

# **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP**

September 22, 2012

## **Mandatory Meeting: October 6th, 10:00am, Bertona Hall, SPU**

Members, this report is presented by your Board to reflect the state of our Association for the upcoming lacrosse season and year. What follows is only a highlight of what your Board sees for the 2013 season. **THIS IS NOT INTENDED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE TEAM HANDBOOK AND THE HANDBOOK ADDENDUM.**

In recent years WHSBLA Board President has prepared an annual report to the membership. At a minimum this serves to make our October Meeting manageable, with certain topics announced in that Report and later in the Handbook Addendum. Beyond that this report is also a reflection of the amazing work all our members have done to create a competitive, dynamic league that expands every year. For the 2013 season we will field 55 teams in a league structured DI/DII as in the past or DI/DII/ Non-Public depending on our vote at the October meeting (see Votes section below). We, in conjunction with the Washington Chapter of US Lacrosse and the Washington Schoolgirls Lacrosse Association, will continue to work toward WIAA sanctioning. A plan for implementing eventual sanctioning is being developed between WHSBLA and WSLA.

### **1. REVIEW OF BOARD ACTIVITY**

Your board had a very busy 2012. As President I would like to thank all board members for their tireless efforts. This is work that is challenging, time-consuming, unpredictable and most importantly critical to the growth of our game in Washington. The board in turn would like to thank the membership for your efforts at running the successful programs needed to fuel this growth.

In the offseason, the Board spends hours working on league policies, alignment, the WALOA contract...the items which must be taken care of for our season to run smoothly. During the season the Board has to respond to various issues, the vast majority of which are related to errors in managing member clubs...everything from binder violations to bad behavior by fans. It is unfortunately non-stop. Below are some examples of the “bookkeeping” variety of violations that the Board must respond to.

Division 1:

- 1 late program roster
- 1 played 1st game without having roster posted online
- 1 failed to report an ejection for a JV game
- 3 binder violations
- missing cpr/first aid for assistant coaches

- missing liability insurance and background checks
- missing proof of first aid for coaches

#### Division II

- 3 paid membership fees late
- 3 paid gm fees late
- 3 late coach's packet
- 4 late program rosters
- 3 late posting rosters on Sportability
- 6 Binder violations
  - Binder incomplete
  - missing code of conduct
  - binder completely a mess, missing several items, little complete or organized
  - missing liability insurance and background checks
  - No binder
  - claimed to have binder but in someone's truck... never produced

This season, the Board will emphasize the importance of eliminating these sorts of issues. **Teams who had violations listed above were put on notice last year that their program is on Probation with respect to bookkeeping and that a recurrence of these particular violations would result in stiff sanctions for the Head Coach. At this point we have 19 teams on 'bookkeeping' Probation.**

## 2. COMMUNICATION BETWEEN MEMBERS AND OFFICIALS

During the 2012 season, there were numerous instances of improper communication between members, officials, etc. Disputes will inevitably occur and so we ask that first and foremost you endeavor to resolve differences coach-to-coach. Any problem you cannot resolve through such direct communication or any dispute with officials should then be routed through your board. Teams should not air differences to the general membership, nor should they need to communicate directly with the officials.

## 3. WALOA NEGOTIATIONS

A proposal for 2013 from WALOA is pending. Details will hopefully be available at the October meeting

## 4. HEAD COACH & CONTACT INFORMATION.

Each Member must provide us the name of their Head Coach (if known) and the current e-mail address for that coach. If there remains a Head Coach vacancy, please provide us the name and e-mail address of the best contact for the club. Full Program information must be provided at the February mandatory coaches'

meeting. We need each Member to provide this information, even if your information has not changed from last year.

## **5. VOTES – TO BE HELD AT THE START OF THE OCTOBER MEETING.**

### ELECTIONS

Per the By-Laws, the Regional Representatives are up for election at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> membership meeting. The candidates are:

**Westside Rep:** Rob Hawley, Matt Williams

**Metro Rep:** Ron Wright, Cody Bludorn

**Northern Rep:** Peter White

**Eastside Rep:** Henry Valentine, Tye Schriever

Write in ballots are permissible for all board elections.

Prior to the vote, each candidate for office will be allowed time for a brief presentation to the membership as to why he/she warrants election to the Board.

### AMMENDMENT TO THE BY-LAWS

Below is the notice sent to members September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 regarding this vote.

