

MHSLA Meeting Minutes

Date: 6/9/2026

Time: 6:30 PM

Facilitator: Todd Thesing, President

Microsoft Teams

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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	Mike Hass	
Billings Rimrock	Howard Ruzick		
Bozeman	Rob Leder		
Cody	Kevin Winters		
Jackson	Tori Hederman		
Last Chance	Nathan Nachtsheim		
Butte	Dan Carroll		
Great Falls	Jeremy Comstock		
Missoula Wild	Greg Howard		
Missoula Zoo-town	Elena Furrow		
Northwest Avalanche	Chris McLaughlin		
Cheyenne	Colton Rasmussen		

1. President's Report:

- a. Todd apologized to Billings for not delegating State Trophy presentation.
- b. Mike Hass appreciated apology.
- c. Used to be that all of us would handle State.
 - i. Maybe have MHSLA handle in future instead of local host.
- d. Todd received a couple emails about situational referee items
- e. Mike Muskatello is done.
 - i. Will be more difficult with him being gone.
- f. Todd said he would discuss experience with GWLL

2. Vice President's Report:

- a. Pat watched more HS lacrosse this year than ever before.
- b. Pat said thank you to all clubs.
- c. If there is anyway we can get HS and youth in same town on weekends, it is good.
- d. Pat knows it is tough, but it is good to have youth watching HS.

3. Treasurer Report:

- **Current Bank Balance: \$26,694.19**
- **Checks to Deposit: \$2,358.00**
- **Checks written 6/8:**
 - \$417.60 Zootown Lacrosse Overpayment
 - \$830.00 Sheridan Lacrosse Overpayment
 - \$5,000.00 Bozeman State Tournament Hosting contribution from MHSLA
 - \$960.00 JDN IT Solutions - John Noble Website/Sports engine management.
 - \$891.00 Desarae Detling - State Tournament Trophies
 - **NET Bank Account Balance after above: \$20,953.59**
- **Outstanding Amounts Due from Clubs: \$9,460.40**
 - **Clubs please pay amounts due this month.**
- **About \$155/game for reffing.**

4. Secretary Report:

- a. Comments on May 12, 2026 Minutes? (Posted on the Website):
 - b. John Noble Invoice for 2026 Season \$960.
 - c. Sports Engine Discussions:
 - i. John believes changes made to Sports Engine over the past few years have been beneficial for the most part. Customer support has been good, and John has received prompt communication to his inquiries.
 - d. Sports Engine Update:
Purchased by Play Metrics.
Reference following letter from CEO of Play Metrics
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Hello everyone,

My name is Michael Doernberg, CEO of PlayMetrics, and following our May 1 acquisition of SportsEngine from Versant Media Group, I now serve as CEO of both companies.

We believe bringing SportsEngine and PlayMetrics together is an exciting step forward for both organizations and for the youth sports community, moving us closer to a more unified, modern experience for the organizations we serve.

I want to start with what matters most: your day-to-day experience with SportsEngine remains unchanged. Your log-in, platform, pricing, contract, and level of service all stay the same.

What *is* changing is what stands behind it.

We were born and built in this industry – we've always been a youth sports software company; nothing else. We remain relentlessly focused on continuing to build something this industry has genuinely never had: one modern, reliable, intuitive platform designed specifically for the complexity of running a youth sports organization. It does not mean cutting corners, inflating prices, or treating customers like line items. Our model only works if yours does.

We believe that over time, there is a massive opportunity to bring the two platforms together into a single, more powerful youth sports management platform – extending the standard we've already set and delivering it to more organizations like yours.

Last year, we brought PlayMetrics, Crossbar, and Stack Sports together. What that experience reinforced for us is that consolidation in this industry is only worth doing if it makes things meaningfully better for customers. We take that seriously because we've seen what happens when companies don't.

If you have questions, please reach out to your SportsEngine team. We'd rather you ask than wonder. I know that trust is earned, and we're committed to earning yours.

Best,
Michael Doernberg

5. Email from Elena Furrow – Zoo town:

Hi Brad,

I'd like to add a discussion to find out where the board and each club stands regarding players who ask to play on a different club then the one where they live.

I don't remember if there are any formal rules, policies or if boundary rules apply outside of each city?

