

## 2018 January Meeting Minutes

Nebraska High School Lacrosse Association  
Board of Directors Meeting  
January 31, 2018, 7:00 PM  
For Participants Dial – 402-609-1766

Nebraska Orthopedic Hospital  
2808 S. 143rd Street, Omaha NE 68144  
Conference Room: Aquarium

Meeting came to order at 7:07 pm

### 1. Members present:

Ames – Present (Phone)  
Ankeny – Present (Phone)  
West Des Moines Valley – Present (Phone)  
Burke – Present  
Cobra Lacrosse – Present  
Creighton Prep – Present  
Elkhorn – Present (Phone)  
Lincoln – Present  
Millard West – Present  
Northstar – Present  
Sarpy County – Present  
Chris Howe – President – Present  
Jon Pohlmann – Vice President – Present  
Tim Mausbach – Treasurer – Present  
Kimberly Kuszak - Secretary – Present

### 2. Bob Hoffer - presentation and discussion of new rules and points of emphasis for 2018. This is basic information and will not be as in-depth as the required coaches training on Feb 22 or March 1st

- a. [Link to 2018 NFHS Boys Rules Interpretation Video](#)
- b. Bob suggested using official's scoring card to help determine if stick head is legal  
<https://wearstripes.com/collections/accessories/products/referee-scorecard>
- c. Bob shared information regarding new lacrosse ball produced in the USA that does not become greasy. It has been approved by NOCSAE  
<https://guardianpearl.com/new-ball/>

### 3. Approval of December 27, 2017 meeting

- a. Minutes were approved as distributed

4. Steve Erickson - Update on OLC and U14 program – Postponed
  - a. Steve Erickson was not able to make it to the meeting this will be postponed until February
5. Votes
  - a. Proxy Vote to use the Request for Waiver for 8th Graders to Play JV Google Form was passed by a vote of 13/15
    - i. Announced the new Request for Waiver for 8<sup>th</sup> Grader to Play JV Google Form has been approved. The link to the form will be added to the documents page of the website
  - b. Proxy Vote to approve the official start date of the 2018 NELAX Spring season as March 1, 2018 was passed by a vote of 15/15
    - i. Announced this has been approved via proxy vote
  - c. Vote on procedure to allow 8th graders to play up, OR Vote to not allow any 8th graders to play up during the 2018 Spring Season.
    - i. Discussion was made to decide if 8<sup>th</sup> grade waiver is needed or if we need to vote on 8<sup>th</sup> graders not playing up at all
      1. The reason on requesting a vote on if NELAX should allow 8<sup>th</sup> graders to play was stemmed from one of the team voting no to the Request for Waiver for 8<sup>th</sup> Grader to Play JV Google Form asked if this could come up for discussion
      2. Sarpy County asked what is US Lacrosse's stance of allowing 8<sup>th</sup> graders to play up, Chris stated that US Lacrosse suggests players need to play their age when possible and does not encourage players to play up. Because high school JV teams could be made up of players 2-3 years older than an 8<sup>th</sup> grader. Size and maturity could be an issue
      3. Chris checked with NSAA and their rules state a player can be moved up to high school athletics if the player turns 15 by August 1<sup>st</sup> of the start of the school year.
      4. Sarpy County stated they had a player who was in 8<sup>th</sup> grade in practice going up against a junior and suffered a concussion, the parent of this player was upset because the player was not able to play for ½ the season and didn't realize this could happen
      5. Creighton Prep – asked if this voting on 8<sup>th</sup> graders be something that is voted on every year?
      6. Steve Haney stated his U15 team in OCL last year struggled and stated a lot of the players were not having fun anymore because they were too good and not challenged in the OLC club level, he

also stated this could not have been for the players who they played against.

