

MINUTES

Winnipeg Box Lacrosse Commission

Monday February 12th, 2024

6:00pm via Zoom

1. Call to Order / Establishment of Quorum
 - a. Attendees: Christine Laarveld, Kim Winzowski, Matt Girardin, Stacey McIvor, Rayce Funk, Richard DeLaRonde, Kris Maranchuk, Greg Paige, Kyle Breen joined at 6:08pm
 - b. Regrets: Jason Isfjord
 - c. CTO @ 6:03pm
2. Opening Remarks – Report on Action Items from Last Meeting – Murray
3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (Jan 29)

MOTION: Christine- To adopt the minutes from last meeting

Matt G. – Secunder

Vote: Passed – All in favor.

4. Identify Candidates for Vice-Commissioner, Secretary, Registrar, Referee Assignor, u9/Tyke Convenor

Caitlyn Wiznoski was mentioned as candidate for referee assignor. Nobody else was brought forward.

5. MLA Report on Questions – Matt G.

Q1- Emails for Commission- MLA needs more information regarding what emails are needed.

DISCUSSION – Commission was interested in Treasurer.WBLC, RIC.WMBL, Scheduler.WBLC, Registrar.WBLC. Update the name on Ref Assignor and email, as well as Timkeeper email updated to match .WBLC format.

Q2- Grants for Commission Update – Matt M. sent out a list of grants available to all the clubs with more to come. No deadline or timeline was offered when those other grants would be announced.

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DISCUSSION – Who should questions be sent to? Matt G. recommended questions be sent to Matt M. but Dusty, Matt G. and Murray should be cc'd in those communications for consistency in information.

Q3- Nets at Gateway mesh- The MLA has already arranged replacement of the nets with black mesh in co-operation with Greg P. from the Gryphons.

Q4- 3x3 Mini Nets – The MLA provides these nets to clubs that need them. Other support requests should be directed to the President of the MLA (Dusty) so they can evaluate on a case by case basis.

Q5- Travel Permits – No answer was provided regarding the process for Travel Permits.

DISCUSSION – How did the teams travelling to the Winter Nationals get approved? Previous precedent was everyone needed to be in good standing and travelling to a sanctioned tournament and the MLA would issue a 'rubber stamp' approval, aka. Automatic approval. If the process has changed, we need to know how teams get approved for travel.

Q6- High School Field Playoffs- Are TBD but likely 2nd weekend in June, Thursday to Monday

DISCUSSION – Greg P. was asked if a group meeting with other schedulers would be beneficial to coordinate with other groups like High School Field, Greg thought it would help. Greg mentioned that the MLA has been keeping him up to date with regards to the A program and provincial teams. No other information was provided about the A program or provincial programs.

Q7- Referee Clinics – Level 1 clinic information will be sent out to the clubs to coordinate 'in club' clinics to help recruit referees. MLA announced they will be covering all the costs associated with Level 1 clinics. Level 2-3 clinic is likely to be scheduled for April 6 and to be done online, with the possibility of holding a second clinic.

Q8 – GST payments – No updates were provided, Matt G. recommended Kim and Murray meet with Matt M. and Andrea Saj to discuss what will happen going forward.

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Q9 – Equipment like nets and shot clocks – The MLA has no interest or intention to dispute ownership of the equipment owned by the clubs, the RRLA or the Commission.

DISCUSSION / ACTION – The equipment and bank account owned by the RRLA still needs to be reconciled, however the MLA sent out a notice that anyone meeting under the umbrella of the RRLA will be placed in bad standing. This does not allow for those funds and equipment to be reconciled. The MLA needs to provide some direction with how this can happen while under the threat of sanctions.

ACTION (Matt G.) – Can we get more information about the HERD program? Will the girls be allowed to participate in both the WBLC and the HERD? (Scheduling wise, when will it be run?) It is not being run thru the clubs, completely separated from the Commission and run by the MLA. Teams will be formed without any consideration for geographical location. Who is the main point of contact to answer questions? Who is the committee for running this league? What ages are being offered for the girls to play in?

DISCUSSION – Are the clubs interested in hosting girls only teams; the answer was yes but numbers was the concern. Clubs did not think there were enough female players to make teams at the club level. Last season, players were told by the MLA they could not participate in the A program or provincial programs without being registered with a club and playing in the Winnipeg league, does that apply for the HERD as well?

6. Financial Report Update – Surplus Funds Available for Capital Purchases

- a. Reconciliation with MLA account – Still pending, no new information has been provided
- b. Shot Clock Purchase - Christine

Clocks have been ordered, then we will be invoiced and they will ship out to us.

