



## **Iowa Lacrosse Association Board Meeting**

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 7:00 pm - Zoom Conference Call

Attendees: Beech Turner (West Des Moines), Dave Hankins (Ankeny), Kevin Hawn (Officials), Jeff Kueter (Iowa City/Cedar Rapids), Bruce Maxwell (Ames), Sean Mahoney (Waukee) and Britt Mitchell (Meskwaki). Guests included Paul O'Connell (West Des Moines).

Meeting was called to order by Beech at 7:06 pm. A quorum of members were present.

### **Meeting Minutes**

Minutes from the March meeting were approved. Compliments were extended to Vince for the level of detail included in the minutes.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bruce advised there is \$8,684.02 current balance. No deposits. Only transactions are officials fees. No pending expenditures.

### **Old Business**

**A. Athletic Directors Conference.** Beech thanked Jeff for manning the booth throughout the convention. Acknowledged that both he and Bruce also attended. Jeff reported that the event was worthwhile in that it helped spread the word about lacrosse, our Clubs, and plans for growth. Good response from the attendees about awareness of lacrosse and potential with the caveat that it was not something the AD's thought they would deal with in the near future. Pressed them to share information with the youth sports community in their areas. Noted that discussion between Jeff, Bruce and Beech at the meeting concluded that Parks & Rec and PE teachers are probably better targets for future conferences in terms of immediate returns. But, Jeff recommends follow-up and continued engagement with the AD's to grow these relationships. In the future, Jeff recommended we be there during the big social hours on Sunday evening; the importance of that was not clear to us going in. Beech noted that we learned from it, but how often ILAX attends is up for discussion. Agree that Parks & Rec conference and PE teachers also is worth the time. Jeff also notes that next time, we need to spend more effort contacting the AD's in our respective areas beforehand so we can talk about the club, plans for growth in the local area, using the conference as the reason to reach out.

Beech asks Bruce to reach out to the Parks & Rec central organization to see if they have workshops or other things that we can be part of.

**B. Officials Committee.** Beech reported that the Committee has held a few meetings. Eight candidates are believed to have taken some of the training, but that it is hard to determine who completed the training as the representatives from Omaha have not been responsive to requests for updates. Committee was tasked to reach out to candidates from their area to gauge where training status sits. ILAX is considering hosting a USA Lacrosse on-field training session in the fall on a Saturday in late Sept/early Oct.

Dave asked Kevin to confirm that there were to be 2 officials at 12/14u and only 1 at 10u, which Kevin confirmed. Dave then asked if there were instances where only 1 official worked games for older boys. Kevin confirmed that was true in the first weekend where someone didn't come citing weather related issues.

Beech noted that officials fees by club were sent out and requested payment to ILAX. Rates are \$45/game per official for 14u, 12u, and 10u games. No travel costs are included in these fees. Total expected expenditure for the scheduled games is \$6500.

Dave asked whether the schedule was updated as game totals may be wrong. 10u Ankeny only has 8 games. Beech replied that he took the totals from the master schedule so if there are adjustments to be made they should also be reflected there.

There followed a long discussion on mileage/per diem reimbursement. Kevin estimates travel costs, per round trip at \$30 to Ames, \$60 to Tama, \$85 to Solon, \$120 to QC. He noted that he would attempt to work in new officials residing in the eastern parts of the state for games at Solon and St Ambrose to reduce these costs.

Britt said he would need an itemized list to give to finance people. Agreed with having ILAX pay these fees and collect from teams, but he would need details on how the costs were assigned to meet the expectations of the finance office. He also asked whether the costs were shared evenly by teams. The discussion agreed that costs should be split evenly by participating teams. Britt argued that would require clubs outside the Des Moines area to shoulder extra cost burden. Sean replied the problem is where the officials are - need to grow that base and this problem goes away. Jeff remarked that the expenses should wash out as long as we play enough games and the Des Moines teams travel to play outside their region. Traveling teams pay zero costs when they come to DSM, but all pay when they travel to DSM.

Beech asked whether ILAX was expected to collect and pay for High School officials for the eastern club schedule. Bruce agreed that would be less complicated for the officials so long as clubs pay. Jeff said so long as ILAX provides officials paying through ILAX makes sense. The CR/IC had requested games with central Iowa teams outside the eastern schedule and he intended to pay those fees as the CR/IC club requested those games.

Dave noted the Iowa Games costs are in the fee.

Britt asked if women's officials are paid through ILAX. Bruce remarked that there was no reason why we couldn't do that. Beech said ILAX would then need to schedule them then. Britt noted that was the issue as ILAX is not involved with them, individual clubs schedule the officials and the home team pays now or costs are split.

A discussion followed about how to proceed with greater coordination of women's officials. Jeff noted this was to be an explicit mandate of the newly forming Women's Competition

Committee. He is recruiting members for the Committee with plans to stand it up once the spring season concluded.

### **C. Competition Committee**

Britt reported the Committee had not met recently as the season was underway. All seem comfortable with rules adopted and the schedule was out in reasonable time. It was noted that game schedule specifics were needed in some spots and that the Solon Jamboree needs game times.

Britt noted the eastern teams had scheduled games together and were then contacting other teams to play in the state.

It was noted that no blockers or creases were at 10u games played in WDM but otherwise all games appeared to have gone off fine. Paul replied that it was a lack of communication within the WDM club and that it was resolved going forward.

Sean asked if during the second half of season goalies could be used for 10u? Idea to introduce so they get exposed to the position. Dave said to use a goalie if you want; rules adopted allow them to clear if there is save. He recommends no team has a goalie at that age. In his view, it is not good for athlete development.

Dave said he was beginning to plan Iowa Games and there would be more details by next meeting. Direct through the Competition Committee.

A discussion followed about the state of girls lacrosse, numbers participating at the youth level. Jeff said these questions would all be considered by the Women's Competition Committee and encouraged each club to start identifying prospective members.

### **New Business**

#### **A. Annual Meeting**

Beech noted the Annual Meeting & Annual Report are due in June. He will send out a participation survey where clubs are asked to report player counts by grade level. Clubs are to send numbers by April 30.

We also need to elect officers & board members. Beech plans to reach out individually to chat about involvement, interest in role. He would like a few more involved on the board or on committees.

Dave asked if every officer was up for re-election? Beech said officers are up each year; board up every 2 years - will check bylaws.

#### **B. Additional topics**

On 5/20, there is a PLL clinic on Friday night prior to Solon jamboree. No WDM or Ankeny participating, but will share

Can Play Camp wants lacrosse opportunity - 35-50 kids involved - boys/girls. Joint effort to provide coaches/instructors/older players. June 13-16, 6-7:30pm in Clive

Nike Accel Camp in Grimes - July 11-14. Boys and girls.

Bruce reviewed the Sports Iowa 7v7 - mini league, low contact. Youth one night, HS on another. Running clock games. Players sign up individually, assign to teams. Mid June to late July. All indoors in Ames. Will be a charge, \$75/player. At night - 6-9:15pm have access to the field. Sports Iowa would handle the registrations, etc. Looking for the clubs to promote. Looking for 4 teams.

**Next Meeting - May 11 at 7:00 PM on Zoom.**

The meeting closed at 8:43 with a motion to adjourn by Sean and seconded by Dave.