

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of January 30, 2016

General Membership/Mandatory Coaches Meeting

- 870: The meeting of the Membership/Coaches of the Washington High School Boys Lacrosse Association was held on Saturday, January 30, 2016, at 10:00 AM at Demeray Hall, SPU, Seattle, Washington.

Board President/At-Large 1 Rep: Vern Smith
Region 1 Rep (Wesco-Northwest): Greg Hill
Region 2 Rep (KingCo): Brando Fortier
Region 3 Rep (Seattle-Metro): Kris Snider
Region 4 Rep (Narrows-Olympic): Rob Hawley
Region 5 Rep (SPSL to Greater Vancouver): TBD
Region 6 Rep (Eastern-Spokane): Chris Leshner
At-Large 2: Ian O'Hearn
At-Large 3: Henry Valentine (absent)
Board Executive Secretary: Kathi Lucchesi

2016 Membership Programs present:

Archbishop Murphy; Auburn Riverside; Bainbridge; Bellarmine Prep; Bellevue; Bethel; Blanchet; Bonney Lake; Bothell; Burlington-Edison; Camas; Cascade; Central Valley; Columbia River; Curtis; Eastlake; Eastside Catholic; Emerald Ridge; Franklin; Friday Harbor; Garfield; Gig Harbor; Gonzaga Prep; Inglemoor; Issaquah; Jackson; Juanita; Kamiak; Kennedy Catholic; Klahowya; Lakeside; Lake Washington; Lewis & Clark; Liberty; Lynden; Mead-Mt. Spokane; Meadowdale; Mercer Island; Monroe; Mt. Si; Nathan Hale; Newport; North Kitsap; O'Dea; Olympia; Overlake; Peninsula; Port Angeles; Providence; Redmond; Richland; Roosevelt; Sammamish-Interlake; Seattle Academy; Seattle Prep; Sehome-Bellingham; Selah; Shorecrest; Skyline; Skyview; Snohomish; Southridge; South Kitsap; Stadium; Stanwood; Sumner; Tahoma; Union; Vashon; Wenatchee; West Seattle; White River; Woodinville

Absent: Ballard

- 871: The meeting was called to order by board president, Vern Smith. He welcomed all 74 programs and reminded coaches to check in with Kathi if arriving late to the meeting to assure attendance is recorded and mandatory paperwork and fees are turned in. The current board of directors was also introduced at this time.

- 872: Vern reminded the membership about the ground rules for speaking. Everyone can speak once on every topic. If someone wants to speak twice they must wait until everyone else has the opportunity to speak once.
- 873: Arron deLeon, head coach of Bonney Lake, was introduced to share news of player, Camron Cozzi's recent diagnosis of DIPG. A brief background of this form of cancer and Camron's diagnosis was shared and Arron also shared ways that the Bonney Lake and local lacrosse communities are supporting Camron and his family. A web site has been set up where teams can go to purchase helmet stickers and more to show their support. Information will be posted soon on the WHSBLA website.
- 874: It was announced that the election for the Region 5 Rep will be held at the end of the meeting and asked that participating teams go to meet at the front stage immediately following the meeting. There are two candidates for the position, Rod Amell and Kelley Pratt. Both candidates took a moment to stand and introduce themselves to the entire membership.
- 875: Vern welcomed new members and new coaches to the league and each stood to introduce themselves:

New teams:

Cascade – Kipp Strong
Olympia – Kellen Gallacher
Skyview – Michael Wilkerson (announced at meeting)
Sammamish/Interlake – Matt Turbak

New coaches to their program:

Ballard – TBD
Bothell – TBD
Columbia River – Dave Holler
Friday Harbor – Cliff Swirtz
Garfield – Tobias Lumpkin (announced at meeting)
Kennedy – Jim McLaughlin
Lakeside – Eric Davidheiser
Liberty – Ryan Kelly
Lynden – Jarrett Spieth
Meadowdale – Jesse Wolfe
Newport – Kitch Daniels
Peninsula – Courtney Mauzy
Roosevelt – Andy Herriott
Southridge – Josh Brimberry
Woodinville – Will Corrigan (announced at meeting)

876: The WHSBLA Contributor Recognition Program was introduced. All should have received a nomination page with information about the program when they checked in (attached). Members are encouraged to look at the criteria and if have a long time person involved in their program to please nominate so they may be recognized at the State Championships.

877: Vern gave an update on the WIAA sanctioning status:
Overall the support is positive as the WIAA has encouraged the WHSBLA to take active steps to becoming a sanctioned sport and have designated personnel to work with members of the board toward that end.

At the next January meeting of WIAA (January of 2017), WHSBLA plans to present an amendment for sanctioning. Part of that will likely be a transition period of which the WIAA has been receptive. The board is looking to the 2018 season for sanctioning.

