



Iowa Lacrosse Association Board Meeting

Wednesday, January 13, 2021, 700pm - Zoom Conference Call

Attendees: Beech Turner (West Des Moines), Sean Mahoney (Waukee), Meghan Gruver (West Des Moines), Jeff Kueter (Iowa City), Britt Mitchell (Meskwaki), Bruce Maxwell (Ames), Dave Hankins (Ankeny), Vince McGee (Quad Cities), Colleen Krantz (Adel), Eric Reeves (Dubuque), and Kevin Hawn (Iowa Officials).

Meeting was called to order by Beech Turner at 7:02 pm.

Minutes Approval

Meghan had not yet typed up the November minutes, but will distribute soon for approval at the next meeting in February. No meeting was held in December.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce Maxwell advised that the Association has \$4160.60 in its checking account. Last expenditure was \$495 on Dec 6 for Directors and Officers annual insurance premium.

Coach Development Training

Beech reminded the board of the pending US Lacrosse Level 1 & Level 2 virtual coaching workshops available before the spring season starts. An ILAX flyer with details was shared earlier with all the clubs, and Beech asked the clubs represented to distribute the information to their existing or potential coaches. No in-person clinics will be held this winter or spring. Beech will send out another reminder soon and post on Twitter.

USL League Management System

Beech updated the board on the progress of the new US Lacrosse web platform which ILAX recently adopted. He reported that West Des Moines has also transitioned from SportsEngine to the new platform and has recently opened online registration for the upcoming spring season. Other interested clubs can contact USL rep Shawn Maloney for more information. Vince McGee advised that his club had recently done so and were pursuing.

New Officials Training

Meghan advised the attendees that new women's game officials are desperately needed, and the continued lack of local officials could impact the amount of competition available. She said that online officials training is available on Jan 15-16 as part of the annual LAXCON convention.

Kevin Hawn also shared that virtual classroom training will be available for new mens game officials as part of LAXCON, but also on consecutive Saturdays in February. He has roughly 5-10 candidates and is hoping he can get the majority of them to commit to the training. On-field new officials evaluations will be eventually scheduled in the early part of the upcoming season as part of local club scrimmages. Beech closed by challenging the clubs to identify potential candidates within their ranks and their networking, and share with Meghan and Kevin.

Spring Season Preparations

All clubs reported they were gearing up for the season. Additional details shared:

WDM – Registration recently opened. Planned to field U10 thru HS teams both Boys & Girls. Scaled down COVID protocols planned as parent and players are accustomed to precautions.

Waukee – Registration to open soon. Planning for U10 through HS Boys teams. Limited HS practices have started. Similar COVID protocols to last fall. Fees similar to past season.

Ankeny – Had virtual club meeting last night & well-attended. Planning to open registration soon and fees similar to last year. Plan to field U10 through HS Boys teams, and HS Girls numbers are improved and may not need to combine with Roosevelt this spring. HS Boys practices have started.

Ames – Registration has opened. Planning to field a HS Boys team probably JV. Open to U12 & U14 Boys too.

Iowa City/Cedar Rapids (Kingfisher) – First official season and registration open. Hoping to field U10, U14 and HS Boys teams but expect limited numbers. Would welcome friendly scrimmages with other clubs. Solon fields available.

Meskwaki – Plans for spring on hold as Tribal Council has not met. Britt hoping to field U10 & U12 Girls and Boys teams. Most parents anxious for kids to return to the field.

Quad Cities – Adopting new USL website and hoping to open registration soon with fees comparable to last season. Hope to field both Boys & Girls Youth & HS teams. State of Illinois spring sports season will impact their scheduling. Fall sports like football moved to early spring so lacrosse in that state will start late in early April with games mid-April through mid-June.

Dubuque – Planning for a spring season but expecting “thin numbers.” Hope to field HS JV and U14 Boys teams, and possibly U10 & U 12 girls. Will probably schedule games with teams from Rockford & La Crosse. Interested in scheduling with Quad Cities and other Iowa teams.

Adel – Planning for U14 girls with a core group of 11 players. Boys from the area referred to Waukee. Any U12 girls referred to WDM.

ILAX Spring Youth League – Board members again supported offering a Youth Boys league with games scheduled after spring break. Planning for most participating clubs to compete at the U10, U12, and U14 levels. Sean Maloney will lead our efforts to coordinate a schedule with participating clubs, and will start by updating and sharing the proposed schedule from a year ago. Sean will seek feedback and adjust accordingly.

Iowa Games – Dave Hankins updated attendees on plans for youth lacrosse games as part of this annual competition. Games will be held in Ankeny and team fees are similar to those in the past. Dave wanted feedback on the best time to hold the competition, and most felt late May or early June after youth league competition would be a good time. Doubtful HS Boys would participate after the NELAX playoffs which will be held the 2nd and 3rd weekends of May. Most likely Boys U10, U12 and U14 teams would be interested. More details later.

“Slack” App – Jeff Kueter asked the board about potential interest in providing this instant messaging app for ILAX members. Jeff will collect more info about the application and share with the board.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 pm with a motion from Jeff, seconded by Sean.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, February 10th at 700pm via Zoom