

MHSLA Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/11/2025
Time: 7:30 PM
Facilitator: Todd Thesing

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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 Goinet	
Jackson	Tori Hederman		
Last Chance	Nathan Nachtsheim	Rhett Buckland	
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

- a. Conversation with USA LAX Rep (Eloise)
 - i. Vertical Model
 - ii. Other USA LAX areas with geographical challenges
 - 1. Todd asked Eloise to look into this to see what challenges they are having and how they handle it.
 - iii. Youth Situation
 - 1. Discussed lack of growth in youth. Youth problem today is HS problem tomorrow.
 - 2. May be some grants available to help with this.
- b. NW Varsity situation
 - i. Board voted for Boys varsity and JV to join Idaho league and leave MHSLA
 - ii. Girls will stay with MHSLA
 - iii. Chris said he will stay the rep
 - iv. Todd asked why
 - 1. Level of competition
 - 2. Travel
 - 3. Rules
 - a. Up and down, back and forth
 - b. Not being to control own destiny
 - c. Not being able to decide if it is JV or Varsity
- c. Bozeman Varsity considerations
 - i. Bozeman board is also considering because of rules on 11/12
 - ii. Looking at GWLL?
 - iii. Board will decide tomorrow evening
- d. State tournament conversation
 - i. Bozeman is still going to host State for 2026.
 - 1. Will try to get room blocks out ASAP.
 - ii. Great Falls is not interested
- e. Todd had a call with Mike Muskatella MLOA
 - i. Short on refs
 - ii. Focus on training and recruiting refs
 - iii. Want MHSLA to schedule
 - iv. Is that something John would be able to help with.
 - 1. I'll ask him
 - 2. How familiar is John with Arbiter
 - 3. Could he handle scheduling
 - a. We would pay him.
 - 4. If we do scheduling, we don't pay MLOA
 - 5. Nathan said it used to be in the bylaws that a ref had to travel with every team and it worked well.
 - 6. Didn't work with High School
 - a. No one enforced

2. Vice President’s Report

- a. With youth stuff, they have a tentative schedule
- b. Up on air based on officiating and what Cities will allow
- c. Clubs leaning toward high school players ref youth games because of lack of refs
- d. May dictate coordination of youth/high school so HS players are available to ref.
- e. Looking to fill two positions on the youth board.
- f. Trying hard to get youth board established.

3. Treasurer Report

- a. Current Stockman Bank Balance = \$22,163.32
- b. Butte remains to pay final 2025 officiating fees
 - i. Dan asked if he can do bank transfer.
 - ii. He will send check to Eric.

4. Secretary Report

- a. Any comments on the October in-person meeting minutes? (Posted on the Website)
- b. Attached is the current contact list based on information provided in the October in-person meeting.
 - i. Please let me know if you have any changes/additions.
- c. John Noble has set up the Sports Engine registration for MHSLA as decided in the October In-Person Meeting. Clubs, please provide direction to members regarding MHSLA registration along with individual club registration.
- d. John Noble would also like to set up teams in Sports Engine:
 - i. Following are the current list of teams for boys and girls.
 - 1. Understand this may change.
 - a. When will we know final teams?

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. Schedule

- a. Boys
 - i. Chris discussed schedule
 - ii. Waiting for Missoula Prom Date
 - 1. High School hasn't told them.
 - iii. Sherian please confirm Prom Date
 - 1. Jeff will confirm and let Chris know later tonight
 - iv. Tori has 2 weeks for Spring Break
 - 1. Confirmed that is correct.
 - v. Butte shows Spring Break 4/1-4/6
 - 1. Butte confirmed that is correct.
 - vi. Disregard teams on the bottom with team broken out
 - vii. Please review schedule this week and let Chris Mac know comments.
 - viii. Look at Schedule breakdown, not Master.
 - ix. Greg Howard asked if Missoula Wild lost home game.
 - 1. Chris asked when would work
 - 2. Greg said anytime.
 - x. Hellgate High school prom is difficult to get answers from.
- b. Girls
 - i. Tori is getting girls schedule going.

c. Finalize schedule by end of year.

6. Youth League Discussion (Nathan Nachtsheim)

- a. Nathan sat on youth board meeting
 - b. They want to join the High school board
 - c. Want to travel with High School
 - d. Had concerns about why HS is keeping things separate
 - e. There is a lot to be said about joining
 - i. Without youth, there is no high school
 - f. Todd said in looking at schedule Chris is considering youth in schedule
 - g. Todd was on Bozeman board when youth and High School
 - i. End up spending a lot more time at meetings.
 - h. Might make sense to join forces
 - i. Would be challenging for HS to manage their money.
 - i. Maybe an executive board member attending youth board meetings and a youth board member attending HS.
 - j. Not good for any of us if we lose growth.
 - k. Deserves focus. Question is do any of us have bandwidth to help them?
 - l. Could they attend our meetings and learn from what we are doing?
 - m. Maybe create a position on this board to attend youth meetings.
 - n. Rob asked what youth board is failing with.
 - i. Todd said struggles with differences between clubs.
 - o. Trouble is there are a lot of ups and downs based on who is in leadership.
 - p. Todd asked if it is assumed that every club will be travelling a lot
 - i. Yes for everyone
 - q. Bozeman and Jackson are expensive
 - r. Rob thinks we need to do something.
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- s. Pat said in Helena there have been lots of ups and downs.
- t. Lots of girls at 5/6 (30) but only 2 in 7/8.
- u. For intro families, make it flexible for travelling
- v. Just giving opportunities for youth to have fun.
- w. Focus on growing the sport instead of great travel teams.
- x. Play 6s to make fun games
- y. Todd said bigger programs want to mix in competitive in season and causes trouble.
- z. Found that people are out if season extends into summer too far.
- aa. Can have both.
 - i. Travel teams and local teams to grow sport.
- bb. Pat said it can be the same way in High School
- cc. Des said it is a double edge sword
 - i. Need more coaches, staff, etc.
- dd. Missoula said they have had house teams, but it took away from travel teams.
- ee. Elena said recruiting the kids is the challenge.
- ff. Todd asked what happened from 6 years ago when Missoula had big numbers.
- gg. Coulton said when he was recruiting kids, they said it was about recruiting kids and making it as fun as possible. Thinks the 6s model makes a lot of sense. Play more kids locally, more teams, etc.
- hh. Nathan and Pat agreed to go to youth meetings and report back to HS meetings.
- ii. Todd asked that it be communicated that HS is trying to set up schedule to keep youth/HS together as much as possible.
- jj. More life to it now. Good time to bring it back now. Olympics has 6s now.
- kk. Only takes one ref.
- ll. Think about it and discuss it in December.
- mm. Howard thinks it would be good if youth and HS could work together instead of competing for fields.
- nn. Either team up with youth or team up with TSL.
- oo. Chris said he doesn't mind TSL making a little money but there is a problem with refereeing.
- pp. Lots of factors to consider.
- qq. Tournaments are great because it solves the travel issue.
- rr. Try to come up with something that works for everyone.
 - i. 6s for first 5 weeks of season and competitive games at end of season.
- ss. Nathan said youth won't likely use TLS this year because of the cost.
- tt. Nathan also doesn't think he has the field.
- uu. Instead of figuring out a schedule every year, keep it all the same towns on each weekend every year for every town.

7. Other?

- a. **Meetings will be at 6:30 PM from now forward.**

8. Adjourn:

- a. 8:20 PM
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MHSLA 2026

Contact Information

Updated 11/6/2025

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	ericsther@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	staterrep@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