

Meeting Minutes

Objective: Monthly Meeting

Date: 12/10/2024

Time: 7:30 PM

Facilitator: President Thesing

Members Present (Add or Remove in Minutes):

- Steve Crass,
- Nathan Nachtsheim,
- Eric Sutherland
- Todd Thesing
- Jeremy Comstock
- Tori Hederman
- Rob Leder
- Steve Amish
- Dan Carroll
- TJ Gionete
- Desarae Detling
- Pat Marron
- Chris McLaughlin
- Brad Koon
- JR Wright

Discussion Items

1. President's Report
 - a. Spoke about Cheyenne joining the league, received a letter of intent
 - b. Asked if someone would be available to communicate with the refs.
 - i. Chris with NW offered to help
 - ii. Melissa with Rimrock will also help
 - iii. Mike is president of MOLA and contact for boys, Erica Burke might be the contact for girls
 - c. Need to add Rimrock to Slack communications
2. Vice President's Report
 - a. Mentioned there was a USA Lacrosse rules webinar for high school and youth
 - b. Todd asked if everyone receives communication from Lyn Porterfield, Billings and Rimrock not getting info

3. Secretary Report
 - a. Approve 11/12/2024 Minutes
4. Treasurer Report
 - a. The youth lacrosse does not need help with budget
5. Old Business
 - a. Youth Program
 - b. Other
6. New Business
 - a. Voting on rules
 - i. Todd stated that we don't have to vote on the boundary rule at this time.
 - ii. Todd said if we are going to do this, we should break it into a committee and determine how it will affect each club.
 - iii. Todd is reluctant to hold a vote on the Allstate.
 - iv. Todd knows there are some that don't agree with him and he respects it. Doesn't want us to make a decision that changes in 2 or 3 years. There is potential to make the vertical model work. The Washington model may not be representative of Montana. Todd thinks we have cards against us that may not let it work. Let our emotions be set aside and do the work. Todd acknowledged that JR and Nathan have opinions on it. Todd was on the board when MHSLA started and said you have to create a youth and high school board. Did not know this would be so controversial. Make sustainable decisions for the league and every town in the league. Todd thinks we vote on the things we have alignment on, then pick up the other more controversial items in March or April.
 - v. Chris Mclaughlin likes the idea of pushing it out.
 1. Registration is now closed.
 2. Would have more costs if this happens.
 3. Chris would need at least a year to get everything organized.
 - vi. Howard Ruzick asked what was being discussed
 1. Todd explained that it is something that would have to be done with the bigger clubs. Bring the boundary back and look at a vertical model where each school has a team and growth occurs with each school.
 2. Todd thinks to vote on something like this with only 60 days left would be a lot.
 3. Todd said he is open to it but wants to research past and future numbers to make it successful.
 4. Also need to bring in Idaho and Jackson teams to grow that.
 5. Howard said it does not affect them at this time.
 - vii. Nathan said hearing Chris's comment about ordering new uniforms
 1. Had same uniforms and split
 2. Same uniforms, just flip them. Still doing that today.
 3. If we decide to vote on this and someone makes a motion, it would affect Helena also. Not trying to break up everyone, just trying to grow the sport of Lacrosse.

- viii. Todd said he doesn't disagree, but doesn't think we should put to vote now.
 - 1. What happens to conglomerate kids that aren't fit
- ix. Nathan said no one gets left out.
- x. Billings had a bunch of kids that quit because they didn't want to play with other school.
 - 1. Deserae said that was part of it but there were also other factors.
- xi. Steve Amish asked if it has worked with girls side
 - 1. Steve said the numbers aren't there yet.
- xii. Nathan said the girls numbers have grown across the organization.
 - 1. Tori said that is true. There are some teams still trying to grow.
- xiii. JR said it works in Sheridan and can work anywhere.
- xiv. Steve Crass said there had always been a fall meeting in person.
 - 1. We discussed this for three hours last month and now we are doing it again.
 - 2. Just vote and move on.
- xv. Deserae said we would need to put together information and vote in the fall of next year.
- xvi. Todd said yes.
- xvii. Todd said we don't have the language
- xviii. Nathan said what Sheridan produced is what was in place before so everything is in place.
- xix. JR said the rules were presented in accordance with the bylaws.
- xx. Chris asked if we should vote on it this year.
- xxi. Steve said they presented it because they want it to happen this year.
- xxii. Deserae asked if it is going to be a problem to vote on it this year
- xxiii. Some said yes, some said no.
- xxiv. It was decided to vote on presented rule changes.
- xxv. One voting member was identified for each club.
 - 1. Sheridan:
 - 2. Billings Beartooth:
 - 3. Billings Rimrock: Not eligible because haven't been in meetings (Ref Bylaws)
 - 4. Bozeman:
 - 5. Cody:
 - 6. Jackson:
 - 7. Last Chance:
 - 8. Butte:
 - 9. Great Falls:
 - 10. Missoula Wild:
 - 11. Missoula Spartans:
 - 12. Northwest Avalanche:
- xxvi. Majority required to pass per bylaws

