

# Amity Lacrosse

Wednesday, March 9, 2016 Officers' Meeting Minutes

## A. Attendance

John Coughlin, President

Jim O'Connor, Vice President

Matt Aronin, Secretary

Laura Torrence, Treasurer

Drew Blanchette, VP, Referees and Games

David Pretlove, Co-VP, Referees and Games

Anthony Hebert, Towns and Facilities Coordinator

Justin Grande, Program Coordinator (Bantams and Lightning)

Sean Flaherty, Program Coordinator (Juniors and Seniors)

## B. Minutes

1. President Coughlin made a motion to start the meeting, and Sean Flaherty seconded the motion.

### 2. Treasurer's Report – Laura Torrence

- Laura Torrence reviewed her report on the current budget (\$26,162 in account) and handed out a document to the board with the proposed dollar amounts for the 2016 spring season (\$16,825 total as of now). These budgeted items included costs for first aid supplies, web hosting, insurance, balls, goalie equipment, jamborees, CONNY membership, new field development, coaches, and extra uniforms.
- President Coughlin added that there were additional costs not in the proposed budget for CPR and First Aid certification classes for coaches as well as the WCLOA.
- Treasurer Torrence also indicated that we paid \$5,000 last season and are \$2,500 ahead of schedule in terms of paying for new field development at Fred Wolfe Park.
- David Pretlove indicated that referees will need to be paid (cash or check) on game days, and Treasurer Torrence said she would have those checks available.
- Treasurer Torrence handed out a document to the board detailing members with account balances as of 3/9/16. It was agreed that coaches would contact members on their respective teams to clear up any oversights.
- Sean Flaherty made a motion to accept the proposed budget, and John Coughlin seconded the motion.

### 3. Uniforms and Macwear

President Coughlin reported that the bill from Macwear for extra uniforms from past seasons had been resolved. New uniforms are on order and will be delivered early April.

### 4. Town Field Schedules for Practices and Games

President Coughlin reviewed the practice schedule for the upcoming season: all teams (except the Little Bantams) will practice together at Pease on Tuesdays and Thursdays for the entire month of April. In May and June, practices will be at Pease on Tuesdays and at Fred Wolfe on Thursdays. Pease is also available for potential controlled scrimmages on Mondays. Little Bantams will practice and play on Sunday mornings at Pease.

## **5. Coaching Staff Announcements and Coaching Meeting**

- President Coughlin reviewed the list of coaches for each team for the upcoming season: Little Bantams will be coached by Justin Grande, Brent Botti, and Amity HS players; the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade team will be coached by John Costanzo, Andrew Donroe, and Jon Glenney; the 4<sup>th</sup> grade team will be coached by Dana Fiatarone, Turk Aksoy, Todd Bussert, and Brent Botti; the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team will be coached by Matt Aronin and Justin Grande; the 6<sup>th</sup> grade team will be coached by Mike Choiniere, DK Maus, and John Coughlin; the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team will be coached by Jim O'Connor, Jake Milner, and John Coughlin; the 8<sup>th</sup> grade team will be coached by Sean Flaherty and Drew Blanchette.
- President Coughlin reported that all coaches had already attended a coaching meeting to discuss goals, philosophy, and practice plans.
- President Coughlin also explained the move to a “grade-based” structure with no “A” or “B” teams at any level. With approval, players could play up, but cannot play down.

## **6. Scheduling**

President Coughlin reported that schedules as they currently exist will be sent to David Pretlove so that he can load them onto the AYL website. David Pretlove indicated that he would contact CONNY to see about getting individual coaches access to the CONNY site so they could make additions and revisions in the future, if necessary.

## **7. Practice, Not Game Focus**

President Coughlin explained that a change in the AYL culture would grow out of a focus on productive practices, not game play. He reviewed the “Student-Athlete Expectations Pyramid.”

## **8. Parent Advisory Committee**

Current AYL Member volunteers for this committee include Todd Bussert, Andy Starrett, the Costanzos, and Sue Thomas. Sean Flaherty stressed the importance of the parent advisory committee to establish and maintain lines of communication among parents, coaches, and board members.

## **9. Open Q&A**

- President Coughlin made a motion to open the meeting up to questions, and Jim O'Connor seconded the motion.
- Sue Thomas (parent member) asked whether or not players/parents should be required to let coaches know well ahead of time if they needed to miss practices or games and/or attend practices in order to earn the right to start in games. President Coughlin explained that play time would be determined by both the competitive nature of each game as well as each player's performance according to the expectations pyramid.
- President Coughlin also explained the potential for using a platoon system to balance out numbers at games.
- President Coughlin then reported on the current registration numbers at each grade level as of 3/4/16: 17 Little Bantams, 18 third graders, 16 fourth graders, 17 fifth graders, 18 sixth graders, 16 seventh graders, 23 eighth graders.
- President Coughlin then explained that the “24 hour rule” will be established as the communication protocol to be used at all times when parents feel the need to talk to coaches: they must wait a full day to contact the coach to request a meeting to resolve any perceived

issues. If the parent is not satisfied, s/he will contact the program coordinator (Justin Grande or Sean Flaherty). If the parent is still not satisfied, s/he will contact the VP or President.

- President Coughlin also stressed that parents will not be allowed to coach from the sidelines during games, and will also not be permitted to address opposing players or referees (unless it's to say something positive) at any time. David Pretlove suggested that perhaps a site director is needed to enforce this, and President Coughlin indicated that the coach will serve as site director.
- President Coughlin mentioned that we will have specialist coaches (for face-offs, goalies, defense, etc.) who'll be at our practice fields every few weeks to work with players at all levels.
- David Pretlove indicated that Amity HS Coach Brandon Pepe wants to once again hold a one-day clinic/fundraiser at Amity HS in early April. The weekend of April 9<sup>th</sup> was suggested as a possible date.
- President Coughlin added that our goal is to be on the fields to start practices the first week of April, as long as the weather cooperates.
- President Coughlin mentioned that there will be a face-off clinic on April 3, 2016 conducted by the Quinnipiac U. face-off coach. Details will be made available soon.
- President Coughlin indicated that he had received a request from CONNY President Barnard that each participating CONNY program get involved in some capacity in the "Play for a Cure" fundraiser for cancer research on 5/14 & 5/15. Sean Flaherty and Lauren Clark (parent member) volunteered to organize AYL's effort to be involved.

**10. Jim O'Connor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Sean Flaherty seconded.**

**C. Adjournment**

- D. Future Meetings** – the next AYL officers meeting is scheduled for April 6, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in room 6 at HPCC.

Respectfully submitted,

Matt Aronin, Secretary