

Montana High School Lacrosse Association

MHSLA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

Date: May 17, 2019


Time: 8:00 PM

Location: Broadway Inn, Missoula, Montana

Attendees from sign in sheet:

Sarah Flynn (MHSLA), Blake Wahrlich (MHSLA, Bearcats), Lynette Thompson (MHSLA), Hunter Carroll (Blizzard), Lisa Vachio (Hellgate), Heidi Nettet (Bandits), Sarah Watters (Bearcats), RaeLee Swanson (Bearcats), Brooks Emeny (Bozeman), Tom Potter (Billings West), Ted Smith (Glacier Lacrosse), Rachel Becker (Big Sky), Sarah Kellogg (Jackson), Molly Pickall (Bozeman), Daren Nelson (Helena), John Noble (LCLC Helena), Steve Amish (Hellgate), Kylan Hallett (Great Falls), Matt Rizzolo (MHSLA, Whitefish), Ben Heisey (Bozeman Red), Mindy Espinosa (Bozeman), Brynn Schwarz (Billings, MHSLA), Micheal McCarthy (LCLC Helena), Calen Austin (LCLC Helena), Matt Bailey (Rimrock LAX), Ryan Rowsey (LCLC Helena), Sheryll Stewart (Spartan).

Introductions and Agenda:



Agenda

- A. Introduction of board and attendees
- B. Financial update of league finances
 - a. Expenses
 - b. P&L Recap
- C. 2019 season
 - a. Officials update
 - b. Scheduling
 - c. Website and functionality
 - d. Krossover
 - e. Slack
 - f. Rules Changes process
 - g. Board Positions
 - h. Neutral Site Reimbursements
 - i. State Bids
 - j. Q&A

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Financials (Lynette):

- See slides below for financial report
 - Biggest expense for the year is officials.
 - Field expenses include:
 - Supplement for cost of fields for state tournament.
 - Turf reimbursements for early season games.
 - Neutral game site (open expense for season).
 - Administrative expenses:
 - Website move was the bulk of this expense in 2019. Cost should be less next year since the website is setup.
 - Other administrative expenses include: insurance; state trophies/medals; bank/Quickbook fees
 - Krossover – cost shown was to cover the regular season games for boys and girls. Each year the MHSLA board will elect whether or not to fund Krossover for the league.
 - \$1,209 profit this year. Bank account balance is \$13,483.52.
 - Revenues may change a bit with end of season close-out – but the numbers presented should be close to the final amounts.

MHSLA EXPENSES – 2019	
Officiating:	\$40,122.00
• Includes Season & State Tournament	
General Membership Meetings :	\$ 675.00
Field Expenses:	\$ 6,170.00
• Includes State Field Supplement, Turf Field Supplement due to Weather, Neutral Game Reimbursement	
Administrative Expenses:	\$ 3,090.00
• Includes Website, Insurance, State Trophies, Accounting	
Krossover	\$ 3,240.00

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MHSLA P&L - 2019

<u>Summary of Profit/Loss</u>			
Total Income			\$ 54,506.00
Starting Revenue			\$ 12,274.52
Total Expenses			\$ 53,297.00
Net profit or Loss			\$ 1,209.00
<u>End of Season Total</u>			<u>\$ 13,483.52</u>

Officials Update – Jeff Metsky (Montana Lacrosse Officials Association – Head Trainer, Boys Game):

- Logistics – boys mostly – may also apply for girls.
 - Struggled with getting trainings in early for officials this year.
 - Thinking of trying to get early season scrimmages going to train officials earlier.
 - March would good timing for spring. Fall scrimmages might be an option too. (some officials do other sports too which might conflict with fall scrimmages).
 - With more advanced scheduling, could try to have Officials development program in Montana (D1 type of trainers) through US Lacrosse.
- Scheduling:
 - Struggle with multiple sites and getting quality officials to each of the sites.
 - They didn't cover 10U games this year and sometimes 12U games only had 1 official because MLOA focused putting officials on high school and older youth games.
 - Consider splitting Sat/Sun games to keep officials together – allows more experienced official to train newer officials.
- Recruiting:
 - Struggle with numbers.
 - Looking for strategies for retention in addition to new recruiting.
 - Mentoring program would be good to start – pair junior officials with a more experienced official.
 - Open to suggestions – would be good if each team could bring 1 or 2 officials to the games.
- Sportsmanship:
 - Fewer incidents this year than any other year.
 - Level of play increasing – teams are playing better.
 - Youth program – have a lot of issues with coaches and inappropriate behavior.

