

**Emergency MHSLA Meeting  
Minutes  
April 27, 2021**

Attendees: John Noble; Tina Drain; Dave Madeira; Steve Amish; Sheryll Stewart; Dan Carroll; Jeff Craig; Chris Frasier; Sara Jane Hampton

Cody: Mike Power, MHSLA Board Rep & Clint Campbell, President of Board (joined at 7:30 p.m.)

Lance Weppler, MHSLA Bozeman Board Rep (will join at 8 p.m.)

Not Present: Shawn Skinner; Mike Flaherty

**Motion** to begin meeting by Dan Carroll. **Second** by Tina Drain. Meeting began at 7:35 p.m.

Issue: Formal protest from Cody Warriors Lacrosse Club regarding a contest played in Cody on 4/17/2021 between Cody Warriors D2 and Bozeman Red D2.

Cody presentation: Reviewed protest letter. Access was granted to the MHSLA site for both Bozeman boy's teams on either 4/21 or 4/22. Game occurred prior to MHSLA website being updated. It is Bozeman's responsibility to be in compliance. There is a record of contact with Bozeman. As opponents, Cody is looking at MHSLA site, not local team site. Noble confirmed said there was no attempted correspondence. Two other games were non-compliant on 3/27 against Bandits and Bearcats. Bozeman's 4/20 roster compliance was caught after Board meeting, not before. 4/22 rosters updated with 23 players shared between 2 teams. To the argument that Cody was not materially impacted comment: 14 vs 23 players is a material difference. Cody was compliant with roster. Bozeman had 9 sets of fresh legs. Need to cover that number of fresh legs. Cody has never backed down from challenge. We are okay with that. Never challenged because outnumbered. Bozeman had opportunity to disclose the roster differences prior to the game. From the rule book, the penalty for failure to disclose could cause forfeiture or suspension of game(s). D1/D2 – look at the spirit of the game and spirit of the rules. Refer to Mission Statement for MHSLA. Other kids left at home that game on 4/17. Seeding for D2 playoffs is a concern while also advocating for Cody kids. Cody got beat at home. No fair play. Bozeman cancelled one game to get 50% more players on the other team. Bozeman's intent was to stack the deck.

Broader board issues discussed during Cody's time.

Lance Weppler (LW) joined at 8 p.m.; Mike Power & Clint Campbell dropped off call at 8 p.m. Cody will monitor Slack for questions from the Board of Directors.

Bozeman response/rebuttal: Don't have more to add than what is in the letter. Letter lays out information from the Board standpoint. Are you required to create rosters for each team and that's your team? Yes, the state's requirement is to submit rosters. Changes needs to be updated before games are played. For larger teams, standard practice to take kids and move them to other teams? Lance can't speak to anyone else's program.

Noble reminded everyone that this is the first year of D1/D2. Rule book has flexibility for moving between D1 and D2 but not necessarily 2-D2 teams. Not specifically called out in the rule book. No movement between two D1 teams allowed. LW - ~7 players that were bottom of Bozeman Red were moved to White team to help with numbers and competition. D2 White – several first-time players. To create more competitive for White. Players that were moving down from Red to White. This is regarding the Red team. Extra kids on the roster. I can understand the fresh legs. My rebuttal is that if there were too many kids to play 10v10, they should have played 8v8. From Bozeman's perspective,

there is grey area that needs to be cleaned up. The rostering is the biggest issue. Roster changes made, done in forthright fashion, reviewed dates. Were players double rostered? The players that swing – LW believes they are. Making games competitive? From boys' program director, swinging 7-8 kids down from Red to White for more numbers and make more competitive for D2 White. Games or state? LW – game by game basis. Not their intent to take D2 White to State as not in the best interests of the kids. Short on goalies as both D2 goalies have concussions. Seeding issue. Carroll – when played White and Red, brought to our attention that originally brought a bunch of players to Butte. Once got there, decided to change and send players to Helena to play. We didn't check rosters. Shifting players there also to be competitive to win? Is this going on every weekend? LW doesn't know what rosters were that weekend in Butte. D1 had game then went to Helena. Don't think D2 teams went to Helena to Lance's knowledge. Frazier played White in Helena that weekend. Wondering what roster was there. Coach said they were all first-year players. Felt there were more kids there. Didn't sound right. LW – can't speak to that weekend. Not involved with rostering, only on BoD for Bozeman and MHSLA rep. 6-8 kids swinging from bottom of D2 Red to D2 White from time to time. CF – only going to field one D2 team in State. Bad optics - bold. Philosophy? LW – coaches desire to not take White to State because don't think it would benefit that group of first-time players. SJH – didn't want Bozeman to play one another? LW – don't think that's an issue for the boys, maybe the girls side. SA – optics? Fair? Should have been discussed up front and probably would've gotten a different answer. LW – wouldn't disagree with that. CF – what are rules for swinging D2 players? JN – rule book doesn't speak to swinging between D2 teams. Could be in situation where both teams could be correct. Mission statement – fair play. Not unusual for coaches to bring roster to table and share who is playing. LW – how I read rule book, if there are roster changes that need to be made and reported prior to game being played. That's where some confusion on Bozeman end and inability to update SportsEngine for rosters. Would agree that each team needs to know who they are playing. Don't think there was anything on the coaches end for D2 Red – they are the better team. CF – Cody complaint was due to number of players. Numbers gave the advantage that Cody wasn't expecting. LW – can respect that. Learning details barely ahead of the State Board. Relaying information from coaches, board regarding kids that have swung between the teams to help White be somewhat competitive in their games. Don't know records of these two teams. White has been beaten a few times. This speaks to Red. Why not balance the two teams out on rosters? LW – can't speak to that.

LW dropped off at 8:30 p.m. and will monitor Slack for questions from the Board of Directors.

Discussion: 18.3.4(a) – confirmed rostering for State for rule. Lack of disclosure – roster rule. Cody's request = Game be forfeited.

**Vote:** Did Bozeman was in violation of the MHSLA rule 5.2.0 (Rosters) when they played Cody on 4/17/21? Yes or No

John Noble	Abstain	Tina Drain	Y
Dave Madeira	Y	Steve Amish	Y
Sheryll Stewart	Y	Dan Carroll	Y
Jeff Craig	Y	Chris Frasier	Y
Sara Jane Hampton	Y		

8 Yes, 0 No, 1 Abstain

How will MHSLA site be notated? Cody will show a win 1-0.

In fairness, MHSLA should give Bozeman a way to not be in violation. 23 players on each roster, many similar. Bozeman is in compliance with the letter (or lack thereof) of the rule. Not an accurate roster. Don't believe Bozeman is the only one with an inaccurate roster.

**Remedy:** Bozeman forfeits the 4/17/2021 game.

**Motion** to adjourn by Sara Jane Hampton. **Second** by Sheryll Stewart. **Vote:** Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.