

**NCJLA Board Meeting,  
April 21, 2010**

President Betty Hartog, Don Aiello, Rus Sherman, Rus Sherman, Boys Director Blake Abbate, Girls Director Kristine Wollam.

Reporting by phone: Vice President Todd Samet (late), Mickey Parmelee, John Demarest, Jeff Mills, John Fensterwald (secretary).

Absent: Treasurer Tony Grzejka.

Approval of minutes from March 2010. Rus and Don. Minutes of March approved.

**Treasure's report:** Report accepted.

Tony hired Complete Tax Solutions to handle all tax and accounting matters.

**Lease update:** Report of a possible tenant but no confirmation. Southern Marin plans to take a smaller office in the same complex.

**GIRLS REPORT BY KRISTINE WOLLAM** (see attachment below)

**Treasure Island:** Rus reported injuries on fields 1 and 3 because the fields are narrow. There needs to be a wider buffer between two fields. Next year, we may line for two, not three, fields.

**Girls Festival teams:** Registration has been slow for U-13 and U-15 teams. Coach Amy McCleary did handouts, so the tryouts were promoted. Kristine will follow with phone calls to larger clubs. The low turnout could reflect the state of the economy or the availability of other summer leagues, camps and local tournaments that are less expensive.

There were no incident reports on players but several on parents, including one who confronted an umpire. No action needs to be taken.

**Monthly phone calls:** Kristine reported few clubs have had a representative call in, resulting in lots of unnecessary followup calls from clubs with questions that could have been answered, had they been in on the call. Kristine called delegates after the last meeting to complain that their clubs were not participating.

**Policy question:** What can be done to require clubs to participate? Penalty? Fine? No action was taken.

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**BOYS REPORT by Blake Abbate (see attachment below)**

**Central Marin Lacrosse:** After a lengthy lag time to Betty's response, the club notified her that rosters were posted and past dues were paid. That left the issue

of notifying parents in the club about the suspension of a coach and a unique exception that the NCJLA board permitted to allow players from another club to join Central Marin. The board had instructed that Central Marin send out an e-mail to all parents the precise wording of the NCJLA decision. This was not done as best we could determine.

Rus will follow up with a call to the club president.

On a separate matter, several players played down to the U13 on Central Marin. The club has forfeited the first three games as a result.

**Rosters:** Don Aiello reported that a number of clubs had still not sent in the rosters of their players, as required by no later than February.

The NCJLA requires the following information: First and last name, date of birth, jersey number, e-mail or home address, US lacrosse number. The league also asks how many years a player has played, which helps NCJLA better understand which players should be in the A, B or C divisions (A or B for girls).

The board discussed what should be the consequences for not submitting the information. No decision was reached, though the board will decide so that penalties are clear at the annual meeting in September.

**Sports Incidents Reports:** No were filed on the girls side.

On the boys' side, Blake reported 14 ejections, including four from Folsom. The club acknowledges conduct problems and would like to have an affiliation with a mentor club.

Blake reported the first case of parent ejection and one physical altercation in the parking lot when an out-of-control parent confronted an umpire.

This led to a lengthy discussion on the consequences – whether players should be penalized because of the conduct of adults – whether the game should be forfeited.

Board members agreed that the club's sideline manager is responsible for keeping parents in line.

The board agreed that an e-mail should be sent to every club that parents are not to approach an umpire for any reason and that the role of the sideline manager will be spelled out again.

The league's policy is for the sideline manager should be identified before every game and his/her name should be on the scoresheet.

The board will consider a penalty policy in time for next season. **Under consideration: A coach who is ejected will be suspended for three games; a parent who is ejected will cause the forfeiture of the game in progress.**

Blake will create a more detailed ejection log so that the board has better documentation of incidents.

**Cost of national teams:** US Lax is requiring members to stay near Disney World at a high cost per day. Betty will call US Lacrosse for an

explanation.

**Sponsorships and vendor fees:** Kristine has prepared a vendor contract. The board will consider a policy regarding charging vendors at events based on a flat fee, a percentage of sales or the greater of the two. For food vendors, the policy is the league's take is 20 percent of sales.

Those who commit early to Treasure Island will get premium space.

**Issue of playing up:**

Blake reported that some clubs had the understanding that players were permitted to play three games in a higher division during the year.

Rus noted that on the girls' side, once you play up, you have committed to the higher age bracket. It has been that way for years. There were times in past years when players were moving up and down and were impossible to track. That's why the girls came up with their rule.