#### **NOTICE TO GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

#### **WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION (WHSBLA)**

The WHSBLA Board of Directors has approved putting the following league alignment and Bylaw changes to a vote of the membership at our scheduled General Membership Meeting on October 6, 2012.

#### **SUMMARY OF PROPOSED CHANGE**

As part of the 2012 End of Season Survey, members were asked to provide comments regarding alternative league alignments. One of the alternatives presented was the establishment of a separate third league for private schools. Since more than a third of the survey respondents indicated a preference for a third division comprised of private schools, the Board has decided to put the proposed change to vote of the General Membership.

The WHSBLA Bylaws require that any change to the current league divisional alignment is to be made by the General Membership, and also require that league alignment changes must be approved by a two-thirds vote of the General Membership. In accordance with the Bylaws, only members in good-standing (i.e., not designated as being on probation or provisional) shall be allowed to vote. A list of members eligible to vote is attached to this notification.

Under the proposed change, the WHSBLA League would be comprised of three Divisions:

Public Division I

Public Division II  
Non-Public Division

The teams that would be assigned to the Non-Public Division are as follows:

Bellarmino Prep  
Blanchet  
Eastside Catholic  
Kennedy  
King's Way  
Lakeside  
O'Dea  
Overlake  
Providence  
Seattle Prep

The specific conference alignments and game schedules for all three divisions would be determined by the WHSBLA Board of Directors. If affirmed by the General Membership, the proposed three-division league alignment would be effective for the upcoming 2013 season.

Further, if the creation of the new Non-Public Division is approved, the composition of the Board of Directors is required to be changed to accommodate representation for the new Non-Public Division. The number of elected positions for the WHSBLA Board of Directors would be increased from seven (7) to nine (9). A new position would be created for the Non-Public Division and a second At-Large position would be created, to maintain an odd number of directors per the Bylaws. If the new alignment is approved, elections for these positions would occur at the February 2013 meeting, with terms expiring in October 2013. This shortened term September 6, 2012 aligns the terms of the new positions with the terms for director positions identified in the Bylaws for Division and At-Large positions.

The following are the specific proposed changes to the WHSBLA Bylaws. The changes are to Paragraph G of Article IV – Association Governance. Deletions are shown as strikethrough, additions are shown in **red**.

Article IV - Association Governance, Paragraph G:

G. The Board of Directors shall consist of an odd number of positions:

1. One or two At-large Representatives elected to a two year term by a majority of the General Membership.
  - a) The number of At-large Board members shall be either one or two to always ensure an odd number of Board members should the number of Board members grow in the future.
2. **Three** ~~Two~~ Division Representatives, one elected by each of the **three** ~~two~~ high school divisions:
  - a) **Public** Division I teams
  - b) **Public** Division II teams
  - c) **Non-Public teams**
  - d) Future Division Reps are anticipated as the Association grows.

3. Four Regional Representatives, one from each of four geographical regions of high school lacrosse:

- a) Westside teams
- b) Seattle Metro teams
- c) Eastside teams
- d) Northside teams
- e) Future Regional Reps are anticipated as the Association grows.

**SAMPLE BALLOT**

The following is the text of the Ballot Measure that will be voted on at the General Membership meeting on October 6, 2012. In accordance with the Bylaws, the vote will be conducted by a secret written ballot. Each program in good-standing will be allowed a single vote. Voting by proxy is not allowed.

**Ballot Measure:** Should the Washington High School Boys Lacrosse Association (WHSBLA) league alignment and Bylaws be changed to reflect a league organization of three divisions comprised of two public school divisions and one non-public school division (with the resulting addition of a Non-Public Division Member and a second At-Large Member to the Board)?

\_\_\_ **YES** \_\_\_ **NO**

**6. BUDGET ITEMS:**

**a. Budgets:**

**i.** The 2012 budget's final accounting will be available for inspection at the October Membership meeting. Because of WALOA negotiations, the 2013 budget has yet to be finalized.

**ii. Registration Fee for 2013**

**1)** Varsity schedule: \$275.

**2)** JV & Frosh/Soph schedules: \$175

These fees are used to help cover fees for the following: stipend for secretary/treasurer, WALOA mileage/ferry fees, Board D & O Insurance; stipend for league scheduler; Association website costs, division awards, meeting expenses, officials for semi-finals, and the Association's share of the public relations person's salary. We will use the same fee concept in 2013, with the happy note that Registration Fees have again been reduced!

