

MHSLA Meeting Minutes

Date: 1/13/2026
Time: 6:30 PM
Facilitator: Pat Marron, VP

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Meeting ID: 241 213 012 077 1
Passcode: a6SQ7nA7

Dial in by phone

[+1 323-433-0269](tel:+13234330269), [722434441#](tel:+1722434441) United States, Los Angeles
Phone conference ID: 722 434 441#

Members Present: Present Members Highlighted in **Yellow**

Entity	Designated Representative	Other Representative	Other Representative
MHSLA President	Todd Thesing		
MHSLA Vice President	Pat Marron		
MHSLA Treasurer	Eric Sutherland		
MHSLA Secretary	Brad Koon		
Sheridan	Jeff Shideman		
Billings Beartooth	Desarae Detling		
Billings Rimrock	Howard Ruzick		
Bozeman	Rob Leder		
Cody	Kevin Winters	TJ Gionet	
Jackson	Tori Hederman		
Last Chance	Nathan Nachtsheim		
Butte	Dan Carroll		
Great Falls	Jeremy Comstock		
Missoula Wild	Greg Howard		
Missoula Zootown	Elena Furrow		
Northwest Avalanche	Chris McLaughlin		
Cheyenne	Colton Rasmussen		

1. President's Report:

- **Reference email below from MLOA President**

From: Mike Muscatello <president@mtloa.com>

Sent: Monday, January 12, 2026 8:14:21 PM

To: Todd Thesing <todd@highline-partners.com>; Chris McLaughlin <mhslarep@nwavalanchelacrosse.com>; SEAN SCALLY <ks-scally@comcast.net>

Subject: New Officials Sign up Link

Todd & Chris,

Hope the two of you are doing well. I just set up a form to collect names and basic info from anyone looking to become a Montana Lacrosse Official at any level. Please do me a favor and send this out to your organizations and disseminate it down on the call tomorrow night. I apologize I will not be able to make it due to work travel.

<https://forms.gle/qJfNJMBf2hZgTEdSA>

Thank you and let me know if you have any questions.

Mike Muscatello

President

Montana Lacrosse Officials Association.

www.mtloa.com

Use the link above to send out to people who might be interested in refereeing.

2. Vice President's Report:

- a. Update on recent MYLA meeting
 - i. Youth league kicking off
 - ii. Some will overlap with high school and some will not
 - iii. Depending on High School players to ref.
 - iv. Younger kids look up to the HS kids.

3. Treasurer Report:

- a. Current Stockman Bank Balance = \$28,363.32
- b. Registrations in Sports Engine

City	Athlete_Count
Helena	53
Billings	30
Clancy	19
Missoula	15
East Helena	9
Cody	5
Cheyenne	3
Great Falls	2

Jefferson City	1
Kalispell	1
Laurel	1
Montana City	1
Lolo	1
Shepherd	1

It was asked if teams can bulk register/pay

Individual registration is required for each player

Teams can find work around if desired, but no changes will be made by John for setup

4. Secretary Report:

- a. Any comments on December 9, 2025 Minutes? (Posted on the Website)
 - i. None
- b. **Exhibit A** includes the current contact list.
 - i. Please let me know if you have any changes/additions.
- c. John Noble Sports Engine Update
 - i. Coaches Sign Up – Will have live this week
 - ii. He would like to set up teams in Sports Engine:
 1. Following is a list of teams from last meeting.
 - a. By late February at latest so rostering can occur.

BOYS VARSITY	BOYS JV	GIRLS Varsity	GIRLS JV
Bozeman Black	Bozeman	Jackson	Bozeman
Bozeman White	Helena	Bozeman	Missoula
Helena East		Northwest	Sheridan
Helena West	Butte	Billings	
Great Falls	Cody	Helena	
	Sheridan	Missoula	
Missoula	Cheyenne	Jackson B	
Beartooth	Jackson Hole		

5. USA Lacrosse Guest

- a. Lyn Porterfield
 - i. Important to get certificates of insurance.
 - ii. Said she is open for questions if we have anything.
 - iii. Tori said they are going to do a JV division with 6s
 1. Question is in regard to referees. Can we get away with 1 ref?
 2. Lyn asked if they will do Olympic rules.
 3. Tori said it is more developmental.
 4. Lyn said a lot of people do that when there are low numbers.
 - a. Can look to boys youth rules as how to set up the field.
 5. Make sure that it is clear about the rules.
 6. Lyn said 2 is better, but if not possible 1 will work.
 7. Tori said they will try for 2 but use 1 if not available.