This is a great opportunity yet there is still much to do as we continue to work through negotiations. Members are asked to help by showing support in your communications with your AD and school. It is especially important to continue to support and strengthen your girls' program if you have one. If you don't have a girls' team, talk to your board or AD about adding one. For more information about starting a girls' team, contact the girls' league (WSLA) president, Kate Roper, at president@wslax.org

Conglomerate programs are a concern when it comes to WIAA sanctioning and all were encouraged to take steps now to no longer be a conglomerate program by the 2018 season.

878: Coaches' packets and membership fees are due today. Invoices and reminders had been sent out to all. Membership fees are \$300 per Varsity team and \$200 per JV and C team. Included in the coaches' packet is a declaration stating that your program will have all required compliance file paperwork (kept in team binder) completed. The coaches' packet and membership fees are the only items due today.

879: The compliance file is due by February 27, 2016. The compliance file is to be scanned and emailed in one file to each members' regional board representative. Brandon explained that the names of each board position have been changed to better reflect the regions they represent.

All documents can be found under "Coaches Info" / "League Documents" and all were encouraged to go and become familiarized now.

880: Due to a large number of programs turning in compliance files late or incomplete last year, there will now be sanctions for failure to submit complete files on time. A fee and possible sanctions regarding play shall be assessed. This update can be found in the League Handbook.

881: Brandon walked coaches through the "To Do" list handed to each coach as they signed in. Items that need to be taken care of right away include: 1) Compliance File completed and documentation of such scanned and emailed to Board Representative; 2) Program info updated on website; 3) Double check Sportability for correct home game information; 4) obtain login information for Sportability from Brandon if necessary.

Accessing and updating Sportability was explained in detail and shown to members on the screen. All were reminded that it is easier to correct the Sportability schedule and make changes now rather than later.

882: Brandon shared an example of all items due in the compliance file, explaining how to complete each. Special emphasis was given to the mandatory background checks and how to obtain. Each coach must have a background check of a national scope. The easiest way to complete this is to go to through US Lacrosse. A link is up on the WHSBLA site. This background check is good for 2 years and it is listed on US Lacrosse membership cards.

All were reminded that all coaches must show documentation of both First Aid and CPR.

New this year, coaches must complete online courses through NFHS on Concussion/Head Injury as well as Sudden Cardiac Awareness. Links to courses are on the WHSBLA website through the Coaches Certification page. After completing both courses, download and print the certificates to include in the compliance file. The courses are free.

All coaches were reminded to start right away as these items take time. If compliance file is completed early, send it in to avoid any possible penalties for missing items.

883: The initial game fees payment is due to Kathi by February 29, 2016. The first payment includes all home games on the schedule at this time. The second invoice will be sent at the end of the season and will include any additions or changes including refunds due back for referee no-shows. Kathi asked that if any program has trouble paying initial game fees due to school policy to get in contact with her immediately to work out a payment plan. The address is at the bottom of all invoices and checks are to be made out to WHSBLA.

- 884: Before any player is allowed to step on the field in a varsity game, they must be listed on the team roster in Sportability. All were reminded that the players' number on the roster must also match the number they wear on the field. Team rosters must be posted on Sportability before the first game.
- 885: Official program rosters are due by March 14, 2016. These must be emailed to your Region Rep. Rosters must be submitted using the template that will be emailed to all by Brandon at the end of February. Program rosters include all players in the program, varsity and sub-varsity, and the total count of each. The rosters are used throughout the year for a number of reasons, including player eligibility, US Lacrosse census reports, and insurance reporting. There is necessity for roster consistency which is provided by the template.
- 886: Teams are responsible for reporting scores and stats of varsity games on Sportability within 24 hours of the conclusion of the game.
- 887: Additional tools, LaxPower and MaxPreps, for reporting scores and stats were announced:
- Both are good sites to give national attention to players and programs. In LaxPower, a coach can edit information about their program if information is incorrect but then the site takes care of itself.
- MaxPreps is a good site that helps get lacrosse linked to the schools. It is helpful for getting more press and encouraged as we pursue WIAA sanctioning. Programs will need to go in and make updates.
- 888: Game and practice reminders: Maximum allowed is 20 games (contests) plus 1 jamboree. Anything with an opponent is a contest and must be reported. All players must have 10 practices before participating in a game or jamboree.
- 889: 2016 Season Important Dates:
- i. First day of practice is Monday, February 29, 2016
 - ii. Playoffs begin – Friday and Saturday, May 13/14 (DII), Play-In games for (DI)
 - iii. All-American Meeting – Sunday, May 22, 2016
 - iv. WHSBLA Championships - Saturday, May 28, 2016
 - v. Out of Season begins - August 1, 2016
- 890: Vern reminded all that if they arrived late to check in with Kathi so as to avoid penalties. He explained that with the growth of the league – now 74 members – we have grown too large to follow up on everyone.