John Demarest disagreed. He said there is no harm in having players playing up at any point, particularly when the team in the older division is short of players. The experience is good for the younger players.

The board did not decide the final policy. However, the board did rule for this year's tournament:

- For the playoffs, players cannot play for another team in the same age division at any time for any reason. Motion by Don, seconded by Todd. Unanimous.
- Players may move up an age division during the playoffs but may not play in multiple divisions. Motion by Rus. Unanimous.
- Playing down in age is not permitted under any circumstance, even if one's team does not make the playoffs. Rus' motion. Unanimous.

**Field hosting:** Blake recommended moving toward holding playoffs at regional locations for the second round of the boys' tournament in the future because some top-seed teams have had trouble reserving fields on short notice.

The board will consider this for next year, with the possibility of reserving Treasure Island as a backup.

**9:50 adjourned.**

**Attachments:**

**Boy's Director Report 4/21/2010  
Blake Abbate**

1. Ran the play date in March with much success. Three fields going from morning till night. Only one complaint was that the fields were a little too small and should have been communicated earlier that the fields weren't regulation. I effectively handled this complaint and addressed it all Rep meetings.

- a. Recommendation was to make the south field regulation and keep the middle and north field the same. We will see how this works on April 24<sup>th</sup> at our next play date.
2. Began scheduling the Jamboree for all Non-playoff eligible divisions. I have the dates and locations laid out. I need to seed the teams and decide which days each team will play.
  - a. Planning on having the top teams play on one day and the bottom teams play on the other. (1<sup>st</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> Saturday/ 16<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> Sunday for all three divisions)
  - b. Waiting for feedback from teams on who does not want to participate.
  - c. Will be sending email and posting the teams that will be scheduled and on what days they will play. In this email I will ask for the clubs to confirm based on the list I sent out.
  - d. Wait few days for response then post the final schedule.
  - e. Will be sending out email with list of volunteer duties list and asking for clubs to help.
3. Posted and communicated all playoff structure and dates
  - a. New this year
    - i. Higher seed hosts quarter and semi finals, if they can't host lower seed has option to host, if both can't host NCJLA will arrange a location with the help of the involved clubs.
    - ii. Winning team in each conference gets automatic bid, but not automatic seeding.
    - iii. Website has the option to seed via strength of schedule, head to head and point system (2point for a win + .5 for a tie \* 100)
  - b. After thinking it through and discussing it with Steve Walker I am lining up fields for the semifinal games to play. I think it will be a nightmare to get refs to all of the games the day after the quarterfinal games
    - i. I already have So.Marin field on the 16<sup>th</sup> \$500 for the day and Phill from Diablo said he can get four fields not sure on the cost yet.
4. Sportsmanship incident report has been very effective, but clubs would now like to see a way to evaluate the refs both good and bad.
  - a. I have been directing them to file a sportsmanship incident report.
  - b. Talked with Steve and he reassured me that he will discipline his refs just like we discipline out players/ coaches/ teams. The sportsmanship form will work fine for him.
5. Ejection's
  - a. In process the of creating a ejection log.
  - b. Suggested to Steve walker to create an ejection template for the refs to fill out instead of submitting a email. I would like to see

consistent information rather than #17 Diablo with no date and or level/ division.

- c. Looking on suggestion to handle parent ejections
    - i. We have had several parents confronting refs after games. The parents have been very vulgar and out of line. One ref has quit because of it. I have communicated to all reps in our last meeting that this will not be tolerated, but we have no rule on how to handle this. Suggestions: A. The player of the parent or parents who was involved is suspended for the next game. B. The team forfeits the next game. There are some clubs using these now and have found them to be very effective.
  - d. Folsom: Has had 4 ejections this year and has been talked to both by Ben Hewit and Myself. They are aware of the severity of there actions and their president has been very cooperative in regards to changing there clubs mentality. He is new to the position and they just turned over every board position. He recommended that the NCJLA create a way to have a mentor program for clubs that encounter similar situations. He thinks the situation his club is in is very similar to a new club joining the NCJLA. Can we pair clubs with a mentor club?
  - e. Attached is a ejection log. (rough draft of this log I will be editing it and reformatting it. Also will add a section on parents.)
6. Rep meeting recap: All three went very well with more positive feedback then negative. The league seems to be very pleased with the changes that the NCJLA has gone through. They all seem to agree that the NCJLA is doing a great job on communicating.
- a. North:
    - i. Would like to see the season start and end two weeks later. They believe the league would grow and it would be easier to field teams after basketball ends. The other main concern was rainouts and spring break conflicts. Losing players at the end of the season was a concern brought to the tale at the other two rep meetings.
    - ii. Spirit of stick game pins or honoring the game awards.
    - iii. Need to email out fans need to be on the opposite side of the field and add this to the card next year.
    - iv. Recommend 4 goals be 6. They had no problem with the rule other then that.
    - v. Special needs players? Rules on discrimination?
  - b. San Jose/ South:
    - i. Difibulators (sp) and if there is a program that has scholarships to help non for profit organizations purchase them.

