

Montana High School Lacrosse Association

MEETING MINUTES

Date: 8/20/2019
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, Sarah Flynn – X, Mike Garcia – X, Lynette Thompson – X, Brynn Schwarz – X, Dane McCollum, Blake Wahrlich – X, Rosie Castriz – X, Dave Madeira – X

1. Approval of Agenda
 - a. **MOTION:** Brynn. Motion to approve agenda. Second: Rosie. **APPROVED.**
2. Approval of last meetings Minutes
 - a. Minutes from July 16, 2019 and August 12, 2019 calls.
 - b. **MOTION:** Brynn. Motion to approve the previous meeting minutes above. Second: Rosie. **APPROVED**
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Report provided after Regional Representative reports.
 - b. Current balance is \$14,305.57.
 - c. One outstanding payment is expected from Helena for \$738.00. All neutral site reimbursements should have been paid.
 - d. Helena's neutral site reimbursement request was disputed and MHSLA requested a revised request that only included field costs, but did not hear back. **ACTION:** Mike will follow-up with the Helena program to see if they plan to resubmit and copy Lynette.
4. President's Report:
 - a. Black Hills Lacrosse in South Dakota reached out expressing interest in joining the MHSLA league.
 - i. Last week I had received an email from Black Hills Lacrosse about possibly joining the MHSLA. We ended up setting up a phone call meeting with myself and their board for Monday and believe it was a good meeting. The league they are currently in has basically dissolved or not working for them and they were looking at if the MHSLA would be a good fit. They had questions regarding girls play and they also had questions about pricing. They also asked what the league's appetite was to which I could not give an answer. One item they did bring up was if we created a 3rd conference out in their region and had 5 teams from the area join the MHSLA. This was an interesting idea I thought and once worth looking into the feasibility of 1 program vs 4 or 5 joining. [See additional notes below].
 - ii. Received an email (sent to Blake and Sarah) regarding an email from Nick Laatsch (parent of an 8th grade player and on the Missoula Lacrosse Association and Montana Youth Lacrosse Association boards), suggesting removing a bylaw related to the number of players on a team that requires them to split. Blake talked with Nick and Tucker Sargent (Montana Lacrosse Association) and noted that this would be a change to the bylaws and not just a rule. The general membership meeting during the state tournament would be a better time to discuss this as any changes to the bylaws require the entire general membership to vote and it

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would require that a MHSLA program bring the bylaw request to the league. Changing the number rather than removing the rule may be another option to consider.

5. Regional Representative Reports
 - a. Northwest Region – Matt
 - i. Not present, no update.
 - b. Western Region – Sarah
 - i. Reserved and confirmed the conference room at the Butte Best Western for the November general membership meeting – no charge for the room again. Sarah will write a thank you note after our meeting.
 - ii. Regarding the outreach from the Missoula youth programs, Sarah will continue to coordinate with the Missoula high school programs and the youth to encourage finding opportunities to mutually support both leagues and grow the sport in Missoula.
 - iii. Hellgate still has concerns about neutral site reimbursements that were denied for girls' games in Missoula. They hosted more games than other weekends, but this also included out of state teams and out of league games. Sarah will check in again on the details of the reimbursement request.
 - iv. All Missoula programs are continuing to work with school district regarding changes to team names and colors.
 - v. Sentinel plans to open their registration in September.
 - c. Central Region – Mike
 - i. Hasn't received new updates from the Helena programs recently.
 - ii. He shared update from the last MHSLA call and indicated that a replacement Central Regional Representative is needed, but hasn't heard back with any interest.