xxvii. Change D1/D2 to Varsity/JV

Steve Crass: Motion

Nathan: Second

VOTE:

1. Sheridan: AYE
2. Billings Beartooth: AYE
3. Bozeman: AYE
4. Cody: AYE
5. Jackson: AYE
6. Last Chance: AYE
7. Butte: AYE
8. Great Falls: NO
9. Missoula Wild: AYE I
10. Missoula Spartans: AYE
11. Northwest Avalanche: NO

PASS: 9:2

xxviii. Time between games can be reduced below 2 hours for girls only.

Motion: Steve Crass

Second: Nathan

VOTE:

1. Sheridan: AYE
2. Billings Beartooth: AYE
3. Bozeman: AYE
4. Cody: AYE
5. Jackson: AYE
6. Last Chance: AYE
7. Butte: AYE
8. Great Falls: AYE
9. Missoula Wild: AYE
10. Missoula Spartans: AYE
11. Northwest Avalanche: AYE

PASS 11:0

xxix. Increase maximum number of games per day for girls from 2 to 3

Motion: Steve Crass

Second: Tori

VOTE:

1. Sheridan: AYE
2. Billings Beartooth: AYE
3. Bozeman: AYE
4. Cody: AYE
5. Jackson: AYE
6. Last Chance: AYE
7. Butte: AYE
8. Great Falls: AYE
9. Missoula Wild: AYE
10. Missoula Spartans: AYE
11. Northwest Avalanche: AYE

PASS 11:0

xxx. Adding stats for girls. Remove cards issued, add shots and turnovers

Motion: Steve Crass

Second: Tori

VOTE:

1. Sheridan: AYE
2. Billings Beartooth: AYE
3. Bozeman: AYE
4. Cody: AYE
5. Jackson: AYE
6. Last Chance: AYE
7. Butte: AYE
8. Great Falls: AYE
9. Missoula Wild: AYE
10. Missoula Spartans: AYE
11. Northwest Avalanche: AYE

PASS 11:0

xxxi. Boys add shots, turnovers, caused turnovers, face off win loss, penalties

Motion: Steve Crass

Second: Chris McLaughlin

VOTE:

1. Sheridan: AYE
2. Billings Beartooth: NO
3. Bozeman: AYE
4. Cody: AYE
5. Jackson: AYE
6. Last Chance: AYE
7. Butte: NO
8. Great Falls: AYE
9. Missoula Wild: AYE
10. Missoula Spartans: AYE
11. Northwest Avalanche: AYE

PASS: 9:2

xxxii. Discussion on blackout dates to play out of state teams

- Some said it didn't affect scheduling
- Nathan said it shouldn't be allowed during the season
- Steve Crass agreed that it causes problems
- Desarae said teams would just ignore it.
- Todd said we should take this to each club
- Old rules said it used to be a rule for each team to play each other twice
- Has become impossible
- Tori said it is different on girls side because they do jamboree style
- Chris said there are lots of factors, travel, blackouts, everyone 1 host weekend, etc.
- Chris said it would make schedule easier to schedule if teams aren't making blackout dates to play other teams
- Outside games can't interfere with MHSLA
- Nathan said if you can't make it up, you forfeit
- No vote

- xxxiii. After 2 seasons of a new program (Boys Only)
- If the number of registrants exceeds 18 players, then the program must register the team at the Varsity level.
 - If the number of registrants exceeds 26 players, then the program must register at least one team at the Varsity level and can register one team at the JV level.
 - Each program may register teams at Varsity and JV levels, but the number of JV teams may not exceed the number of Varsity Teams in the program.