**iii.** Every team in the League shall pay fees to the League Secretary to cover referee expenses for all scheduled home games. These fees are determined

**1)** under contract between the League Board and the referee association (WALOA). These fees will be collected twice. An invoice for all initial league scheduled games will be sent between January 1<sup>st</sup> and January 15<sup>th</sup> and must be paid in full by March 1<sup>st</sup>. An invoice for all added non-league

and playoff games will be sent between June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 15<sup>th</sup> and must be paid in full by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Any conflicts preventing payment by stated deadlines requires a plan be arranged with league secretary/treasurer PRIOR to stated deadlines.

- iv. **Game officials:** The new agreement with WALOA is still being negotiated. As soon as a final agreement is reached we will notify all programs.
- v. **Playoffs:** For the 2012 season, teams in the playoffs will split the cost of referees for the playoff games until they reach the semi-finals. WHSBLA will pay for the officials for the semi-finals. (The Washington Chapter of US Lacrosse will be again asked to pick up the tab for the finals.)
- vi. **Finals:** Saturday, June 1, 2013, Memorial Stadium.

## **7. TEAM ADDITIONS: 55 TOTAL PROGRAMS THIS YEAR!**

We welcome O'Dea and Camas as new Provisional Members for the 2013 season.

As seen in the section below and on the league website, teams are now referred to by their affiliated school. This is necessary for media purposes as many outlets will not otherwise feature content. Therefore for media related communications, teams should refer to themselves in this manner. Teams are not required to purchase new uniforms or otherwise modify the naming of their organizations.

## **8. CONFERENCE/DIVISION/TEAM ASSIGNMENTS**

The Board is working on plans for team assignments and alignment. However, final Conference and Division assignments will be determined following the outcome of the vote for a Non-Public Division. If the membership approves a Non-Public Division, then the scheduling of games, playoff structure and conference alignment will be adjusted for all three divisions. If the membership votes to keep the league structure at two divisions, little will change, with the exception of Snohomish being reassigned to DI, Stadium to DII.

The following outline shows the Board's latest work regarding assignments and alignment.

*Should the membership affirm the creation of a Non-Public Division, the league alignment will be as follows.*

**NON-PUBLIC** Division will be 10 teams divided into a Metro and Sound Conference. Schedule and playoff structures will be determined by the Board and

members of a committee composed of representatives from the newly formed division.

**The Metro Conference:** Eastside Catholic, Blanchet, Lakeside, O’Dea, Seattle Prep.

**The Sound Conference:** Bellarmine Prep, Kennedy, King’s Way, Overlake, Providence

**DIVISION I** will be 16 teams with Snohomish being moved into DI, Stadium moved to DII. Again, the DI teams will be divided into a Southwest and Northeast Conference (8 teams in each). All teams will have an 11 game schedule. Teams will play all teams in their conference. The remaining 4 cross conference games will be scheduled as follows.

- a. The top 4 teams in each conference will play the top 4 teams in the cross-conference.
- b. The bottom 4 teams in each conference will play the bottom 4 cross-conference teams.

A change is that **all games scheduled by the league will count toward playoff standings.**

- c. For playoffs, the top 6 teams in each conference will advance. The top 2 teams in each conference will receive first round byes.

Teams are free to schedule additional games up to their season maximum of 20.

In order to meet the membership’s wishes for continued attention to travel demands as well as an effort to build competitive balance between the conferences, the following assignments have been made

**The Northeast Conference (in order of 2012 finish):** Bellevue, Kamiak, Lake Washington, Sammamish, Eastlake, Bothell-Inglemoor, Woodinville, Snohomish.

**The Southwest Conference (in order of 2012 finish):** Issaquah, Mercer Island, Auburn Riverside, Bainbridge, Curtis, Tahoma, Lakeside, Emerald Ridge.

## **DIVISION II**

29 teams will be divided into six conferences as listed below:

**Skagit Conference:** Burlington-Edison, Friday Harbor, Lynden, Sehome-Ferndale, Stanwood.

**Cascade Conference:** Everett, Meadowdale, Monroe, Shorecrest, Wenatchee.

**Olympic Conference:** Klahowya, North Kitsap, Gig Harbor-Peninsula, Port Angeles, South Kitsap.

**Evergreen Conference:** Liberty, Mt. Si, Redmond, Selah.

**Metro:** Ballard, Garfield, Nathan Hale, Richland, Roosevelt.

**South:** Camas, Highline, Stadium, Union, Vashon.

Each team will play home and away games with teams in their conference.

