



Iowa Lacrosse Association Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 7:00 pm - Zoom Conference Call

Attendees: Beech Turner (West Des Moines), Sean Mahoney (Waukee), Dave Hankins (Ankeny), Bruce Maxwell (Ames), Tim Mohrfeld (Waukee), and Jeff Keuter (Kingfisher).

Meeting was called to order by Beech at 7:05 pm. A quorum of members were present.

Minutes Approval

The April meeting minutes were approved with Dave making the motion to approve and Bruce seconding.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce advised that the Association has \$4,288.95 in its checking account with recent activity collecting estimated officials fees from participating clubs, and paying an advance to Kevin Hawn, Director of Officials, for May games.

Old Business

ILAX Spring Youth League – The consensus of the board members was that the Boys 14U/12U/10U League was generally going well. We discussed a couple of situations that did require follow-up by the two clubs involved, as well as ILAX in one of those. The board spent quite a bit of time discussing the disparity of player talent, experience, and roster size in a few of the games this season resulting in some lopsided scores.

We agreed that this situation was not entirely new, and can happen from season to season to any club or team depending on player registration results and the advent of new, inexperienced players. We also agreed we need to encourage clubs and coaches to try to keep the games as fun as possible as no one likes to be beaten badly. We also talked about some future “mercy” rules and regs that could address these situations.

We also learned about a situation where a 14U player made a racial epithet towards an opposing player during a game and the fallout that ensued. Beech said he helped connect the leadership of both clubs involved to address the situation. The board also discussed the potential need of ILAX developing a diversity & inclusion statement, and agreed one should be developed. Beech shared a couple of possible examples for ILAX to consider based on statements by USA Lacrosse and the NCAA. More discussion will follow in the future.

Board members also discussed steps that clubs should take to prevent these types of incidents from occurring and addressing them if they do. Having clearly spelled-out rules and expectations of players and parents in club handbooks is a start, and making sure everyone is aware of them before the season starts. Some clubs cover during parent meetings and even require acknowledgement at the time of season registration. These rules would also include possible disciplinary measures that could be taken. Coaches should also talk to their players about the subject, and stressing that all players are valued and to be respected.

Beech pointed out that some participating clubs still owed some balances for officials fees and spelled out those amounts. He asked that they be paid ASAP. He will pay Kevin Hawn for the estimated fees for June games in the next few days.

Iowa Games – Dave advised that only 4 teams had signed up for the June 5 event and that 3 of them were from Ankeny. Beech said that the WDM U10, U12 and U14 Boy teams will be registering, and Sean said the same would be the case for Waukee. One Kingfisher team has signed up. Dave said it was unlikely any HS teams will register as their season will have been over for 2-3 weeks. The same might be true for Youth girls as there are only 2-3 in central Iowa. Dave encouraged clubs to register their teams ASAP so we'll know what we have to work with, and the board members said they will follow up. ILAX will continue to help getting the word out about this competition.

TryLax event – After board feedback during our April meeting, Beech came back with specifics for the event. It will be a two night clinic on September 14 and 16, 2021 from 6-7:30 pm at Jordan Creek Elementary in WDM. Cost will be \$35 and besides the clinic instruction, participants would receive a regulation stick and one year membership to USA Lacrosse. Local clubs would run the event and registrations would be taken on the ILAX website.

The event will be limited to the first 50 Boys & 50 girls. Any unused sticks/USA Lax memberships will be used elsewhere probably with the eastern Iowa clubs. USA Lax will charge ILAX \$30 for each registration, so up to a \$3000 potential charge. Beech also said that

the WDM and Clive parks & rec departments will be promoting as well as their annual beginners lacrosse option.

Iowa Parks & Rec Fall Workshop – Bruce reports that we've provided the paperwork for IPRA's fall event in Burlington on Oct. 4-6. ILAX was invited to present at the event, and our involvement will be a break-out session on how cities can offer beginner's lacrosse programming. Bruce will attend and would welcome additional help.

Annual Meeting – The board decided to hold its annual meeting next month via Zoom. It will be held on either June 9 or 16 depending on board member availability which will be finalized soon. Officers will be elected, the annual report discussed, and we'll open the meeting to any questions or comments. The entire lacrosse community is invited.

New Business

Miscellaneous items – Beech advised the board that Nike Accelerate boys & girls day camps are coming to Grimes on July 12-15. They will be held at the Grimes Sports Facility and run from 9 am - 3 pm daily. Camp registration is open. Everyone agreed these were great options for skill development and that we needed to promote.

Also, Beech announced that our national organization, US Lacrosse, has changed its name and branding to **USA** Lacrosse, but that the organizational structure, personnel and member support were not changing. This move will bring all our parent organization's subsidiaries under the same name, and be similar to the names of other amateur sports organizations.

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

Next Meeting - Annual meeting on either Wednesday, June 9 or 16 at 7:00 pm via Zoom