

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
Minutes of September 8, 2012 Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 10:17 AM – at Issaquah High School

Attending: R. Hawley, B. Fortier, H. Valentine, R. Wright, I. O'Hearn, P. White, K. Lucchesi, and P. Sidebottom (via Skype). Guests: Eric Vaughn and Dale Newman from Edmonds Youth Sports; Alan Hardwick, Steve McGlocklin, Gus McGlocklin and Harry Ostrander from the Edmonds Lacrosse Club

1312 Edmonds:

Alan Hardwick of the Edmonds Lacrosse Club (Meadowdale) spoke first to the board in regards to the possible formation of a second high school program in the Edmonds area.

Areas of emphasis from the Edmonds Lacrosse Club (ELC) include: 1) members helped recover playing opportunities for former Lynnwood players by starting the Edmonds team just last season; 2) Agreed that ELC would take the high school program and the Edmonds Youth Sports (EYS) would run the youth program; 3) During the bulk of the season there was much cooperation between the two groups; 4) A second team would cut their numbers in half and therefore not enough for two teams; 5) Players want to stay together; 6) ELC would like to continue to work in cooperation with EYS for developing the youth with the goal of starting a second high school team when the numbers allow for it.

Dale Newman of the Edmonds Youth Sports next addressed the board.

Areas of emphasis from the Edmonds Youth Sports (EYS) include: 1) EYS has a business plan and 501(c)3 status; 2) EYS does not want to lose their 501(c)3 status yet to maintain it with a merger, EYS must be in charge; 3) If EYS has Edmonds & Mountlake while ELC maintains Meadowdale & Woodway high schools, the numbers are close; 4) EYS has the means to grow the business of lacrosse in the Edmonds area; 5) Felt that with recruiting efforts, the numbers are there to support two high school programs.

Questions from the WHSBLA board and discussion with the two groups followed. The current numbers of players and their geographical locations, the goals of the business plan and whether or not they would still be a youth organization if not allowed a high school team was asked of the EYS. Additionally it was pointed out that if the two organizations merged together now but split later, they would have to set up two separate boards to govern each high school program.

Board president, Rob Hawley, reminded all that the numbers needed to support a new team must be there for a split to occur so as not to decimate the existing team. The guests left the meeting and discussion followed.

The following two options were proposed: 1) No change to the existing Edmonds (Meadowdale) program suggesting a merger of the two organizations; 2) Split into two programs – Meadowdale/Edmonds-Woodway and Mountlake Terrace/Lynnwood. Discussion followed.

After reviewing the information and numbers, it is determined that there are not sufficient numbers to sustain two high school programs in the Edmonds area.

1313 Redmond:

An update on the current status of the Redmond program was given: they are currently working on recruiting for a new head coach but do not yet have one in place. It was determined that a deadline of January 15, 2013 will be given to the Redmond program to have a new board and organizational structure in place.

1314 Southwest Washington:

An update was given in regards to the new teams in Southwest Washington. The boundaries have been finalized as such:

Union - Evergreen School District

Camas – Camas and Washougal School Districts

King's Way – All remaining school districts that had already been assigned to the program

1315 Year End Survey:

The survey results have come in and areas needing to be addressed have been identified. The survey does not show support for enforcing a mandate whereas programs must provide qualified referees. It was still decided that the board could still offer an incentive to programs that have people step up to that role. A suggestion was made to put forth as incentive that programs receive registration fee back if they provide a qualified referee that works a predetermined number of games. Ron will put together a proposal and Rob will include as a highlight in the annual report.

1316 Alignment:

With the proposal of three divisions for the league, it was suggested that a steering committee be formed to assist in setting up the new division if voted in. Discussion followed about whether or not this would be a board position or an ad hoc committee. Representation from the private schools will be given time to speak on the topic of three divisions at the General Membership meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

1317 Referees:

Ron is working with Keith MacFie and Jim Franklin to create a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between WHSBLA and WALOA for officiating for the upcoming season. While it is anticipated that the expenses for officials will remain close to the same, the accounting will likely be different. WHSBLA is considering using League Athletics for scheduling, while the officials will use Arbiter and Refpay. The new proposed framework will eliminate a lot of extra clerical work.

1318 Cedar Park/Providence:

In order for Providence to have Cedar Park student athletes assigned to their program an agreement needs to be reached between the schools themselves. This has been communicated to the Providence program

1319 Appeal Deadlines:

The question was raised as to whether or not the WHSBLA should include a deadline for appeals to be heard. This is in response to the situations faced prior to the 2012 season when an appeal was sought and voted to be heard but the number of members needed to hear the appeal were not in attendance. It was decided that a recommendation to members would be given stating that petitions should be filed by December if an appeal is anticipated.

1320 Website Update:

The new WHSBLA website is almost ready to go. We are just waiting on a membership number from US Lacrosse. The cost of using League Athletics is greatly reduced with a US Lacrosse group membership. It is still undecided whether or not League Athletics can handle all of the leagues needs as Sportability has in the past. One issue is whether or not teams will be able to manipulate their roster easily without interfering with the site. The GEL league has bought it and is using the site. It will be a good test for working with Arbiter.

1321 Officials No-Show Policy:

There was discussion regarding establishing a formal written policy for instances when no official is assigned to a game, or when there are no officials present at the game. It was agreed that if no official is assigned or present for a varsity game, the game has to be cancelled. If a sub-varsity game has no officials, it is up to the coaches to agree whether or not the game shall be played.