7. Brian from Lincoln asked Scott from Westside, how should we develop these better 8<sup>th</sup> grade players if they are not allowed to play high school
8. Scott suggested we keep the form the way it is and not vote 8<sup>th</sup> graders out completely
9. Scott asked where in the bylaws where does it say 8<sup>th</sup> grades can't practice with the high school team? He has read the bylaws and doesn't see where it state's 8<sup>th</sup> graders can't practice. Chris looked up and read the bylaw out loud. Article IV Section 1 A & B
10. Burke asked what are the legal issues of letting an 8<sup>th</sup> grade player play on a school field that does not allow 8<sup>th</sup> graders play at the high school level
11. Sarpy County asked the question what about US Lacrosse, will the 8<sup>th</sup> grade player be covered under the US Lacrosse insurance? Chris stated any 8<sup>th</sup> grader who is granted a waiver would have to register with US Lacrosse as a high school player
12. Sarpy County stated they had several 8<sup>th</sup> graders playing up last year and they quickly realized this was not a good idea; one because the other high school kids did not want the 8<sup>th</sup> graders playing with them and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders had a hard time fitting in. Now this year, Sarpy County Knights will not have a JV team because they did not build last year's JV team with 9<sup>th</sup> grades; their team numbers are lower.
13. Dawn from Sarpy County stated her son three years ago requested a waiver and it was denied, and her son who is now in high school almost quit lacrosse because his skill set was more advanced than the average U15 players in OSL and this discouraged him
14. Northstar made the comment if NELAX allows for 8<sup>th</sup> graders play up, how would it be determined if the player had advanced skills without having some sort of combine or having them prove their advanced skills.
15. Creighton Prep stated if 8<sup>th</sup> graders were allowed to request a waiver that both the parents and player would need to attend the meeting and personally ask the board for permission for the waiver to be granted. This would allow the board to at least see the player's size and maturity

16. Kimberly NELAX secretary made a comment that she can see both sides of this issue. As a mother of a child she of course thinks/feels her child is the best player out there however reality is he may not be. She gave the example of her son playing on a team where he was playing teams at least 2 years older than he is this past summer. He was injured and emergency services were called. As she stood there watching him being loaded in the ambulance it was clear no one should be playing on a team with people who are that much older than he is because they are bigger and stronger. However this past fall one of the kids at the mid-fall classic who has been used as example several times of having advanced skill set to be playing U14, he shot the ball and opposing team player stepped in front of the ball and he went down by a fast moving shot to the back. Thankfully he was not hurt. She sees both sides and stated this is a tough call for her.
17. Chris stated this year more time has been spent on this issue of 8<sup>th</sup> graders playing up, than any other issue. The NELAX Board does not see the NELAX as the answers to the issues being given, this is a youth level issue and if OLC is not the correct place for 8<sup>th</sup> graders to play because these kids have advanced skills, then maybe they need to start their own league or create a travel team to play other player who match their skill set. NELAX needs to get back to focusing on high school level lacrosse
18. Cobra Lacrosse backed Chris up on this statement stating NELAX has always been a 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade league. 8<sup>th</sup> Graders have always been an exception to the rule and there are no guarantees
19. **The group decided it was time to vote on Vote to not allow any 8th graders to play up during the 2018 Spring Season**
20. **Voting Results Yes – 8 No – 8**
21. **Results: 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be allowed to request waivers to play in the 2018 Spring Season**
22. **The group voted on the Procedures for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders to Play Lacrosse for High School JV Team**
  - a. Discussion of any changes:
    - i. Proposed changes:
    - ii. Delete Elkhorn South in the closed school section
    - iii. Burke needs to read: Burke (includes OPS schools only)
    - iv. Add Elkhorn Storm to the open schools section

- v. Add #6. Any player, who has requested a waiver, must appear in front of the board for approval. If the player is from Ames, Ankeny or West Des Moines Valley they can appear via phone.
- vi. **Voting Results Yes – 16 with proposed changes**
- vii. **Results: The Procedures for 8<sup>th</sup> Graders to Play Lacrosse for High School JV Team has been approved**

d. Vote to establish annual requirements regarding coaches training.