We have a Missoula player who apparently asked to play on the Billings team this past spring but then ended up deciding to play on our team. The parents never had a discussion with our board but the rumor was that she knew the Billings coach and wanted to be on a more competitive team. She dropped out halfway through our season saying she didn't want to risk getting injured prior to the summer season when she plays with an elite travel team. We anticipate she may ask to play on the Billings team (or even Bozeman) this next spring and would like a consensus from the board before we are faced with this potential situation.

Our Zootown Lacrosse board feels strongly that players should play for their home club for several reasons:

- 1.It allows the player to practice with the team they play with
- 2.It supports the league goals of development and growth of youth lacrosse
- 3.Allowing someone to play for another club could set a precedent that any player could do this and that a club in our league could create a "super team" or more competitive team unfairly.
- 4.Allowing a player to play for another club may be discouraging for the rest of the players on the home team
- 5.Allowing a player to play for another club may be detrimental to that player if they are hoping to be recruited to play in college as it may be seen as a "red flag" for problematic behavior/personality issues.

Our ask for the board would be to have a statement that would not allow this to happen in the future and that coaches are informed if they are approached by players or their parents.

Thank you.

Elena Furrow

Zootown Lacrosse

Todd said:

- Have typically allowed players to play for other teams unless there is another outstanding issue.
- Need to understand reasoning. Player needs to come to local board first to ask permission.

Elena said:

- They had a player playing for Billings and just wanted to be on a more competitive team.
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- Robert said he doesn't think it should be allowed because it opens the door for super teams.
- Tori said she stopped playing, then started shopping for new team.
 - Tori said she doesn't think this should be allowed.
 - Tori said she would be angry if this new person came in and took place of local player that worked really hard.
- Should play for home team.
- Happened on Boys side where several players quit because of coach.
- Players shouldn't go to coaches. Should talk to home club board first.
- Not appropriate to just want to play on a more competitive team.
- Discouraging to players on both teams.
- Nathan said rules say you need to have min of 4 practices with team to play in games.
- Katlin Foster from Billings is good example of leader on a team that is not as strong that is still going D1.

6. Season/State Discussions:

- a. Scheduling Boys:
 - i. Nathan Said:
 - 1. Coaches were not getting a lot of information from board reps.
 - 2. Board reps not scheduler needs to filter all game changes down.
 - 3. Who they are playing, where they are playing, etc.
 - a. Make sure board reps are giving coaches information including schedule.
 - 4. Have set weekends that we know fields are available on which weekends at the beginning of the season, it will make it a lot better.
 - ii. Colton said there were several changes to schedule after schedule was voted on that affected Colton.
 - 1. Try to make schedule final after voted on.
 - iii. Tori asked if Chris will do schedule with Kalispell being in GWLL
 - 1. Chris said he is willing to do schedule.
- b. Tori asked if Jackson Boys can be varsity next year if they want to.
 - i. Nathan said yes. Could have been varsity this year.
- c. Todd said Bozeman will have discussion of GWLL.
- d. Expects Kalispell will stay GWLL.
- e. Todd asked about State Tournament.
 - i. Robert said we need a sub committee to help with State.
 - ii. That is a job in itself.
 - iii. Host City can be point people for local businesses and fields, but need help.
 - iv. Need to have certain people in charge from MHSLA.
 - v. Biggest thing is fund raising
 - 1. Figure out a full state fund raiser to do more things on a State Level.
 - vi. Rob believes they put out a good product.
 - 1. Feels bad about the trophy presentation.
 - vii. Todd said need delegation for each item.
 - 1. Todd said someone from State needs to handle.