[Dave and Lynette joined the call]

- d. Southern Region – Dave
 - i. Dave will follow-up with Bozeman to relay the decision regarding hosting for the 2020 state tournament.
 - e. Eastern Region – Dane
 - i. Not present, no report
6. Old Business
7. New Business
 - a. Approve language and letter being sent to Big Sky
 - i. No changes were requested to the draft letter. **ACTION:** Blake will send the letter to Big Sky via certified mail on Wednesday 8/21/2019. [AMENDED – Blake will provide a signed copy of the letter to Lynette to mail so she can pay postage with the credit card].
 - b. Approve the Executive Secretary language/job description.
 - i. **ACTION:** The job description will be posted to the website by Sarah and on Slack by Blake.
 - ii. **ACTION:** Regional Reps will mail the job announcement out to their programs.
 - iii. Will advertise the job locally within the MHSLA regions.
 - iv. Request that resumes and letters of interest be emailed to Blake at mhslapresident@gmail.com

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- c. MLOA BOD Application [correct: Montana High School Lacrosse Association -- MHSLA Board of Directors Applications]
 - i. **ACTION:** Post on application and open positions on website (Sarah) and on Slack (Blake).
 - ii. **ACTION:** Regional representatives will email the application and list of open positions out to members.
 - iii. Request that completed applications be submitted to Blake at mhslapresident@gmail.com
- d. Rule Changes
 - i. The window for submitting rule change requests is the end of August; post-pone discussing submitted rule changes until the next call.
- e. Black Hills and other teams joining the league. General thoughts
 - i. Relatively long drive times; 5 hours from Billings to Black Hills and other teams in the area are further from Montana.
 - ii. The conversation started out with just Black Hills, but other teams in the area may also be interested which includes Rapids City. This would add a 3rd state to the league and maybe would need a 3rd conference. Their desire is be part of the league that is running championship tournaments. Billings has arranged out of league games with South Dakota teams in the past.
 - iii. Consider regionalization in general for the league, possibly with Idaho (northern Idaho mostly) to help reduce travel requirements while increasing the number of game opportunities in a closer proximity.
 - iv. Blake will let the Black Hills team know that MHSLA is interested in discussing this more. There are concerns about travel distances, but interested in the opportunities it could create. Interested to hear what they would propose (just 1 team join with MHSLA or more teams).
- f. Hudle/Krossover
 - i. Brynn – request an update on if and how unused game breakdowns from the 2019 season may be carried over in the transition and buyout of Krossover as well as costs moving forward. Blake will request an update from Matt.
- g. Montana Lacrosse Officials Association (MLOA) Contract
 - i. Changes in leadership are coming up. Kirk is stepping down as President. Pricing for officials may change. Currently the rate is \$126/official per game.
 - ii. The new draft contract proposes the following:
 - 1. Changes billing so that MLOA will bill teams directly rather than running officials fees through MHSLA. This reduces tax and reporting requirements for MHSLA.
 - 2. Splits out per diem and travel as separate expenses so these can be more flexible for teams.
 - a. Travel per diem was \$10/official /game – If the host program (and possibly the other teams) needs to pay travel per diem to get officials to games, it may help encourage programs to recruit new officials to reduce travel per diem expenses.
 - 3. Goal is for MHSLA to finalize a draft contract by the September board meeting so it can be presented to the MLOA for negotiation. Work on finalizing the contract, with final rates, in October to present to the general membership during the November meeting.

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4. Need to ensure billing is tracked accurately. We would be signing this on behalf on the programs and need to ensure that the tracking of games/ officials is accurate and billing is timely and accurate.
 5. **ACTION:** Lynette to draft Exhibit B which will be template to track games, officials, travel expenses, etc to ensure accurate billing. Also include tracking to make sure that the MLOA tries to pull close official to game site to limit travel per diem expenses.
8. Other Business
- a. The Fall General Membership Meeting is confirmed for November 2, 2019 in Butte at 11:00AM at the Butte Best Western Conference Center.
 - b. Sitting board members that wish to serve another term must reapply.
 - c. Due date for Executive Secretary applications is 9/30/2019.
 - d. Due date for MHSLA board applications is 10/14/2019.
 - i. Blake will draft language regarding timelines for coming on/off the board so this is clearly defined and also include a transition timeline so there is some overlap with outgoing and incoming board members.
 - e. Lynette's business is still helping to prepare the All Conference Awards and these will be sent as soon as possible.

Adjourn 8:58 - Brynn move to adjourn