUNDARIES:

- This year AYL adopted high school feeder team boundaries.
- Ben Jones will put together program boundaries and post on AYL website.
- Any player originally registered for out-of-boundary program before 2016 is grandfathered in without waiver.

#### CHANDLER DOGS EXPANSION PROGRAM:

- New Chandler Dogs expansion (Chandler HS & Hamilton HS feeder team) was approved with a start date of 09/26/18 (date they were given unofficial approval). Any Chandler Firebirds players in the new Dogs boundaries registered before 09/26 are grandfathered in.
- MOTION APPROVED.