Each team will play one game vs. teams from one other conference. The pairings are Skagit/Cascade, Olympic/Evergreen and Metro/Sound.

A 16 team playoff format will be used. Each conference will send the top two teams to playoffs. This will be determined using in-conference records only.

The remaining four playoff spots will be earned by the four 3rd place teams with the best win percentage in cross-conference games. This information will be available on the WHSBLA web site in time for playoff arrangements to be made.

Scheduling and playoff details will be discussed at the Membership Meeting.

*Should the vote not be affirmed by the membership, the league alignment will be as follows, in line with recent years.*

**DIVISION I** will be 20 teams with Snohomish being moved into DI, Stadium moved to DII. Again, the DI teams will be divided into a Southwest and Northeast Conference (10 teams in each). All teams will have a 14 game schedule. Teams will play all teams in their conference. The remaining 5 cross conference games will be scheduled as follows.

- d. The top 5 teams in each conference will play the top 5 teams in the cross-conference.
- e. The bottom 5 teams in each conference will play the bottom 5 cross-conference teams.

A change is that **all games scheduled by the league will count toward playoff standings.**

- f. For playoffs, the top 6 teams in each conference will advance. The top 2 teams in each conference will receive first round byes.

Teams are free to schedule additional games up to their season maximum of 20.

In order to meet the membership's wishes for continued attention to travel demands as well as an effort to build competitive balance between the conferences, the following assignments have been made

**The Northeast Conference (in order of 2012 finish):** Bellevue, Eastside Catholic, Skyline, Kamiak, Lake Washington, Sammamish, Eastlake, Bothell-Inglemoor, Woodinville, Snohomish.

**The Southwest Conference (in order of 2012 finish):** Issaquah, Mercer Island, Auburn Riverside, Bainbridge, King's Way, Bellarmine Prep, Curtis, Tahoma, Lakeside, Emerald Ridge.

## **DIVISION II**

33 teams will be divided into six conferences as listed below:

**Skagit Conference:** Burlington-Edison, Friday Harbor, Lynden, Sehome-Ferndale, Stanwood.

**Cascade Conference:** Everett, Meadowdale, Monroe, Providence, Shorecrest, Wenatchee.

**Olympic Conference:** Klahowya, North Kitsap, Gig Harbor-Peninsula, Port Angeles, South Kitsap, Stadium.

**Evergreen Conference:** Camas, Liberty, Mt. Si, Overlake, Redmond, Union.

**Metro – NW Conference:** Ballard, Blanchet, Nathan Hale, O'Dea, Roosevelt, Selah.

**Metro – SE Conference:** Garfield, Highline, Kennedy, Richland, Seattle Prep, Vashon.

Each team will play home and away games with teams in their conference.

Each team will play one game vs. teams from one other conference. The pairings are Skagit/Cascade, Olympic/Evergreen and Metro – NW/Metro – SE.

A 16 team playoff format will be used. Each conference will send the top two teams to playoffs. This will be determined using in-conference records only.

The remaining four playoff spots will be earned by the four 3rd place teams with the best win percentage in cross-conference games. This information will be available on the WHSBLA web site in time for playoff arrangements to be made.

Scheduling and playoff details will be discussed at the Membership Meeting.

## **9. SIDELINE MANAGER - REMINDER...AGAIN**

The HOME team is required to provide an adult to serve as the designated “Sideline Manager” to assist with crowd control issues during the duration of the contest. This person **must** be introduced to the officials prior to the start of the contest. In order to remain mobile, this person may not be part of the table crew (scorekeeper, clock operator, penalty timer, horn operations, etc.). The visiting team is encouraged to designate a “Sideline Manager” of their own, and if present should be introduced to the game officials prior to the start of the contest.

Admittedly coaches, officials and SMs need to up their vigilance so that this requirement is met.

Programs are expected to ensure their coaches and fans Honor The Game at all times and at all games.

## **10. DATES OF INTEREST FOR 2013 SEASON:**

- a.** Dead Period: runs from August 1<sup>st</sup> thru February 24, 2013.
  - i. No coach may have any coaching contact with his players, including incoming freshmen, during the Dead Period.
  - ii. For details, see the Handbook, §8.2.0.
- b.** First day of practice: Monday, February 25, 2013.
- c.** Championship Day: Saturday, June 1, 2013.

## **11. NEW FOR 2013**

### **a. NEW LEAGUE WEBSITE**

Our league has a new website <http://whsbla.usl.la>. This site replaces our prior site <http://whsbla.org> and will feature all previously available content. The new site eases the administration of scheduling and referee payments.

### **b. BACKGROUND CHECKS**

In June the Board voted to require all coaches to successfully complete a background check with national scope. This is different from the prior requirement in which only a WSP check was needed. This is in part in response to the US Lacrosse initiative to require national checks for coaches renewing their membership. US Lacrosse provides a portal through their website to the National Center for Safety Initiatives (NCSI) where checks may be conducted at a reduced cost.

The process to complete an NCSI check through the US Lacrosse website is as follows. Log on to your profile, submit information to NCSI and pay \$20 for the service. After 10 days you can return to your profile and check your status. If the check has been completed, you can print a page that lists the expiration date of the check, 2 years from completion. This

confirmation page, or other confirmation that a national background check has been completed must be included in your sideline binder.

**c. OUT OF SEASON Q&A**

As of August 1, 2012, we are in the dead period and this lasts until the first day of spring practice. New guidelines for out of season contact are now available in a Q&A document that can be found on the league website.

**d. SCHEDULING**

In order to ease scheduling and minimize conflicts, the boys and girls high school leagues have agreed to the following:

For programs that share a game field with a girls team, we ask that you meet with your counterparts and agree on weekdays that can be designated as “boys” or “girls” days. For example, Tuesdays and Thursdays might be designated boys game days, in which case Wednesdays and Fridays would be girls game dates. This information must be forwarded to league schedulers who will use these guidelines when building schedules.

**12. REMINDERS:**

**a. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF REGULAR SEASON GAMES.**

Teams are limited to a maximum of **20 regular season games plus 1 jamboree during the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of the season.** Playoff and finals games do not count against this 20 game maximum, but any additional jamborees/tournaments attended will count as 1 game for each day of jamboree/tournament competition. For example, a team has 14 regular season games, plays in a jamboree on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of the season, and then plays in another jamboree on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of their spring break. This team has used up 17 of its total 20 regular season games. See Handbook, § 10.4 and 10.5 for details. Members are further reminded that any contact with an opponent (practice, scrimmage, etc.) is considered a contest and must be reported and counted toward your allowable 20 games.

Teams must report all scheduled games to the League Scheduler. This specifically includes all jamboree or out-of-region games. The report is to indicate the number of games played, and the length of each game (if the game is not a full lacrosse game. Members are advised to review Section 10.6 of the Handbook for specific rules regarding jamborees.

- b. Zach Lystedt Law remains in effect! If your program has any questions regarding complying with this law, refer to our league website or consult with your Board representatives.**

- c. **COACHING STANDARDS** – Coaching standards remain in effect! See Handbook Addendum for details.

WAOLA Referee Training: this year, WALOA conducted a training session on January 27 at SPU.

- d. The Board encourages all club programs to make every effort to become a school club program or school sport for the '13 season.

- e. **JV & FROSH/SOPH GAMES:**

- 1. To reduce the number of cancelled and even forfeited JV and frosh/soph games as the season progresses, please note the following criteria before you enter a JV team into the scheduling process.

- 2. **FOR THE PURPOSES OF DEFINING A JV TEAM**, this means that your program can field sufficient players so that a double header (V & JV) can be held on the same day and at different locations. If your projected numbers do not support this type of a schedule, please do not sign up for a JV schedule. Similarly, before you sign up for a Frosh/Soph schedule, ensure that you have enough projected JV and Frosh/Soph players to hold two such games on the same day at different locations.

- 3. **Remember – you pay a scheduling fee for each team which means:**

- a. **JV teams that pay the \$175 Registration Fee and then do not field a JV team will lose the Registration Fee, unless they can be replaced by another team in the schedule, i.e. an unexpected and non- registered team comes to be prior to the season.**
    - b. **JV teams that do not pay the \$175 Registration Fee but then wish to be scheduled later may MAKE THEIR OWN SCHEDULE. THESE GAMES WILL BE POSTED ONCE THEY PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE.**

- f. **GAME OFFICIAL'S EVALUATION FORM:** We will again be using a game officials' evaluation form. We strongly encourage all Members to fill out and return these forms to the Board. Despite a low participation rate last year, the information provided proved valuable to the Board. We hope with better participation we can provide even better data on officials' performances.

See you all at the Membership meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

Rob Hawley  
Board President.