Motion: Nathan

Second: Steve Crass

Discussion:

- JR said the current program doesn't balance out very well because there are limited varsity teams, and what happens with younger players when seniors are playing D2.
 - Dan in Butte said this may affect Butte
 - If Butte has 19 or 20 kids in 1 year, but no youth program
 - 60-80% of kids are freshman or sophomore
 - Most kids are freshman or sophomore. Get beat bad on Varsity.
 - How do you address it when players are new and have never played.
 - Nathan said he was thinking about Butte when this was written
 - Said you can petition the board in extenuating circumstances.
 - Dan agreed that Butte won't likely have more than 18 kids in the future.
 - Dan doesn't agree when there are a bunch of JV teams
 - Todd said this is just like a boundary rule
 - Sheridan would have a varsity/JV
 - Sheridan would have a varsity/JV
 - Glacier would just have a Varsity and one JV
 - Missoula would have a varsity only team
 - Great Falls would be Varsity
 - Desarae would only have a Varsity
 - Cody expected to have high teens/low 20's
- With this rule, there would likely be 6 JV teams.
 - With this rule there would likely be 10 Varsity teams as follows:
 - Bozeman 2
 - Helena 2
 - Wild 1
 - Glacier 1
 - GF 1

- Cody 1
- Sheridan 1
- Billings 1

VOTE:

1. Sheridan: AYE
2. Billings Beartooth: AYE
3. Bozeman: NO
4. Cody: NO
5. Jackson: AYE
6. Last Chance: AYE
7. Butte: NO
8. Great Falls: AYE
9. Missoula Wild: AYE
10. Missoula Spartans: AYE
11. Northwest Avalanche: NO

PASS: 7:4

- xxxiv. Nathan tabled last chance motion to remove JV state.
- xxxv. Steve does not want to table JV state.
- xxxvi. Only varsity games bracketed at State Tournament. JV would still be included in the state tournament in a jamboree format, but without a championship being awarded.
 Motion: Steve
 Second: JR

Discussion:

- Dan thinks it is a mistake because it may deter players that only play D2.
- Todd thinks it will eviscerate JV Program
- Scott said this cause problems in Cody program

VOTE:

1. Sheridan: NO
2. Billings Beartooth: NO
3. Bozeman: NO
4. Cody: NO
5. Jackson: NO
6. Last Chance: NO
7. Butte: NO
8. Great Falls: NO
9. Missoula Wild: NO
10. Missoula Spartans: AYE
11. Northwest Avalanche: NO

FAIL: 1:10

- xxxvii. No all State Awards for D2
 - 1. No motion or second
 - a. Nathan pulled proposal
 - b. Steve did also
- Butte asked what was done last year for JV
- There was first team and honorable mention for JV
- Dan said there are still 2 entirely different leagues

- xxxviii. Accept Cheyenne Boys JV Program
 - Motion: Nathan (because we are treating this meeting as Fall meeting)
 - Second: JR
 - 1. Sheridan: AYE
 - 2. Billings Beartooth: AYE
 - 3. Bozeman: AYE
 - 4. Cody: AYE
 - 5. Jackson: AYE
 - 6. Last Chance: AYE
 - 7. Butte: AYE
 - 8. Great Falls: AYE
 - 9. Missoula Wild: AYE
 - 10. Missoula Spartans: AYE
 - 11. Northwest Avalanche: AYE

PASS: 11:1

- xxxix. Other potential teams
 - 1. Todd will reach out to teams to see if they are interested. Pat stated Bylaws allow JV teams.
- xl. Steve asked if penalties/fines should be assessed
 - 1. Todd doesn't think so
 - 2. Nathan agrees that fines don't work.
 - a. Can't remember anyone paying a fine.
- xli. Pat said bylaws include a winter meeting
 - 1. Todd thinks we shouldn't have a meeting in person.
 - 2. Todd thinks we should stick with standard monthly meeting times.
 - 3. Nathan said coaches need to be part of the meeting also, even if it is online
 - 4. Todd said there needs to be a coaches meeting in January
 - 5. Nathan agreed
 - 6. Todd will set up meeting with Brad's help
 - 7. Nathan makes motion that it is a zoom meeting, but need to get info out to coaches prior to meeting:

7. Meeting Adjourned

8. Next Meeting: January 14, 2025 @ 7:30 PM