- c. Sac. Valley/ East:
  - i. Working on fostering a culture to have kids get an opportunity to have year round lacrosse.
  - ii. Curious about lateral and upward movement during playoffs
- 7. All-Stars for High School only
  - a. All-Stars were discussed at all three rep meetings. Every club thought it was a great idea and would like to see it done.
  - b. Sac valley said there would be no problem getting kids from far to come and play in the game if we had one.
  - c. Thought it would be great on a college application.
  - d. Wanted to use it as a test and see if maybe expanding it to other levels.

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April 20, 2010

**Director of Girl's Lacrosse Report  
Kristine Wollam:**

For the months of March to April I have been in short working the activities of my job description. I have noticed that for next year the big planning (travel teams, end of year tournament) needs to be done well before season starts. I am so busy putting out fires and answering e-mails that switching gears to plan a large event is challenging. However, now that the first season is almost under my belt, and Blake and I are joining forces to make the girl's side better mimic the boys and vice versa (taking the best of both sides), next season should run more smoothly.

- 1) Travel teams up and running- Getting the information out about travel teams. Looks like u-15 tournament team will be a go for launch. However, it looks like they have about 30 less girls trying out this year. The festival teams are low in registration despite different types of promotion and available information. Talked with Amy Mc Cleary about holding registration open for one more week before we pull the plug. Registration is non-refundable and due on May 1 at a total of \$2,600 for both teams.
- 2) Scheduling issues- Redid the u-11 west schedule...added games to the u-9 schedule. In both instances I purge the old and upload a new schedule to the website via an excel spreadsheet. For the u-11 I spent 20 hours getting the new schedule done, getting it up on the website, to the ref assigners, out to the reps and coaches for approval. Have had many scheduling issues with the U-11 this season. I will be re-evaluating how scheduling is done on the girl's side for next season. I have many

unhappy coaches upset with travel who would rather forfeit (this does not mean anything on the girls side) than drive to Redding one time...whereas Redding is constantly traveling. Don figured that I had over 260 game changes for the month. Between Don and I we made 314 changes out of 512 girls games not including the redo of the u-11 schedule and the addition of the u-9 schedule. Each one of these changes takes more than 3 minutes to do.

- 3) Mid Season Questionnaire- Sent out a mid season questionnaire to all of my reps. I wanted to do it now while the season was still fresh. I hoping to code their responses and use it to help make the 2011 season better.
- 4) Monthly Call In- Talked about end of year tournament and issues that have come up on the field so far this season. Conference calls are great because we can get more people on the calls. However, I've noticed attendance is dropping. I've started calling out reps who are not on the calls. The problem with reps not being on the calls is the fact that it kills the communication. The chain of communication should be: Parents => Girl's Rep => Division Commissioner => Kristine =>Board. I'm trying to figure out a system to get people on the calls. Do we fine them? Does not seem like a good idea to keep tacking on fines right and left.
- 5) End of Year Tournament-
  - a. Vendor Contract- Did rough draft of an NCJLA vendor contract have included this with my report.
  - b. Duties- Went over to-do list with Blake as to which each of us will be doing for YET we have balanced out the to-do list and are feeling pretty good about things.
  - c. Schedule- Put together the brackets and seeding for the girl's side
  - d. Vendors/Sponsors- On the hunt for vendors.
  - e. Things we need- Road barricades (to buy or rent?) found website where they seem rather reasonable (\$80 before shipping), detour signs, no dogs on fields signs, trainer & officials signs, ice chests for first aid ice (x2), tents (x2), field boxes (I want to put together a field box for each field that has the timers, cones, rules, flip charts in them for easy set-up, take down, and storage).
  - f. All are very happy to find out that they have already paid for this. I have not heard of any teams (so far) that will not be attending.