8. Lyn said to just make sure everyone is on the same page
9. Lyn said she would have a conversation with Tori
- iv. Pat asked if Olympic 6s is growing in other communities
 1. Lyn said it is a fast game developmentally, but takes training from coaches, players, officials.
 2. Lyn sees it being played more in tournaments with smaller programs
 - a. Boys and girls
 3. Do what you need to do to get kids excited and touching the ball
- v. Pat asked about other tips for recruiting
 1. Kids recruit players from other sports.
 2. Get existing players to invite friends.
 3. Start really young
 4. Make it as inclusive and accessible as possible.
 - a. Have gear available
 - b. Make first week of practice open to everyone
 - i. Can use general liability insurance for “try it” type of thing.
 - c. Build in scholarship and loner gear
 - i. Figure out how to lower costs.
 5. Elena from Missoula said they do preseason practice where they bring friends.
 - a. Are exact dates required.
 - i. No, a range of dates works.
 - ii. Lyn will send link
 6. Lyn said she has attended these meeting in the past
 - a. Elouise has been rep for ~6 months.
 - b. Help with education, resources, risk, growing sport.
 - c. Encouraged us to reach out with questions.
 - d. Has provided data on numbers, boundaries, numbers, etc.
 - e. Don’t govern leagues other than safety and rules, but provide info to make things as easy as possible on us to know what others have done.
 7. Lyn dropped contact information in chat.

6. Schedule Update:

- a. Girls
- b. Boys
 - i. Chris Mac presented schedule
 1. Tori asked if JV boys have to play each other twice.
 - a. Chris said just once.
 - b. Tori said girls JV is twice
 - c. Will stick with once.
 2. Chris didn’t go through and get master schedule yet because he wanted everyone to take a look and make sure everyone is okay with travel, etc.
 - ii. **Email all comments on schedule to Chris by end of day Friday (1/16/25).**
 1. mhslarep@nwalanchelacrosse.com

- iii. Chris will finalize schedule by following Monday (1/19/25)
- 7. Pat brought up in-person coaches meeting
 - i. Asked when people can do it.
 - 1. January 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM
 - a. Pat will send out to coaches
 - i. Head coach or assistant coach
 - ii. 6 PM last year
 - iii. Decided it will need to be Zoom at this point.
 - iv. Chris will send everyone another email with schedule
- b. Pat said officials were on youth call last night. It is up to HS and youth to schedule refs.
 - i. Youth is going to put it on the host City to schedule
 - ii. Last year was \$600/game for referees
 - iii. May be able to save \$ by scheduling
 - iv. May also encourage recruit of referees
 - v. Figure out how to use Arbiter
 - vi. Next meeting, decide how to handle scheduling of referees
 - 1. Invite MLOA to join meeting
 - vii. Chris knows how to use Arbiter
 - 1. Every field needs a number in Arbiter
 - viii. Jeremy has used it from referee side of things.
 - ix. Will have to figure out how it gets paid for.
 - 1. But hosting City would schedule
 - x. Dan said he has concerns about MLOA
 - 1. Each year, MLOA does less and pay them the same
 - xi. Bigger Cities can afford, but smaller towns can't
- c. Dan said MHSLA is nothing like it was 10-15 years ago
 - i. Butte may not have a team this year, and probably won't next year
 - ii. Members not working together and running program into ground
 - iii. Meeting invite will be sent out by Pat
- d. Rob asked about when Coaches packet is due and when rosters are due
 - i. 5 days prior to first day of Spring practice
 - 1. In rules under "H"
 - ii. On website under More, Coaches Corner
 - iii. Point is to make sure kids are safe and everything is in place prior to first practice
 - iv. Send coaches packet to Brad Koon
 - 1. bkoon@tripletreemt.com
- e. Chris said he is already getting messages about JV schedule
 - i. In rules that each team plays each other once
 - ii. Can this be adjusted to allow all teams not to play each other once
 - iii. Colton thinks it makes sense to allow flexibility
 - iv. Nathan said teams must all play each team to qualify for State per bylaws
 - v. Tori brought up option of playing Sunday games
 - vi. Chris said that would help
- f. Colton Rasmusen
 - i. Colton said their probationary period is up.
 - ii. Asked for a vote to become a general member.

