

Montana High School Lacrosse Association

DRAFT PROPOSED MEETING MINUTES

Date: 9/17/19
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Phone 605 475-4043 Access Code:982909

Call to Order: 7:30 pm

Roll Call (X indicates present)

Matt Rizzolo – X, Sarah Flynn – X, Mike Garcia, Lynette Thompson, Brynn Schwarz –X, Dane McCollum – X, Blake Wahrlich, Rosie Castriz – X, Dave Madeira – X

1. Approval of Agenda
 - a. **MOTION:** Brynn. Motion to approve the agenda. Second: Dane. **APPROVED.**
2. Approval of last meetings Minutes
 - a. **MOTION:** Brynn. Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes. Second: Rosie. **APPROVED.**
3. Treasurer's report
 - a. No Report – Lynette not present.
4. President's Report
 - a. Blake sent report via email prior to the call as follows:
 - i. I have submitted a grant proposal for \$1500 with USL to help cover the cost of the Executive Secretary and should know more about if it is approved or not over the next few weeks.
 - ii. Black Hills and a couple other programs from the Dakotas are going to be submitting a request to join the league.
 - iii. There was some interest from a Rimrock Lacrosse representative to join the board as the regional rep.
 - iv. As of writing this email, very few board applications have been sent in for the board. There was some discussion among the executive committee on whether the EC should be comprised of members at large. Our bylaws do not define this but may be worth considering amending the bylaws to remove any conflict of interest.
 - v. As of writing this email there has been no interest in the executive secretary position. Please push it back out to the clubs.
 - vi. The youth is changing the way they do their scheduling. They are going to have 4 league scheduled jamborees leaving the remaining weekends up to the programs to fill. the dates are 4/11, 4/25, 5/2, and 5/9
 - vii. I have also reached out to the new girls' commissioner for youth and have invited her to the scheduling meeting for high school girls so as to avoid what happened last year.
 - viii. The MLOA is going to be having a general meeting in early October and will be electing new leadership. Kevin Terry is the interim president and Shane is focusing on just assigning. I have sent them the draft of the contract we are looking at so they have an idea where we are coming from and at the 30,000 view agree with the concepts. We most likely will try to meet possibly late September or early October to get draft contracts out for both boards to review and sign off on. I have floated the idea of making it a 2 year contract so we can always be 1 year ahead in the contract. So this one would be for 20/21 but in 2020 we would start working on 2022 that way our programs always know 1 year ahead officiating expenses.

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1. Per item (i) above in the President's report– The \$1500 grant, if received, would help cover the cost of the executive secretary position, and would not be extra compensation for the position.
5. Regional Representative Reports
 - a. Northwest Region – Matt:
 - i. Had double billing issues for Krossover with Glacier that have been worked out.
 - ii. The Northwest region is bringing a conglomerate team to Missoula for fall games at the end of September
 - iii. Thinking of hosting fall games in the Northwest, but no plans yet.
 - b. Western Region – Sarah:
 - i. No updates from Big Sky or Hellgate.
 - ii. Sentinel is having a fall recruiting event in September and trying to get a sense for their numbers.
 - c. Central Region – Mike not present
 - i. Rosie reported that Great Falls has opened their registration and had their first parent meeting last week.
 - d. Southern Region – Dave:
 - i. Bozeman has been notified that hosting for the 2020 state tournament was awarded to Billings.
 - ii. Jackson is having some fall ball opportunities. They talked about games with Bozeman, but the schedule conflicts with homecoming.
 - iii. Jackson submitted for a TryLax grant through US Lacrosse to help with more youth recruitment. The program sends sticks and gives recipients outreach and education information and kids are sent home with sticks. Other clubs may want to consider applying for this grant.
 - iv. Jackson had received a Soft-Stick grant in the past, but US Lacrosse prefers to give these grants to schools and new areas starting lacrosse programs.
 - e. Eastern Region – Dane:
 - i. Dane has sent multiple emails with little response from Rimrock, Bearcats, or youth. Trying to do some fall coordination, but there appears to be some disconnect in communication between the clubs in the region.
6. Old Business
 - a. None.
7. New Business
 - a. North Dakota Team Application
 - i. Reviewed the application from Black Hills Lacrosse and it appears complete.
 - ii. Adding a team from another state is not in conflict with the MHSLA bylaws and rules.
 - iii. Main concerns are travel time for games; however, hockey teams from this region, many of whom also play lacrosse, already travel to Montana for games, so this may not be an issue.
 - iv. **ACTION:** The application will be sent out to the MHSLA programs for consideration at the November General Membership Meeting. Need to make sure that Eastern Divisions teams are able to play the Black Hills team during the season so they would be eligible for the state tournament.