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- Need to set good expectations for coaches and parents – come down from the boards.
- Feedback from MHSLA Members:
 - Felt there was better officiating this year too.
 - With separation of youth and high school, there isn't as much communication between high school and youth programs/coaches.
 - More training for coaches at the youth level would be helpful.
- Krossover:
 - Has been really helpful for officials this year.
 - Coaches have sent in clips for review and MLOA is using these for training and sending out the breakdowns with the good and/or bad of the calls.
 - Helena and Butte officials get together to review film on a regular basis during the season.
 - Next year – would like to have the Officials be their own 'team' in Krossover to review film.
- Discussion points:
 - High school seniors – try to recruit ones that are staying in state after graduation as new officials.
 - The season for training is short with new rules out in January each year.
 - Can't rely on officials to recruit officials – the teams and the league need to help with this. Recruiting, training, and retaining.
 - Marketing – put out fliers to advertise trainings.
 - The MHSLA League may want to provide funds to off-set training costs.
 - Goal is to have 1 official per team, someone other than the head coach, so they are able to officiate games when their team is not playing or warming up. May need to codify this better in rules/practice.
 - MLOA needs a new girls assignor – put it out there for anyone that might be interested.

OFFICIALS UPDATE

- Sportsmanship
- Recruiting
- Scheduling

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2019 Season Recap (Blake):

- See slide below for reference.
- Girls schedule:
 - The girl's schedule was completed during the winter meeting with the boy's schedule. Needed to redo the girl's schedule because the number of available officials wasn't enough to cover both girl's high school and youth games in different locations.
 - High school girls officiating youth games: At times, players were assigned too many games in one day so there was no time between playing games to allow time for officiating. The girls are required to shadow another official before they are allowed to officiate and the game schedule made this difficult.
- Need more trainers for girl's officials in Montana. There are 5 for boys and maybe 0 for girls.
- Scheduling for 2020 will need to have the girls schedule coordinated with Youth.
- Other ideas on slide (below) are just ideas and intended to be topics to think about and discuss with each program's boards for the 2020 season.
- Discussion:
 - Bozeman – forced splitting of youth and high school was hard – struggled with growth and learning experiences. Bozeman is having an advisory board to keep communication going between their youth and high school teams. Is something like this possible for the state level? Executive boards of MHSLA and Montana Youth Lacrosse could meet monthly.

At the January General Membership Meeting – the MHSLA will gather all new contact information for the member programs.

Need to work on communication – will setup Slack for everyone to use (see below).

2019 Season	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Teams registered on time mostly by mid November allowing enough time to create the boys schedule.- Winter Scheduling meeting went well and was completed on time with the girls scheduling being created at that time.- Girls schedule had to be redone as to accommodate the youth girls schedule adding a month to that process.- Winter killed us- There were a lot of games that had to be rescheduled due to field availability	<p>Ideas for programs to think about over summer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Do we move the season start back and finish after school gets out.- Work with youth to create more home games for them and allow HS players to officiate youth. No more jamborees would help girls with more home game and HS players to earn some money.- Do the entire schedule, boys and girls, at the winter meeting and push back team registration.

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Slack (Blake):

- Need to work on communication – will setup Slack for everyone to use (see slide below).
- The president, treasurer, and head coach from each team will need to sign up for Slack.
- There will be separate channels for each group along with general channels for group communication throughout the league.
- Can also send individual messages with Slack.
- Slack is setup for MHSLA and can start adding program members now.
- Slack can replace long email chains with a lot of recipients. It is searchable, so it is much easier to find information. Can set notifications to each user's preference – hourly, daily, etc.

SLACK

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Every President, Head Coach, and Treasurer will be required to be on slack.- It will work on all platforms- Over the next month we will be making sure everyone has been invited to slack and is on it.- By end of June the league will move to communicate items via slack.	<p>This will allow everyone to get general blasts but also for specific groups to get info only relevant for them.</p> <p>The benefit will be is it will decrease the amount of emails and will be easily searchable.</p> <p>Removing some extra steps in the communication chain.</p>
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[What is Slack](#)

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Website Functionality (Sarah):

- Briefly discussed that due to the timing of moving the MHSLA website to SportsEngine, there wasn't time to setup syncing for rosters and stats between the MHSLA site and individual team sites.
- Questions about the website can be directed to any MHSLA board member.

WEBSITE FUNCTIONALITY

- Stats and Rosters do not currently sync between MHSLA site and individual team sites. We are working this functionality over summer. Very well may be setting up a mirror on child site.
- Only people given permission to their team page will have ability to modify anything on their team page including stats, team scores, roster or any other items. Regional Rep or any board member can give permissions.
- If you need to know who has permission please ask your regional rep and they can let you know.
- The person needing access to a team must create a user on the league website. This could be just creating a user or someone who has registered as a coach or president who did the team.

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Krossover (Matt):

- Was approved for both boys' and girls' programs for the 2019 regular season.
- Girls' approval was later because we didn't know the schedule and how many regular season games were expected to be played.
- Had success this year with Krossover, but overall it wasn't successful. It was rushed this year and there could have been better training.
- For next year, the MHSLA will track the transition from Krossover to Huddle.
- Suggestions/discussion:
 - Turn audio off when filming – notify parents/spectators that filming is happening – watch what you say.
 - Develop standards for filming to get quality footage from all the clubs. All film needs to be uploaded and shared.

KROSSOVER

- A Majority of boys teams uploaded and shared game film with the others boys teams.
- Krossover was a huge help for officials who used clips as part of weekly training emails.
- There were some issues with coaches being notified of their account being created and rosters needing to be uploaded.
- Many of the coaches found it helpful in scouting or showing players specific plays.
- Having the home team be responsible for game filming and uploading worked well.

- Huddle has recently purchased Krossover.

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Rule Changes (Blake):

- Specifically referring to rules in the MHSLA Rule Book – posted on the MHSLA Website.
- The general members start this process.
- Schedule:
 - June 1 – notifications will be sent. (see slide for process).
 - August 1 – deadline to receive rule change requests. Provides opportunity for MHSLA board to review proposed rules.
 - New rules out by Oct 1 before the season.

RULES CHANGES PROCESS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- June 1: rule change requests form will be sent out and posted to the website.- Will be done electronically.- You will submit the current rule as written (unless no rule currently exists)- You will then submit the rule change language- You will provide reasoning behind the requested rule change.- Rules change submissions will be accepted until August 1st.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Board will then discuss all recommendations and vote on any rules changes during September Board meeting.- General Members will be notified of Rules changes by no later than October 1st. <p>This will allow for enough time for General Members to review rules and challenge the rules changes at General Membership Meeting in November.</p>
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Board Positions (Blake):

Elections will occur during the Fall General Membership meeting in November.

Need new regional representatives – Northwest (Whitefish and Kalispell), West (Missoula), Central (Helena, Great Falls, Butte), and East (Billings and Cody). Regional representatives are voted on by their regional program members.

At large members will be voted on by the full program membership.

Anyone interested early can contact MHSLA.

At the Fall General Membership Meeting – the general members (all programs) can propose changes to the bylaws.

An Executive Secretary position is included in the bylaws, but this position hasn't been filled yet. Estimate 250 to 400 hours per year, which would cost approximately \$200 per team to cover the costs of this position. Could consider include marketing with these costs too.

Having commissioners for the boys' and girls' would be helpful too, or could consider filling these positions instead of the executive secretary position.

Board Positions

Board Positions we be coming up at the next Meeting in November.

We will have the following positions available

2 at large members

Northwest, West, Central, and Eastern Regional Reps are open

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Neutral Site Reimbursement (MHSLA):

- Programs wishing to request reimbursements for neutral site field costs need to complete the form that will be sent out and posted by the MHSLA website.
- Need to provide supporting documentation for the expenses, such as an invoice or a contract that shows the cost of the field rental.

Neutral Site Reimbursement Requests

Forms will be posted to the website.	This is intended for neutral site games only.
Requires copies of invoices or receipts to support the reimbursement form.	MHSLA provided extra funds to help with offset costs of using turf fields early in season due to weather issues - these reimbursements have been paid.
DUE TO MHSLA BY JUNE 15	
All requests will be reviewed during the June MHSLA board meeting and approved reimbursement payments will be sent immediately following the meeting.	

Other slides not discussed during the meeting.

State Bids 2020

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Q&A

Request from officials

It is the request of the officials we as a league and individuals do our best to help recruit and retain certified officials.

Last year we saw some good gains in #'s but we need more officials in order to ensure as many games as possible are 3 man crews.

Priority for games assigning are Div. 1, JV, 14U, 12U, 10U.