- 891: WALOA official, Keith MacFie, was introduced to share the 2016 season rule changes and points of emphasis. He first made the following announcements:

Members were reminded that there is a grievance process in place for issues regarding officials and officiating. If there is a significant issue, the head coach first needs to bring it to their WHSBLA rep and the rep will then contact Eric Smith to determine any necessary action.

Timers and Scorers Clinic: There will be a clinic on Saturday, February 20th, at SPU – Bertona Hall – from 1-3 PM.

Teams were thanked for providing names of individuals added to the referee pool and all were asked to continue recruiting. There are not many officials in the Vancouver area and Oregon officials are used to fill the gap. Remind your players to start officiating at the youth level for continued growth.

- 892: New rules and points of emphasis for 2016 were shared and all can be found on the NFHS website: <http://www.nfhs.org/sports-resource-content/boys-lacrosse-rules-changes-2016/>

The new rules were explained with the following notes. For detailed information on each, go to the NFHS link:

- A 6" wrap of contrasting color tape must be on the shaft of the face-off stick extending down from the head but not touching the head.
- In regards to face-off positioning, the official will make sure the players are set in legal position before blowing the whistle. Keith gave a demonstration of legal face-off positioning. He offered to come out to any program wishing additional work with their team on procedures.
- Half time warm-up is not required but will be a point of emphasis
- If a player leaves his feet before, during or after shooting a goal and lands in the crease, the goal will not be counted. It was clarified that the player must have grounded possession of the ball before taking the shot for this rule to take effect.
- The over and back rule will be enforced with a change of possession.
- For re-start, officials will be taught to do a quick but controlled re-start, first making sure all players are 5 yards away before the whistle.

- Clearing the crease – it is now a penalty for players other than the goalie to intentionally block the goal.
- Stick head: The transition to collegiate heads will take place in 2018. If programs have issues due to players purchasing new heads in anticipation of the changes this year, they are encouraged to speak with their board rep and WHSBLA will address it with WALOA.
- Shooting strings shall not extend lower than 4” from the top of the head.
- Goalkeepers must wear throat protectors that are specifically made for lacrosse.
- Targeting the head remains a point of emphasis. A 1 to 3 minute non-releasable penalty shall be assessed on targeting the head calls.

893: Kris Snider spoke about the US Lacrosse Washington Chapter activities:

- Kris thanked all who are US Lacrosse members and encouraged others to join.
- The Washington Chapter Coaches Convention is today, January 30th, right after the WHSBLA meeting. There are sessions for youth and high school coaching featuring two of the best high school coaches in the nation.
- The US Lacrosse Level 1 Clinic will be held on Sunday, January 31st.
- This summer, the U-19 National Team will be making a stop in Seattle to do a training camp. The Chapter is working to put together a team of college level players to scrimmage against them on or around July 5, 2016. Please give any potential player names to Kris Snider.
- The Seatown Classic will be teaming up with the Team Jessie Foundation and will be returning in the fall. More details to follow.
- Kris reminded all that there is grant money available from US Lacrosse nationally and locally. Applications are due in June and programs will typically hear back by August.
- All American selection process: all programs will be getting an email to do an audit for their team. This information is used to

determine the number of All Americans that Washington is allowed (1 AA for every 6 eligible teams). Please help by completing the audit in a timely manner.

- Kris will be working with Mike McQuaid to help focus lacrosse PR efforts more toward WIAA sanctioning.
- It was asked whether or not there is a Level 3 clinic here in Washington. Kris will look into that. All clinic dates and locations are posted on the US Lacrosse website.

894: The meeting was opened up to questions and brief discussion by members:

Vern reminded all about the concern with hits to the head. With the efforts toward WIAA sanctioning, it is now more important than ever that we take a stance of not targeting the head and make sure the message gets out to all. Lacrosse does not have nearly the incidence level of concussions that football does and that message needs to be conveyed to parents as well as school administrators.

Question - Has more thought been given to the idea of tracking concussion occurrences? The board addressed it at a meeting and determined it is best for the programs to track this within their program.

Question – Will there be separate All Conference teams for DI and DII? It is dependent on the conference. For conference where DI and DII teams do not play each other there will be separately recognized teams.

Question – Is WHSBLA doing any marketing to explain lacrosse vs football in concussion incidence rates? On the US Lacrosse website, such statistics are reported.

895: The regular meeting was adjourned at 11:50 AM.

896: Members of the Region 5 area gathered to cast their ballot for the new board position. With 11 members present to vote, ballots were cast, collected and counted. Rod Amell is the new Region 5 Representative to the WHSBLA board.

Kathi Lucchesi, Executive Secretary