

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL BOYS LACROSSE ASSOCIATION
Minutes of June 19, 2011 Board Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 10:15

Attending: R. Hawley, B. Fortier, K. Martin, H. Valentine, R. Wright, P. White

Absent: I. O'Hearn, K. Lucchesi

Recorder: K. Martin

1202. WALOA contract is a one-year agreement and needs to be renegotiated. RH suggested a broader committee to meet with WALOA. This was discussed consensus was that, while broader involvement of the membership is a plus, the negotiations might be better handled by a smaller group. This will be revisited as we get closer to actual negotiations.
1203. WALOA continues to struggle with manpower issues, especially for games in the islands, the south and the east. WHSBLA needs to insist on adequate staffing as part of negotiations, including provisions for games outside of the Seattle-Tacoma metro area.
1204. League alignment was discussed. A small number of coaches expressed interest in a 3-division structure to ensure more level competition. Possibilities were entertained, most prominently one with 20 D-I teams, 18 D-II teams, and 14 D-III teams. As the 2 division structure is defined in the by-laws this would require a membership vote. BF felt that the resulting divisions would be too small. It was also pointed out that this might have the unintended consequence of making harder for younger organizations to see the game played well and find it harder to grow. There was no consensus on what criteria might be developed for assignment. This would also be less WIAA-like in that there is frequently a discrepancy between the size of the school or program and the competitiveness of the team on the field. By consensus, this membership survey will include this issue.
1205. Other concerns from the season were discussed, including the equitability of travel demands, particularly regarding King's Way, Wenatchee, Three Rivers, and Selah. This remains a challenge and the Board will work to spread the burden as evenly as possible.
1206. Some coaches voiced a desire to have all scheduled games count toward playoffs. This was discussed in principle, and we will discuss it further. This may take the form of all league-scheduled games counting toward standings or playoffs.
1207. Conduct was discussed. This season, we saw an unusual and unacceptable number of conduct issues by coaches, players, and fans. RW stated that he rarely had a coach identify a sideline manager for him when he was officiating. On one occasion, the board investigated a "hit list," compiled by a team, of opponents to target. The Board also received a number of complaints about play that was essentially assault. Most of these were dealt with and resolved during

the season, but some only came to light late in the season or after playoffs. These will be addressed with the coaches involved during the off season. This will be revisited at the membership meeting. We will also ask WALOA to include identification of a sideline manager as part of the referees' pre-game checklist.

1208. It was suggested that 2:00 and 3:00 penalties might be tracked and/or made reportable to the Board, similar to an ejection. This was discussed without action and may be revisited.
1209. JV scheduling was discussed. It has been an ongoing issue that every year, a number of programs will register a JV program and cancel their schedule at the last minute. The Board wants to encourage teams not to register a JV squad unless they are sure of their numbers. **MOVED: That a program cancelling a JV schedule will not be entitled to a refund of their fees, will be subject to a \$50/game fine, and their varsity schedule suspended until any fees and fines due are paid (BF/PW). PASSED: 6-0.**
1210. Some coaches expressed concern after the season that specific teams seemed to have an inordinate number of injuries and, specifically, concussions in their games. It was suggested that we map concussions. KM felt that this might be useful in order to assess the overall safety of the sport as played and officiated in the state. BF voiced concern that this might be perceived as punitive, or trying to officiate after the game. After a lengthy conversation about what such data might accomplish and how it might be collected, the consensus was that this should be addressed in the membership poll.
1211. There were also a number of teams who did not have required documentation on the sideline when inspected. These will be compiled and the programs involved advised that if there are subsequent deficiencies in the same areas next year, a suspension for the head coach will be forthcoming.
1212. Playoff bracketing was discussed, with a focus on D-II. We entertained the idea of seeding based on record, rather than that the pre-assigned system we have used to date. There was some thought that this might avoid some of the "freak" events we encountered this year. After lengthy discussion, consensus was to continue the status quo under which brackets are drafted using the strength of each conference to determine seeding before the season. It was felt that there is no way to adequately avoid freak pairings under any system, and this is as equitable and functional as we can practically make it.
1213. **MOVED: To assign 20 teams to D-I for the 2012 season (BF/HV). PASSED 6-0**
1214. **MOVED: To assign Woodinville and Sammamish to D-I (BF/RW). PASSED 6-0.**
1215. **MOVED: To assign Overlake, Vashon, and either Lakeside or Seattle Prep (TBD) to D-II (BF/HV). PASSED 6-0.**
1216. The D-I conference structure was discussed with an eye toward travel. As team assignment is not finalized, this conversation was tabled.

1217. Lynnwood. Multiple issues were identified with the Lynnwood program during the season including lack of insurance and fielding both JV and varsity with only 15 players on the roster, resulting in the suspension of the team. Lynnwood board was given specific parameters under which the program would be reinstated, but to date has not responded. **MOVED: To expel Lynnwood from WHSBLA membership (BF/KM). PASSED 6-0.**
1218. Lynnwood was advised mid-season that the Board had reason to believe that they played, and in fact started, 2 ineligible players on their 2010 D-II Championship team. They did not respond. **MOVED: To vacate Lynnwood from the 2010 D-II Championship (BF/RW). PASSED 6-0.**
1219. Petitions have been received from Monroe and Edmonds for admission into the league for the 2012 season. **MOVED: To admit Monroe and Edmonds as provisional members and assign them to D-II (PW/HV). PASSED 6-0.**
1220. **MOVED: To admit Shoreline as a full member of WHSBLA (PW/RW). PASSED 6-0.**
1221. Franklin failed to meet several of their responsibilities in the Association including participating in league meetings, posting a complete roster with numbers, and responding to e-mail from the Board. The organization's viability was discussed. RW will contact and find out more about their situation.
1222. The board received a petition from South Kitsap to have Bremerton HS reassigned from North Kitsap to South Kitsap. It was also noted that North Mason HS is not included in the boundary documents. **MOVED: To assign North Mason HS to South Kitsap, and to leave Bremerton as currently assigned (BF/RW). PASSED 6-0.**
1223. Media coverage was discussed. Board members reported excellent coverage, especially in the north and Metro areas. We will include questions about coverage in general and contact with Mike McQuaid in the survey.
1224. Brothers Harrison and David Wartes moved from private school to public school. Per rule, they asked the board to review the transfer. The circumstances around the transfer are unrelated to athletics. After review, it was felt that this was approved by rule and no motion required.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Martin, D-II Representative