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- v. Regarding splitting from youth – If accepted, could consider an arrangement similar to Jackson since they are based outside of Montana. Jackson was granted a 2-year waiver for the requirement for high school teams to split and have separate governing boards and the requirement would be considered again after 2-years.
- b. Rule Change Proposals
 - i. YVL Rule Change – Tournament Format Change –
 - 1. Proposed Rule:
 - a. *The state tournament needs to eliminate consolation games and add a conference playoff prior to the state tournament.*
 - b. *Conference tournaments should alter locations between conference teams, set it up now for the next 6 years so hosts can plan and then be done with it for a while.*
 - c. *Conference playoffs should include the top 6 teams in each conference, so right now everyone will make their conference playoff and get all the warm and fuzzies. If there's expansion, this limit of 6 teams should still hold true until we have enough for 3 conferences.*
 - d. *The format will be:*
 - i. *Quarterfinal games of 6v4 (1 seed gets a bye) and 3v5 (2 seed gets a bye) on Friday night.*
 - ii. *Semifinal games of 1v (winner of 6v4) and 2v (winner of 3v5) on Saturday morning.*
 - e. *Should someone feel the need for a consolation game, which I don't want but I'll play along, this is the time for the losers of 6v4 and 3v5 to play after the semis in the morning. From here on out, playoffs should be business.*
 - f. *Conference Championships should be Saturday afternoon/early evening.*
 - g. *All-conference awards should be handed out at the Conference playoffs after the semifinals (it's more likely that award winners will be playing in these games, and not Friday's games).*
 - h. *The top 3 seeds will head to the state playoffs and play a similar quarterfinals-semis-champs bracket following the same time and seeding format.*
 - i. *At state, I believe we should reseed the teams based on conference record, overall record (varsity contests only - I see you East), penalty minutes against, and finally goal differential. Should two teams be somehow identical, head-to-head games and records against similar opponents can be taken into consideration.*
 - j. *All-state awards should be handed out at the State playoffs either before or after Friday's quarterfinals (this should help draw attendance to the beginning of the state playoffs and help set the tone). This could be altered to before or after the semis.*
 - 2. Discussion of YVL Tournament Format Change:
 - a. *There was no timing for implementation in the proposed rule change. Brynn requested 2020 for the effective date.*

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b. **MOTION:** Dane. Motion to approve the YVL tournament format change proposal as written. **Second:** Matt.

i. Discussion:

1. Hosting for the state tournament was already bid and approved for 2020 and there isn't currently a plan for conference playoffs.
2. **REVISED:** Brynn requests effective date of 2021.
3. Reason for Rule Change Request: Spread out the conference championships to allow regions to host their championships and shorten the duration of the state tournament to reduce travel expenses for teams.
4. For the girls' game, may need a different measure for the tie-breaker – penalty minutes instead of points differential.

ii. **AMENDMENT:** Matt. Eliminate the tie breaker portion of the proposal and use the MHSLA rules as written; remove the paragraph (i) above that starts with "At state...". **SECOND:** Dave.

iii. **VOTING:** Allow the YVL rule change regarding the tournament format to go before the general membership taking effect for the 2021 season with the reseeding and tie breaker language removed.

APPROVED.

ii. Hellgate – Player Numbers – Rule Change #1:

1. Existing Rule:

a. *7.4.3 The Boundary Documents will be created by the Board using existing registration numbers, school proximity, and school enrollment numbers to create:*

i. *A viable environment to grow and create new, school specific programs.*

2. Proposed Rule:

a. *7.4.3.A Revised. Player pools large enough to maintain JV programs designed to attract and develop new athletes to the sport of lacrosse.*

3. Discussion:

- a. This first rule change supports the second rule changes – would delay the timeline for needing to make the teams split.
- b. Lots of benefits for programs to have Varsity and JV teams.
- c. Existing rules don't require teams to split at 36 players, teams can apply to the board for staying as conglomerate and provide their reasons for wanting to stay together.

4. **MOTION:** Brynn. Motion to approve the first rule change from Hellgate regarding Rule 7.4.3 and send the General Membership at the November Meeting. **SECOND:** Dave. **APPROVED**

iii. Hellgate – Player Numbers – Rule Change #2:

1. Existing Rule:

