

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION

Minutes of October 1, 2011
General Membership Meeting

- 642: The meeting of head coaches of the Washington High School Boys Lacrosse Association was held on Saturday, October 1, 2011 at 10:00 AM at Bertona Hall, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington.

Board President: Rob Hawley
Board Executive Secretary: Kathi Lucchesi
Division I Rep: Brandon Fortier
East Rep: Henry Valentine
West Rep: Rob Hawley
North Rep: Peter White
At-Large: Ian O'Hearn

Division I – Bainbridge Island, Bellevue, Curtis, Eastlake, Eastside Catholic, Issaquah, King's Way, Lakeside, Lake Tapps, Lake Washington, Mercer Island, Mukilteo, Northshore, Puyallup, Sammamish, Skyline, Stadium, Tacoma, Tahoma, Woodinville

Division II – Ballard, Everett, Garfield, Gig Harbor, Highline, Klahowya, Liberty, Mt Si, Nathan Hale, North County, North Kitsap, Overlake, Roosevelt, Seattle Prep, Selah, Skagit Valley, Snohomish, South Kitsap, Stanwood, Three Rivers, Vashon, Whatcom, Woodinville.
Absent: Blanchet, Franklin, Olympic, Providence, Redmond, San Juan, Shoreline, Wenatchee

- 643: Roll Call was taken and Rob welcomed the four new programs, Edmonds, Kennedy, Monroe and Union. With the addition of 4 provisional teams, there are now 54 programs in the league. Rob introduced the current Board members and explained who they represented.
- 644: Kathi announced that copies of the current contact list are circulating and to please provide updated information.
- 645: Rob 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. In respect of members' time, the board will try to keep the meeting to 2 hours or less.
- 646: Rob gave a few kind words about outgoing Division II Representative, Kevin Martin, thanking him for his years of service and dedication to the board.

- 647: The first order of business was the election of Division I, Division II and At-Large Representatives to the Board. Each candidate introduced themselves and briefly explained why they want to be on the Board. Gig Harbor head coach, Marc Kemp, gave an introduction of nominee, Phillip Sidebottom, in his absence.
- 648: Rob explained the voting process: each program has 1 vote and receives a ballot pertaining to their division and vote eligibility; write-in votes are allowed and should be written on the space provided on the ballot; all programs not currently on probation may vote with the exception of provisional members.
- 649: The results of the election: Division I Representative-Brandon Fortier; Division II Representative-Phillip Sidebottom; At-Large Representative-Ian O'Hearn
- 650: Ian announced that he is the contact for the WALOA Negotiating Committee for the 2012 contract. If anyone is interested in that process or has ideas regarding the negotiations, they should email Ian directly.
- 651: Brandon would like all coaches to update their team webpage as soon as possible. There is a webpage for every team. Each program must check the page and let Brandon know what changes need to be made. He will send an email out in the next week or so asking for those updates.
- 652: Kathi announced that the final accounting for the 2011 season is available for inspection by members.
- 653: Brandon announced that membership fees for 2012 are reduced by \$50. Varsity fees are \$300 and sub-varsity (jv & c teams) are \$200. These fees are due at the February general membership meeting.
- 654: Members were reminded to think carefully when deciding to add JV or C teams as there will be a deadline of November 15th to submit. At that point, programs will be charged the membership fees for all teams submitted. If a program drops a team after the deadline, they will still be billed for that team. If a program decides to add a JV or C team after the Nov. 15th deadline, they can choose to schedule games themselves.
- 655: When asked if there were any questions to this deadline and billing, a member remarked that last year the JV schedule was very difficult with all of the team changes that took place. This is what the board is trying to avoid for 2012 by implementing the above changes.