- **Cheyenne to move out of probationary membership and become a member of MHSLA**

- Motion: Nathan
- Second: TJ
- Discussion:
- VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Butte (Not Present)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Great Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Tally:		AYE 12 NO 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PASS
			<input type="checkbox"/>	FAIL

8. Other?

- Reminder: Meetings will be at **6:30 PM** going forward.

9. Adjourn:

- 8:22 PM**

EXHIBIT A

Current Key Club Contacts List



MHSLA 2026

Contact Information

Updated 1/13/2026

MHSLA Executive Board - 2026

Title	Name	Location	Phone Number	MHSLA Email	Alternate Email
President	Todd Thesing	Bozeman	406-600-6361	mhslapresident@gmail.com	todd@highline-partners.com
Vice President	Pat Marron	Helena	406-202-0045	mhslavicepresident@gmail.com	pmarron406@gmail.com
Treasurer	Eric Sutherland	Bozeman	406-548-8842	mhslatreasurer@gmail.com	ericsuther@gmail.com
Secretary	Brad Koon	Helena	406-461-0692		bkoon@tripletreemt.com

MHSLA Clubs - 2025

Club	President Name	President Email	President Phone	Treasurer Name	Treasurer Email	MHSLA Board Rep	Board Rep Email	BD Rep Phone
Sheridan 2026	JR Wright	mavericks@sheridanlacrosse.com	307-763-1001	Stefanie Connors	stef.connors@gmail.com	Jeff Shideman	jshideman@icloud.com	612-817-2455
Billings Beartooth 26	Kristi Brown	brownkj5@gmail.com	406-690-2128	Brynn Schwarz	beartoothlacrosse@gmail.com	Des Detling	desdetling@gmail.com	406-855-8009
Billings Rimrock 26	Howard Ruzick	Rimrocklacrosse@gmail.com	406-702-0596	Lyndsay Van Steenburgh		Howard Ruzick	rimrocklacrosse@gmail.com	406-702-0596
Bozeman 26	Heather Fust	president@bozemanlacrosse.com	406-599-5036	Jennifer Kassity	treasurer@bozemanlacrosse.com	Rob Leder	staterep@bozemanlacrosse.com	713-899-0315
Cody 26	Scott Buurlingame	scott4online@gmail.com	307-250-1413	Barb Vaughn	snowflake.bb316@gmail.com	Kevin Winters	kwinters65@gmail.com	907-942-5037
Jackson 26	Dave Maderia - ED	dave@jacksonholelacrosse.com	603-667-7173	Dave Maderia	dave@jacksonholelacrosse.com	Tori Hederman	torihederman@gmail.com	208-860-1405
Last Chance 26	Rhett Buckland	lastchancelacrosseclub@gmail.com	406-431-0906	Brad Cook	lastchancelacrosseclub@gmail.com	Nathan Nachtsheim	bss1af2@gmail.com	406-459-9001
Butte 26	Dan Carroll	Buttelax@gmail.com	406-498-4140	Dan Carroll	buttelax@gmail.com	Dan Carroll	Buttelax@gmail.com	
Great Falls 26	Jamie Kenyon	ikenyon9304@yahoo.com	406-403-3239	Laura Johnson	laura_r.johnson@ctt.com	Jeremy Comstock	comstock40@gmail.com	406-750-3814
Missoula Wild 26	John Ries	johnries@hotmail.com	509-209-6429	Jessica Sirs	jessica.sirs@gmail.com	Greg Howard	ghowardmt@gmail.com	406-240-1785
Missoula Zootown 26	Elena Furrow	efurrow@hotmail.com	406-396-7328	Chad Ward	cdubs1889@gmail.com	Elena Furrow	efurrow@hotmail.com	406-396-7328
Northwest Avalanche 26	Mike Kapity	president@nwalanchelacrosse.com		Mike Stout	treasurer@nwalanchelacrosse.com	Chris McLaughlin	mhslarep@nwalanchelacrosse.com	406-471-1732
Cheyenne						Colton Rasmussen	cltrnsmssn@gmail.com	