- viii. Nathan said Rob did a great job
 - 1. Did great job getting inside with bad weather.
 - 2. Used to be the State Board's job to take care of State
 - 3. State board worked with local board to handle all of the other items.
 - 4. Just need to go back to what we do and provide better support to local.
 - ix. Colton thinks the Allstate meeting didn't need to happen.
 - x. Todd said GWLL only has 6 Allstate positions.
 - xi. Night before pick is from All Conference players to determine who gets Allstate.
 - xii. No in-person meetings.
 - xiii. Tori would like to add something from the referees where obnoxious players don't get the award.
 - xiv. Todd asked if it needs to be the referees, or can it be coach.
 - xv. Tori thinks it needs to come from the referees.
 - xvi. Tori said it is more important to be a good kid than win games.
 - xvii. Tori believes good kids should be getting awards.
 - xxviii. Rob said some obnoxious kids got awards.
 - 1. They were obnoxious to referees and coaches.
 - xix. Jeremy said that sportsmanship was part of discussion in Allstate selections.
 - xx. Howard said those items were also considered.
 - 1. Also noted that Coaches could have better sportsmanship.
 - xxi. MHSLA board should present guidelines to players
 - xxii. All this stuff is in code of conduct.
 - 1. Just follow it.
 - xxiii. Nathan thinks it is time to bring "heavy" in to take care of issues.
 - xxiv. Nathan said we recruited three referees out of Helena and they were hardly utilized by referee association.
 - f. Chris thought refereeing was worse in GWLL and inconsistent.
 - g. Elena asked if MHSLA can pay to help support MLOA.
 - i. Colton said that if we do that there needs to be set expectations for training, etc.
 - ii. Colton said you shouldn't even know the officials are part of the game.
 - iii. Nathan agrees that part of fees go toward training.
 - iv. Colton said it is difficult because of it is so spread out.
 - h. Todd said online trainings may be an option to address distances.
 - i. May not be as much about the referees but about the leadership.
 - i. Empower referees to deal with problem players, coaches, etc.
 - j. Jeremy said this was the most competitive season.
 - i. Thought refereeing wasn't as good.
 - ii. Heard some frustration about how the schedule is made and conference and non-conference games.
 - k. Todd said teams were offered non-conference games.
 - l. Todd asked about level of competition.
 - i. Nathan said varsity was good.
 - ii. JV level was not good.
 - 1. Sheridan was one of the teams.
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- a. Ended up with fractured back.
 - b. Playing against seniors.
 - c. Great that players are playing.
 - d. Moving back to JV because getting beat.
 - i. Should be happy medium.
 - iii. Todd said Sheridan got beat because playing Bozeman and Kalispell
 - iv. Todd said Sheridan should have played varsity this year and would have been better competition.
 - v. If Kalispell and Bozeman stay at GWLL maybe it will affect teams.
 - vi. Todd asked about East Vs West this year.
 - 1. Nathan said East Helena coach did a good job getting rid of attitudes on East Side.
 - 2. Not as good because lost many seniors.
 - 3. Still competitive.
 - vii. Jeff said most of Sheridan games were lopsided.
 - 1. Discussing potentially moving up next year.
 - 2. Hind sight, could have been competitive this year.
 - 3. Don't want to cause injuries due to unbalanced teams.
 - viii. Tori asked what Bozeman is doing next year with regard to GWLL.
 - 1. Todd said not on board so not his decision.
 - 2. Many seniors graduated.
 - 3. Sportsmanship issue to deal with.
 - 4. Todd will be curious about what Bozeman decides.
 - 5. GWLL was a good experience.
 - 6. Bozeman got 4th. Kalispell won.
 - ix. Tori said she would try to keep their teams in Montana.
 - x. Before JV makes a decision, she may want to know what other teams are doing.
 - xi. Chris said JV boys in Sheridan were very good sportsmen.
 - xii. Tori said they have great JV coaches.
 - xiii. Chris said it doesn't work having teams leave and come back.
 - 1. Doesn't like seniors playing against freshmen.
 - xiv. Need something to keep it competitive and fair.
 - xv. GWLL is looking at RPI system
 - 1. Top 8 make playoffs.
 - 2. Bottom 12 play D2 playoff
 - xvi. Tori asked that Bozeman and Kalispell let everyone know what they are doing.
 - xvii. Rob said he thinks 2 teams in Bozeman may work at this point.
 - xviii. Other teams are also considering.
 - xix. Tori said they will have 2 varsity teams.
 - xx. Chris said when you look at scores, there were not many close scores.
 - m. Tori and Elena said they need to get more girls JV games.
 - i. Girls are disappointed when game numbers are down.
 - n. Tori asked Todd if he is staying president.
 - i. Todd said it is a good question.
 - ii. Said he thinks combining with GWLL should be considered but may not be agreeable by others.
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- iii. His boys are not playing anymore.
- iv. Doesn't plan to leave at this point.
- v. Would want to be re-inspired.
- vi. If he can help the board, he will.
- o. Tori said she got to meet Pat in person.

7. Next Meeting: July 14, 2026 @ 6:30 PM

8. Adjourn Time: 8:05 PM

