

2024 September Meeting Minutes

Introduction of all those present

Email Kevin to get on distribution list going forward

June Meeting Minutes Accepted

Treasurers Report:

\$53,422.76 beginning balance and an ending balance of \$30,545.21 after festival referee pay, paying vendor tabs, festival workers, Amherst Police, Amherst Rec. etc. Teams Compete charged extra fee for all the extra scheduling and game changes etc. Fine Designs percentage to NHYLA was \$22,291.00, Kona Ice was \$2,300.00 (still waiting for that check).

Report accepted

Boys VP: Mike G not present. He passed along some notes through Kevin regarding problems at the festival. Nashua and Londonderry had coaches ejected. 2025 penalties coming soon for these coaches / programs. Mike also is still working on fixing issues related to Sports Engine. More updates at the October meeting.

Girls VP: Jill spoke about the timeline that Kevin attached to the agenda. She mentioned that rule changes at USA Lacrosse will be clarified as we get into winter and how they will be implemented in youth. Coach certification was discussed and all were urged to start the process of certification soon. Jill noted that NHYLA requires silver level as a minimum to be qualified as a coach.

Youth Officials: Jay Gallipo spoke about some changes he would like to implement going forward. He was hoping to have trainings in Plymouth, Amherst, Exeter and other locations if possible. He is looking to secure an inside option for on field trainings for this spring (weather issues in 2024). He spoke about getting a blast out to get more youth officials. He mentioned a point of emphasis this year in NHYLA to be limiting the physicality at the youngest levels and educating coaches on proper rules regarding contact and body checking. He noted that at the youngest levels, no body checking is allowed but at the festival it was prevalent at most fields. Time Bethke announced that he is now the new high school ref coordinator. There were (126) boys' referees before the pandemic. Today, there are (86) and many of those are older and aging out. He is looking to get more refs at the higher levels and mentioned how a collaboration should help both his concerns and ours at NHYLA. He will be contacting high school coaches as well as area athletic directors in order to seek help getting the word out. A discussion about an official evaluation process then took place. This was followed by discussion regarding coach and player conduct. Home games need to be monitored by a member of home team's board. Chris spoke about some changes regarding youth trainers he would like to implement in 2025. Looking for new trainers for both boys and girls as well as new training sites. More details to follow in the upcoming meetings.

Festival: June 7 and 8, 2025 looks to be the festival weekend this upcoming season. It will be at Amherst / Souhegan High School again. This will be confirmed in the next month or so. NHYLA representatives plan to meet with the Amherst REC to discuss past and future festivals as well

as some tweaks going forward. If anyone has any ideas for vendors, sponsors or anything else to make the festival better, let us know. We will add a police presence to the festival going forward.

Presidents Report: Kevin sent important date timeline with the meeting agenda. He asked all to check it all out and plan ahead. Issues were identified, game dates were determined and a long discussion regarding early season field blocks ensued. Kevin stressed the need for all to play all scheduled games. Turf rentals were offered as a way to plan better for early season field issues. If you know you historically have early season field issues, block off your fields and play away the first few weeks or secure turf. Double headers were discussed for early in the season. April 6 will be opening day. Games look to be 4/6, 4/13, 4/19 (4/20 Easter), 4/26, 5/4, 5/11, 5/18, 5/24 & 5/25 North / South, 5/31 (Sat) makeup day and 6/1 the final day of the season. The festival will be June 7 and 8 at Souhegan.

Lakes Region will be starting a new program in 2025. They were a previous organization that folded a few years ago. Reminder that team registration is due March 1. The possibility of moving this up a week was discussed. This would be to help get schedules out earlier and for people to be able to plan ahead more. Turf fields were discussed again as an important way to get early games in. A long discussion ensued regarding identifying available turf, creating a list and trying to secure fields at the NHYLA level. Ideas were floated of renting turf in specific locations throughout the state and hosting large blocks of games at each location during the first few weeks of the season. Each program needs to come to the next meeting with possible turf field options and availability in order to further the discussion. A discussion regarding blocking grass fields ensued again.

Old Business: NHYLA along with Teams Compete are still working to fix issues with Sports Engine. This is an ongoing effort to improve the site and overall experience. The bi-laws still need to be worked on and updated. Looking for volunteers to take this task on. Voting on rule changes was discussed. A representative from each organization has to be present at the September, October and November meetings in order to be eligible to vote in December. Anyone can submit rule changes regardless of attendance.

Motion to adjourn approved