- c. Black Mesh Purchase Report - Richard

No quote has been received from Donna at Sports Xpress and Pembina Source for Sports can only order white mesh. We may need to order mesh online. Rocky Mountain lacrosse league posts where they get their mesh from on their website.

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7. Registrations To Date

Initial registration numbers are lower than hoped. Falcons heard some players are opting to play baseball instead of u15 lacrosse because of the contact involved. Shamrocks are working thru some website issues, but numbers appear to be on track. It was mentioned that Matt M. has created a u17 option for older players to register under, then they can apply for overage allowance. Some hockey leagues are in their final weeks of regular season, so registration numbers should pick up in the coming weeks.

8. Establish 2024 Commission Special Rules

a. Player Transfer Requests

Rationale: Players who are requesting to play with the same club as last year should submit a transfer request, specifying grandfather status. *Player Transfer Request Submission* deadline needs to be added to the Timeline as March 31st, before the team declaration deadline so clubs can decide how many teams they can have. After the March 31st deadline, players may still be moved to another club, but that decision will be made solely by the Commission in an effort to create balanced team sizes, regardless of player requests. What happens to the players who register if their home club is not able to form a team? It was agreed that new players to lacrosse whose home club cannot form a team due to low numbers, will remain property of their home club and not be eligible for the grandfather clause. The Commission will evaluate each request on its own merits and render a decision based on what is in the best interest of the sport.

b. Overage Allowances

Rationale: Female players are allowed to play 1 year under their age. Male players are considered on a case by case basis. The Commission needs to approve any and all requests. Proper submission forms need to be created so that the Commission is getting all requests in a timely fashion.

ACTION: (Murray) To create a request form portal for Player Transfers and Overage Allowance on the Commission website that goes directly to the Commission.

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c. Others?

9. Facility Availability Updates

Maples arena is not taking ice out until May 1st, with the earliest usage date being May 5th. Blizzard will be using Notre Dame until May 3rd. Falcons are looking for a new facility, either temporarily or permanently. Kim is meeting with West Kildonan arena, whose ice is coming out mid March. Benches at West K have been an issue in the past because they don't open the proper way and players cannot use an 'in' and 'out' gate. Kim is meeting with West K on Saturday, Feb 17th at 10am.

Shamrocks is waiting for approval from Allard, April 8th will be available. Varsity View will be available April 2nd and their schedule is wide open until May 1st when ball hockey starts. 4x4 Camp is looking for a new home because no facilities are available.

Gryphons are good – Oakabank and ESP.

Sidewinders Tuesday and Thursday nights are Blizzard at Notre Dame from 8:30pm-10pm until May 2nd.

Saints facility needs to be registered on the RAMP system so they will appear on the game schedule properly with the address.

Interlake is good, nothing has changed for availability. They just need line to be put on. Greg P. needs rink information to enter into RAMP.

10. Wheat City Wranglers – Matt G.

Shawna Ducharme let the Commission know that WCW are planning on hosting games in their area on April 27, May 25 and June 1. The ages of teams is yet to be determined and will be based on ages they are hosting. Greg mentioned the MLA is planning to host provincial tryouts on the May 25th and June 1st weekends. Wheat City Wranglers are interested in submitting a team at an specific age – The Commission is in favor of the idea but games will need to be scheduled on the weekend and all games will most likely need to be based in Winnipeg due to referee availability, especially with the Blizzard schedule overlap. Latest start time for a u17

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game is 8:30pm, will they be willing to drive in during the week for games? Is it possible to play games in Portage la Prairie? Could the MLA subsidize these games? Referee's are likely not going to be interested in travelling out there from Winnipeg and Brandon currently does not have qualified refs and timekeepers. The WCW are welcome to join our meetings, however they will not have a vote until they are committed to having a team.

ACTION: (Matt G.) To contact Shawna and offer to join our next meeting.

11. Advertising Requests – To be posted on Commission Website

Greg can post events directly on the website under events that include links to the clubs. The clubs are getting emails

12. Club Boundary Discussion Update – Murray

13. Set Next Meeting Date

Monday, February 26, 6pm via Zoom

14. New Business

- a. Kim requested a print out of number of registrations at each age, from each club. She also offered to prepare that information for the Commission.
- b. Rule Changes – There are no rule changes coming this year from CLA, however rule enforcement is being emphasized. Changes for contact at the u13 age to be more in line with the new LTAD, thereby going back to full contact within the 24' line, full contact on ball carrier anywhere. Leaving only u11 with rule modifications. We are still following the 2019 rule book for the upcoming season with the CLA introducing a new rule book in 2025.

15. Adjournment

MOTION: Stacey - To adjourn meeting at 8:47pm.

Secunder - Richard

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Vote: Passed, All in favor