- 656: Fees for game officials for the 2012 season is yet to be determined. However, in an effort to simplify the process, it was announced that there will be a new invoicing schedule for game fees. Teams will receive just 2 invoices – one at the beginning for all league games scheduled and one at the end of the season for all games added including playoffs.
- 657: Specifically game fees payment schedule shall be:
March 1, 2012 – first payment due (invoice sent out first week in January)
July 1, 2012 – final payment due (invoice sent out first week in June)
- 658: League alignment has been changed as follows:
Sammamish and Woodinville are moved to Division I (Northeast Conf.)
Overlake, Seattle Prep and Vashon are moved to Division II
Lynnwood will no longer be fielding a team
Mercer Island is moved to the Southwest Conference
- 659: Henry announced that the biggest change to Division I is that ALL league games (in and out of conference) will count toward playoffs.
- 660: The Division II Conference alignment and configuration had many more complications and input from members was sought in the form of 2 prior votes from DII coaches to be used by the board in making final decisions. Over 80% of the programs voted resulting in Option “B” edging out a close tie. Rob gave an explanation of what the options would look like explaining that the emphasis will be on travel considerations for all. He asked that members be patient while final details including playoff structure be worked through and finalized.
- 661: A member asked a question to the board about the DI cross-conference games structure (top 5 plays each other and bottom 5 plays each other), wondering if it could be mixed up. Brandon answered that from the surveys received from coaches, it was heard that teams want better and more competitive games reducing the potential for ‘blow outs’.
- 662: Much discussion followed in regards to cross conference scheduling as well as the out of conference games counting toward playoffs in Division I.
- 663: **MOTION: It was moved by Dejon Hush (Lake Washington) and seconded by Steve Wisman (Northshore) that the board revisit the cross conference structure of Division I and send out for a vote to the DI coaches. Motion approved 11-4**
- 664: Rob asked that all input for consideration in regards to Division I conferences be submitted to the board via email by Friday, October 7th.

- 665: Brandon announced that Peter White will be helping with the DII scheduling this year. They plan to have the initial draft of the 2012 schedule out by December 1. Brandon will send an email in the next few weeks asking for your team's absolute black-out dates (tolo, prom, religious holidays etc.); if your home field has lights or not; or if there are times when games cannot be scheduled on your field. This scheduling information is due by November 15th.
- 666: Teams are allowed a maximum of 20 games per season plus one jamboree. If teams attend multiple jamborees, each one is deducted from the 20 games limit. Jamboree games are shortened games (usually about 20 minutes). Each DAY of a jamboree counts as ONE game. If the jamboree is played on two days (i.e. Fri/Sat or Sat/Sun), it should be counted as two games toward the 20 game maximum – even if more than one game is played per day.
- 667: The league will schedule 12 to 14 games per team. Additional games may be scheduled by the team up to the 20 game limit.
- 668: 2012 Season
Dead Period – August 1, 2012 thru February 26, 2012
- i. No coach may have any lacrosse coaching contact with his players, including incoming freshmen, during the Dead Period
 - ii. For details, see Handbook Sec.8.2.0
 - iii. First day of practice: Monday February 27, 2012
 - iv. Championship Day: Saturday, May 26, 2012
 - v. Finals – May 26 at Memorial Stadium
- 669: Rob announced that an early start for provisional teams is not automatic as there are factors to consider. A new team wishing to be given permission to start practices early must send a petition to the board including the roster size, grade in school for all players and reason for request.
- 670: As reported to members in the annual report, Rob pointed out that there were several issues concerning program compliance and we need to clean that up. With the volume received by the board, it did not make sense to send out sanctions but rather give a warning. If a program had a non-compliance issue, they were placed on “bookkeeping probation” as a stiff reminder to get in order. This is not a general probation and programs are still allowed to vote. Failure to be in compliance this year will result in stiffer sanctions against the offend program and head coach.
- 671: Communications between members and officials was addressed. Rob reported that during the 2011 season while there were a number of examples of appropriate and good communication from and between

member programs, there were numerous reports of inappropriate communications. Some examples of such included: parents emailing the WHSBLA board directly; 'blast' emails to all members of complaints against another; communications directly to WALOA.