**MOTION: It was moved by R.W.and seconded by P.S. to adopt the following policy in regards to games where no official is present:  
If a varsity game does not have officials assigned to the game, or if no**

**officials are present for a scheduled varsity game, the game is to be cancelled and rescheduled. If no officials are assigned or present for a JV or C game, the game can be played using assistant coaches or school officials, subject to agreement by both teams.**  
**All approved. Motion carried 7-0.**

1322 Background Checks – NCSI:

With the policy in place that all coaches must have a national background check (NCSI), Rob investigated the process for such a search. He reported that with the updated registration, this is now an automatic step when one registers as a coach through US Lacrosse. There was some discussion as to how the background check records will be kept. When the background check is completed, the coach will need to print out the report to be kept in the team binder. Rob will include information about these procedures in the annual report.

1323 San Juan program:

A note was sent to Rob Cuomo and the board regarding the league violations incurred by San Juan. It was determined that the board will request an action plan detailing how they will address the issues to make sure the program is in compliance in the future. This plan is to be submitted by the October 6<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting.

1324 Roosevelt ASB:

Ron reported that he has answered the questions asked by the Roosevelt ASB in regard to helmet use and policy regarding games where no referees are present.

1325 Out of Season Coaching:

After receiving specific reports of out-of-season coaching by two of the league's coaches, an update was given as to the action taken. Both coaches were notified and given the opportunity to respond. Rob will follow up with notes to each of the programs.

Discussion followed in regards to what is and is not allowed during the off season and specific scenarios were evaluated using the rules from the league's handbook. Rob will follow up with further explanation and proposed recommendations to the offending coach. In regards to when a head coach is running a program that includes his regular season team or players from that team, the following recommendations were proposed: 1) Find someone else to run the program; 2) Step out of the building when your spring league team is on the field; 3) At a minimum, leave the field/floor when team is playing; 4) Do not talk to players from spring league team at such a program.

There was further discussion about evaluating players at a tryout during the off-season. It was determined that evaluating at tryouts when your own players are among the candidates, is in violation of the Out-of-Season coaching rules. The board is working on a Q & A document to help clarify and remind coaches of these rules.

1326 Membership status – Edmonds, Monroe, Kennedy:

The Edmonds, Monroe and Kennedy programs were provisional members for the 2012 season seeking full membership. Following discussion about what becoming a full member of this league entails (i.e. following all rules, paperwork and payments submitted when due, etc.), the board voted on whether or not each of the programs shall be granted full membership.

**MOTION: It was moved by R.W. and seconded by H.V. that Edmonds will remain as a provisional member until it is shown they can fully abide by the terms of league membership. All approved. Motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION: It was moved by R.W. and seconded by I.O. that Monroe will remain as a provisional member until it is shown they can fully abide by the terms of league membership. All approved. Motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION: It was moved by R.W. and seconded by H.V. that Kennedy will remain as a provisional member until it is shown they can fully abide by the terms of league membership. All approved. Motions carried 7-0.**

1327 Game of the Week:

There was discussion about potential legal issues in regards to the “Game of the Week” concerning broadcasting rights, school parameters and more. It was determined that further investigation was necessary before proceeding.

1328 Team Name Assignments:

Peter reported that there has been a lot of discontent about the decision to list programs by their designated high school. Specifically, some programs are upset that they can no longer go by the name they have used since joining WHSBLA and felt it may be hurting some relationships with schools.

There was discussion about the reasons for this change: 1) Consistent with WIAA; 2) Teams cannot be reported on Lax Power and Max Preps, etc. unless tied to a high school name; 3) It is healthy for the league and state as it is consistent with other leagues; 4) It helps with the number of All American nominations granted by US Lacrosse; 5) Many media outlets will not report game scores unless a program is listed as a high school.

Rob will address this concern at the October 6<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting, clarifying the reasons for the change.

1329 2013 Budget and Registration Fees:

Kathi distributed copies of the 2013 budget and discussion followed. With the increase in number of teams in the league, discussion followed about making some changes to the budget including a decrease in registration fees (Varsity now \$275 and Sub-Varsity now \$175), increasing the Scheduler stipend by \$2,000 (from \$4,000 to \$6,000) and including a stipend of \$2,000 for a web master.

**MOTION: It was moved by B.F. and seconded by H.V. to change the registration fees in the budget to the following: Varsity team - \$275.00; Sub-Varsity team - \$175.00. All approved. Motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION: It was moved by H.V. and seconded by P.S. to change the Scheduler stipend from \$4,000.00 to \$6,000.00 and to include a stipend of \$2,000.00 for a Web Master. All approved. Motion carried 7-0.**

**MOTION: It was moved by R.W. and seconded by H.V. to accept the 2013 budget with the approved changes. All approved. Motion carried 7-0.**

1330 October 6 General Membership Meeting Agenda:

The board discussed the topics and order of agenda items for the upcoming General Membership Meeting. Items to discuss with members were highlighted so that Rob can create the agenda. Along with Board elections, there will be a vote on whether or not to have three divisions (DI, DII and Private School).

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 PM.

Kathi Lucchesi

Executive Secretary/Treasurer