i. Discussion of any changes:

1. Burke wants to give some leeway for coaches to complete training this year.
2. Burke suggested that only one coach per team has to complete all required training this year, and beginning next year all coaches (head and assistants) must complete all required training
3. Only head and assistant coaches will be required to complete the training, players who return from college at the end of the season to help out, do not have to complete the training
4. Level 1, 2 or 3 coaches training can be in progress as classes are few and coaches may not be able to complete the face-to-face portion
5. **Voting Results Yes – 16 No – 0 with suggested changes**
6. **Results: Annual requirements regarding coaches training has been approved by unanimous vote.**

6. Vote to accept or deny transfer request for Jimmy Ruff to transfer from Cobra Lacrosse to Sarpy County Lacrosse.

a. Discussion and questions

- i. Jimmy's attends school at Lewis Central High School in Council Bluffs, IA
- ii. Parents are divorced and share custody; dad lives in Council Bluffs and mom lives in Bellevue, NE.
- iii. Dad, Ryan contacted NELAX on January 9th asking where Jimmy should play since he is a freshman this year.
- iv. NELAX referred parents to Cobra Lacrosse as Lewis Central is in their recruiting boundary.
- v. Parents talked with Travis Timm, Head Coach of Cobra Lacrosse and explained their situation of sharing joint custody. Parents stated it would be a lot easier for them to get Jimmy to practice with Sarpy County, but would play with Cobra if a transfer was not approved. Travis Timm

contacted NELAX on January 10th via email releasing Jimmy Ruff from their program.

- vi. Cheri VanHolland contacted Chris Howe regarding how to proceed with a transfer request for Jimmy Ruff as his dad, Ryan had contacted them asking if they would take Jimmy on their team.
- vii. NELAX received transfer request from Sarpy County on January 24, 2018.
- viii. **Vote to allow Jimmy Ruff to transfer from Cobra Lacrosse to Sarpy County was passed with a unanimous vote of Yes - 16 No - 0**

#### 7. VP

- a. Jon Pohlmann - current VP: Discussion and questions
  - i. No one submitted a letter of interest for the position of Vice President of NELAX
  - ii. **Voting Results Yes – 16 No – 0**
  - iii. **Results: Unanimous vote to retain Jon Pohlmann as Vice President of NELAX**

#### 8. President's Report

- a. Growth Summit After Action
  - i. If you have not received the email with the Summit notes or PowerPoint please let Chris know
  - ii. Chris stated Bruce would like to attend the February meeting to meet our board
- b. Number of players who have registered
  - i. 55 Players have been registered for the 2018 season
  - ii. The issue of players being assigned to teams when registering. If there are any issues let Chris or Kimberly know

#### 9. VP's Report

- a. Update on JV Tournament
  - i. Need to wait for registrations to be complete as some teams will not have a JV team
- b. Update on League Tournament Site
  - i. Burke requests no 9:00am games during the tournament

#### 10. Secretary's Report

- a. Update on Website
  - i. Website has started to be updated. The boundaries have been uploaded, logos other documents

#### 11. Discuss League Tournament Program

- a. Each team will receive an email stating what is required to be submitted for each team for the League Tournament Program

#### 12. Treasurer's Report

- a. Current Balance: \$23,332.63
- b. Everyone has paid for their balls except Creighton Prep and Steve will be checking into
- c. Checks were turned in to Tim from several families from Lincoln who paid their fees with a check
- d. Receipts from the US Lax Convention to be reimbursed were turned in during the month to Tim
  - i. Austin Ladd (WDV) \$1365.75
  - ii. Chris Hanke (Burke) \$1359.58

13. Upcoming events

- a. Preseason Spring Training Clinic - Speedway Village, Lincoln on March 4th 10 am - 4:00 pm \$25

14. Next Meeting is Wednesday, February 28th at 7:00 PM

- a. Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm