

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

September 28, 2010

Mandatory Meeting: October 2nd, noon, Bertona Hall, SPU

Members, this report is presented by your Board to reflect the state of our Association for the upcoming lacrosse season and year. What follows is only a highlight of what your Board sees for the 2011 season. **THIS IS NOT INTENDED AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE TEAM HANDBOOK AND THE HANDBOOK ADDENDUM.**

As outgoing WHSBLA Board President, this will be my last annual report to the membership. My first report was prepared in 2007 and I found it interesting reading. In 2007 we had a total of 38 teams – 14 in DI and 24 in DII. For the 2011 season we will field 50 teams – 22 in DI and 28 in DII. I believe we are on the cusp of further growth south, north, west, and east, as well as east of the Cascades. In the next few years we expect high school teams to start up in Spokane so we can add that conference to our Membership (several youth teams are now playing there). And we, in conjunction with the Washington Chapter of US Lacrosse and the Washington Schoolgirls Lacrosse Association, will continue to knock on the WIAA door to become a sanctioned sport in this state.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank Gail, Daniela and all the Board members I have worked with, not only during these years as Board President, but also for all the years I have served on this Board. Without the enormous dedication and time invested by Gail and Daniela, much of our work simply could not get done in a timely manner. And, without exception, the men who work on this Board have done an exceptional job in making the hard decisions needed to successfully promote the growth of high school lacrosse in Washington. What is remarkable to me is the firm resolve every Board member has shown in separating his personal views of what might be best for his own program and, instead, kept the focus on what is best for the entire Association and for future growth. The hours every Board member puts into this responsibility are immense and the tasks seem to never end, but these duties have been some of the most enjoyable I've experienced in my lacrosse career. It has been an absolute honor to be part of this team over the years.

1. OPENING FOR WHSBLA SECRETARY/TREASURER.

As many of you already know, Daniela Colter has moved to Denver so her husband could take advantage of a job opportunity. She has done a great job for us as Gail's replacement, but now we are left with an opening that desperately needs filing.

The good news is that Gail Shelton has graciously agreed to step in on an interim basis. But she has made it clear that this is only a short term option.

The WHSBLA secretary/treasurer is a critical position within our organization. If you know of anyone who might be interested and has the attention to detail that this position requires, please ask him/her to contact the Board directly for more information. This is a paid position.

This summer we were asked to address the question of whether or not a coach or board member from one of the member programs could serve in this position. The Board discussed this question and believes there is no prohibition. However, please keep in mind that this position requires **many** hours of work, especially from January thru June!

Finally, depending on how our negotiations with WALOA go this fall/winter, the Board may be forced to retain a bookkeeper, possibly a CPA firm, to assist the secretary/treasurer in his/her duties.

2. WALOA NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE – MEMBERS INVITED.

Speaking of WALOA, Ian O’Hearn, Brandon Fortier, and Ryan Kelly are heading up our negotiating committee with WALOA. Interested Members are invited to join this committee. The only restriction is that no one joining the WHSBLA committee can be a current lacrosse official or member of WALOA. If interested, please contact Ian, Brandon, or Ryan directly.

3. HEAD COACH & CONTACT INFORMATION.

Each Member must provide us the name of their Head Coach (if known) and the current e-mail address for that coach. If there remains a Head Coach vacancy, please provide us the name and e-mail address of the best contact for the club. Full Program information must be provided at the February mandatory coaches’ meeting. We need each Member to provide this information, even if your information has not changed from last year.

4. ELECTIONS – TO BE HELD AT THE START OF THE MEETING.

Per the By-Laws, the Regional Representatives are up for election at the October 2nd membership meeting. The candidates are:

Eastside Rep: John Bauman, Nick Landen, and Henry Valentine

Metro Rep: Tom Gibbon and Ron Wright

Westside Rep: Rob Hawley, unopposed

Northern Rep: Peter White, unopposed

Write in ballots are permissible for all board elections.

Prior to the vote, each candidate for office will be allowed time for a brief presentation to the membership as to why he/she warrants election to the Board.

5. BUDGET ITEMS: Because WALOA negotiations are just commencing, our dues and registration fees are not finalized. Having said this, our goal is to keep Program costs as 2010 level. The figures below were used in 2010.

a. Budgets:

i. The 2010 budget's final accounting will be available for inspection at the October Membership meeting. Because of WALOA negotiations, the 2011 budget has yet to be finalized.

ii. Registration Fee for 2010

1) Varsity schedule: \$100.

2) JV & frosh/soph schedules: \$75 per team.

iii. Games added after deadline: Some programs have a history of adding games long after the schedule has been completed. Teams that add games after the schedule has been completed will be assessed a \$50 charge for such games. **This charge does not apply to already scheduled games that need to be moved because of conflicts that may arise after the schedule is completed.**

iv. Dues: For the '10 season, program dues were \$10 per player for regular members, \$5 per player for new teams.

v. These dues and fees are used to help cover fees for the following: stipend for secretary/treasurer, WALOA mileage/ferry fees, Board D & O Insurance; stipend for league scheduler; Association website costs, division awards, meeting expenses, officials for semi-finals, and the Association's share of the public relations person's salary.

b. Game officials: The new contract with WALOA is still being negotiated. As soon as a final agreement is reached we will notify all programs.

c. Playoffs: Again for the 2011 season, teams in the playoffs will split the cost of referees for the playoff games until they reach the semi-finals. WHSBLA will pay for the officials for the semi-finals. (The Washington Chapter of US Lacrosse will be again asked to pick up the tab for the finals.)

d. Finals: Saturday, May 28, 2011, Memorial Stadium.

6. TEAM ADDITIONS: 50 TOTAL PROGRAMS THIS YEAR!

We are pleased to announce that Everett (formally Silver Lake), Gig Harbor, Lake Washington, Liberty, Mt. Si, Providence, and Woodinville are no longer Provisional Members and are now recognized as Regular Members of the Association.

We also welcome Ballard as a Provisional Member for the 2011 season. Brian Main (bmain@boynerealty.com) will be the head coach. Their Board president is Dave Kirkendall (davekirkendall.smb@gmail.com.)

7. CONFERENCE CHANGES/TEAM ASSIGNMENTS

In August, we sent out 4 options for changes we were considering for the 2011 season. We asked programs to provide feedback and order their preference for the options presented. We were pleased that approximately half of our Membership took the time to respond. We reviewed every response and proposal before we made our decision for the 2011 season.

Rather than fundamentally reorganize the league as we did last year, the Board has decided to “fine tune” the 2010 model. We think this provides a measure of stability for the Members, and it allows us to address some of the perceived problems and/or shortcoming with the 2010 season.

DI is expanded to 22 teams with Lynnwood and Lake Washington being moved into DI. Again, the DI teams will be divided into a Southwest and Northeast Conference (11 teams in each). Lakeside is moved to the Southwest Conference, joining historic Metro opponents Bainbridge and Seattle Prep. Standings and play-off eligibility will be based on the in-conference record – thus, 10 conference games. In addition, cross conference games will be scheduled by WHSBLA as follows, based on 2010 finish:

- a. The top 3 teams in each conference will play the top 3 teams in the cross-conference. (13 scheduled games, 10 games for standings.)
- b. The middle 4 teams in each conference will play the middle 4 cross-conference teams. (14 scheduled games, 10 games for standings.)
- c. The bottom 4 teams in each conference will play the bottom 4 cross-conference games. (14 scheduled games, 10 games for standings.)

Teams are free to schedule additional games up to their season maximum of 20.

The Northeast Conference (in order of 2010 finish): Bellevue, Mercer Island, Issaquah, Skyline, Overlake, Bothell (Northshore), Kamiak (Mukilteo), Eastlake, Eastside Catholic, Lynnwood, and Lake Washington.

The Southwest Conference (in order of 2010 finish): Bainbridge, King’s Way, Curtis, Puyallup, Bellarmine Prep (Tacoma), Lakeside, Stadium, Tahoma, Seattle Prep, Vashon, Auburn Riverside (Lake Tapps).

Division II, consisting of 28 teams, will be divided into six conferences as listed below:

Cascade Conference: Everett, Providence, Snohomish, Stanwood, Woodinville.

Eastern Conference: Richland (Three Rivers), Selah, Wenatchee.

Evergreen Conference: Highline, Liberty, Mt. Si, Redmond, Sammamish.

Metro Conference: Ballard, Blanchet, Franklin, Garfield, Nathan Hale, Roosevelt.

Olympic Conference: Klahowya, North Kitsap, Pt. Angeles, South Kitsap, Gig Harbor.

Skagit Conference: Burlington (Skagit Valley), Friday Harbor (San Juan), Lynden (North County), Sehome (Whatcom).

Scheduling and playoff details will be presented at the Membership Meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS OF INTEREST TO THE MEMBERSHIP.

REQUIRED SIDE LINE MANAGER: The 2010 season experienced more problems with improper fan involvement, up to and including perceived threats to the game officials, than we ever before. This is a real problem that will be forcefully addressed by both WHSBLA and WALOA. WALOA's response may prove quite simple: they may simply stop assigning game officials to a problem venue! In response to this issue, the Board has enacted the following requirement:

The HOME team is required to provide an adult to serve as the designated "Sideline Manager" to assist with crowd control issues during the duration of the contest. This person **must** be introduced to the officials prior to the start of the contest. In order to remain mobile, this person may not be part of the table crew (scorekeeper, clock operator, penalty timer, horn operations, etc.). The visiting team is encouraged to designate a "Sideline Manager" of their own, and if present should be introduced to the game officials prior to the start of the contest.

Programs are expected to ensure their coaches and fans Honor The Game at all times and at all games.

9. DATES OF INTEREST FOR 2011 SEASON:

- a.** Dead Period: runs from August 1st thru February 27, 2011.
 - i. No coach may have any coaching contact with his players, including incoming freshmen, during the Dead Period.
 - ii. For details, see the Handbook, §8.2.0.
- b.** First day of practice: Monday, February 28, 2011.
- c.** Championship Day: Saturday, May 28, 2011.

10. REMINDERS:

a. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF REGULAR SEASON GAMES.

Teams are limited to a maximum of **20 regular season games plus 1 jamboree during the 2nd weekend of the season.** Playoff and finals

games do not count against this 20 game maximum, but any additional jamborees/tournaments attended will count as 1 game for each day of jamboree/tournament competition. For example, a team has 14 regular season games, plays in a jamboree on the 2nd weekend of the season, and then plays in another jamboree on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday of their spring break. This team has used up 17 of its total 20 regular season games. See Handbook, § 10.4 and 10.5 for details.

b. Zach Lystedt Law remains in effect!

- i. Because teams may compete or practice on a school facility, **all Members must be in compliance**. Our website has the required forms and training for coaches.
- ii. All coaches, players and their parents/guardians must meet these minimum requirements:
 1. **All coaches** will have to take training on the nature and risk of concussions and head injury including continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.
 2. **On a yearly basis**, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be **signed** and returned by the youth athlete and athlete's parents/guardian prior to the youth athlete's initiating practice or competition.
 3. All athletes suspected of suffering a concussion or brain injury will be removed from practice or competition and not returned to play until cleared in writing by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions (Medical Doctors, Doctor of Osteopathy, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, Physicians Assistants or *Certified Athletic Trainer*).
 4. **All non-profit youth organizations using school facilities shall:**
 - a. Provide the school with written proof of insurance covering their youth athletes with limits required by the law (this was required well before the Zachery Lystedt Law); and
 - b. All coaches, players and parents of youth teams shall have similar training as outlined for school coaches, players and parents prior to the start of any practice; and
 - c. The non-profit youth groups shall submit a statement of compliance with the insurance coverage and required head injury trainings prior to receiving access to school facilities.

- c. COACHING STANDARDS** – Coaching standards are now in effect! See Handbook Addendum for details.

- d. **GAME JERSEYS – NFHS RULES ARE NOW IN EFFECT.** See Handbook §10.1.0 for details.
- e. The Board encourages all club programs to make every effort to become a school club program or school sport for the '11 season.
- f. **JV & FROSH/SOPH GAMES:**
 - 1. To reduce the number of cancelled and even forfeited JV and frosh/soph games as the season progresses, please note the following criteria before you enter a JV team into the scheduling process.
 - 2. **FOR THE PURPOSES OF DEFINING A JV TEAM,** this means that your program can field sufficient players so that a double header (V & JV) can be held on the same day and at different locations. If your projected numbers do not support this type of a schedule, please do not sign up for a JV schedule. Similarly, before you sign up for a Frosh/Soph schedule, ensure that you have enough projected JV and Frosh/Soph players to hold two such games on the same day at different locations.
 - 3. **Remember – you pay a scheduling fee for each team.**
- g. **GAME OFFICIAL'S EVALUATION FORM:** We will again be using a game officials' evaluation form. We strongly encourage all Members to fill out and return these forms to the Board. Despite a low participation rate last year, the information provided proved valuable to the Board. We hope with better participation we can provide even better data on officials' performances.

See you all at the Membership meeting on the 2nd. We start at noon sharp!

Thanks, Vern Smith, Board President.