- 672: Guidelines for communication between members, the board and WALOA were given: Members should attempt to solve the matter first between the parties involved; If a resolution cannot be reached, then members should contact the board; Parents should not contact the WHSBLA board directly with team issues but seek resolution through their program board; Members are not to contact WALOA directly with referee issues as there is a process in place; Do not send 'blast' emails with issues or complaints.
- 673: An issue of proper insurance for the board members has come to light in recent weeks. Rob gave a quick summary of a lawsuit by a player in the girls' high school league in Oregon where the board is named in the suit. Their board is similar to the WHSBLA board in that D&O insurance is purchased through US Lacrosse' Bollinger. It was pointed out that the D&O insurance does not cover personal injury or property damage claims. For those types of claims, 100% of the members must have a current US Lacrosse membership for all players and coaches. The board will look at all possible options to make sure it is protected including the requirement of 100% USL membership. If this is the direction chosen, it would not be required for the 2012 season but members were given a heads up that it could happen the following year. For 2012, the board will look at purchasing a separate policy.
- 674: Rob announced that although representatives from the Washington Stealth were unable to attend, he wanted to remind members to continue to support the Stealth as they are very involved in our lacrosse community. In addition to attending games, there are fundraising opportunities as well as programs for youth and schools. Email Chris Kelley of the Stealth directly at: ckelley@stealthlax.com or by phone at: 406-581-9338.
- 675: Peter gave the following 2012 season reminders:
- Home teams must provide a sideline manager for all games. This person should be introduced to the referee and is NOT part of the table staff. They need to be on the fan side of the field and easily identifiable. Members were asked to please make sure and enforce this;
- 676: The Lystedt Law requirements remain in effect. There is good information on the WHSBLA website. Paperwork must be completed on an annual basis and paper copies with signatures are required at the field in the team binders;

677: Coaching standards need to be updated. There is an excellent opportunity in January as USL Washington Chapter will hold a 'mini convention'. The tentative date is January 28, 2012. It was announced that Jack Emmer is slated as the keynote speaker with plans for other east coast coaches as presenters. If you have ideas for trainings or topics, please contact Dave Low at: dlow44@comcast.net ;

678: Reminder that general membership meetings count toward training hours;

679: We are still using the officials evaluation form found on the WHSBLA website. Members were reminded to please complete a form after each game. Both good and bad evaluations are encouraged as this is valuable information for the board. As soon as the referee contact information is available, the board will send it out along with instructions for coaches to follow when there is a 'no show' of referees.

680: Question and Answer period:

1) A member asked for information or speaking points when going to a school AD about becoming a school program. Henry and Rob both offered to gather the information and make sure it is posted on the league website.

2) The question was asked about new rules for the 2012 season. This will be a topic for the February coaches meeting and will be updated in the handbook.

3) A member wanted to know if there are a lot of "C" teams in the state or will the travel be extensive because of smaller pool. Ian answered that "C" teams play in the DII JV division unless there are enough to have their own schedule.

4) It was asked if there are members who have experience working with local Parks and Recreation departments or schools to develop more turf fields. It was answered that they should contact Ron Wright with his extensive experience in the area.

5) A member wanted to know if the board has had any discussion about JV playoffs. There has been a lot of discussion in the past and there are no plans for that.

6) A member wanted to know if there are other opportunities out there for players to play lacrosse or get some stick work in during the off season. A number of organizations including indoor leagues and travel teams were mentioned. Henry suggested he talk with other members individually to find out what they do.

7) A question of what other programs do in regard to helmet re-certification was asked. It was reported that if a program owns helmets, they can send them in to the manufacturer for a re-certification sticker. It was also recommended that a liability form be completed and signed if helmets are loaned out. The board can look in to the standards and share that information via the website.

8) It was asked how the options came about for the DII conference alignment with some local teams in the eastern part of the state being split to different conferences. The board addressed the fact that there were a number of variables and feedback received from coaches used. The conferences were set to spread the travel among all and now the challenge is to minimize that impact.

9) A question was asked about the 'grandfather' clause for when a team splits. The answer is that seniors only have the option to stay.

681: Mandatory coaches meeting – February 4, 2012 at Bertona Hall, Seattle Pacific University.

682: The meeting was adjourned at 11:38 AM.

Kathi Lucchesi, Executive Secretary