

**WSLA Middle School Coaches Council Meeting**  
**May 29, 2007**  
**Minutes**

1. Welcome – Kelly Haley
2. Budget Update – Jessanne Allen
  - a. \$2,800 balance at end of season. A few expenses left to be applied but nothing significant
  - b. Refunds will be issued automatically for cancelled games. Please be sure to cash your checks.
3. Referee Update – Lorrie McKay
  - a. Ref Availability Comparison
    - 2006 Season –
      - 13 games cancelled (due to no ref)
      - 43 games had a single ref
    - 2007 Season:
      - 3 cancellations (coach requests)
      - 2 single-ref games
  - b. Ref Training
    - 101 refs attended training
    - 61 refs completed the process to become fully-certified
    - Of the 61 certified refs, 32 were youth/junior refs
  - c. Weekend game schedule for MS/youth made significant difference in ref assignments
  - d. Recruiting Refs
    - Get word out early to 14-year-olds (for youth games)
    - First Saturday in Feb. 2008, Kitsap Peninsula training (at indoor sport arena for some on-field training)
    - Mandatory Returning Ump Training – late January 2008
  - e. Retaining Refs -- Discussion of how to retain the refs, especially the junior refs
    - Coach attitude towards refs (avoid bad-mouthing refs to players)
    - Encourage refs to issue cards to coaches for bad behavior
    - Unsafe play needs to be called; coaches feel powerless when refs are not responding to speaking captains
    - Coach responsibility to pull aggressive players off the field if refs are not controlling play
    - Coaches set standard for players – coaches are role models
    - Take time to teach speaking captains how to communicate with refs (respectful, use time-outs rather than attempt to communicate during play)
    - Remember age of junior refs and that retention is key to success of growing program
    - Suggestion to form off-season committee to identify key issues for WWLUA to emphasize in ref training
    - Process to get feedback to WWLUA or coaches
      - Discussed system used by a soccer program for coaches to rate refs and refs to rate coaches after the game. High school is looking at something similar.
4. Residency Grid Draft – Kelly

- a. Specific areas assigned to teams based on the following criteria
    - i. Program is available at girl's own school
    - ii. Another school within district and closest to residence
    - iii. Program closest to residence
  - b. Boys website has team boundaries listed. Girls will use same guidelines where appropriate.
  - c. Handbook states "no grandfathering." In theory the slate is clean in high school with exception of junior and seniors when a new program is started.
  - d. Discussed need to continue the appeal process for girls who want an exception to the guidelines.
5. Scheduling – Doug
- a. Length of season – general agreement that extended season worked well
  - b. One coach for multiple teams creates scheduling challenge
    - i. Consensus that this cannot be avoided in many cases to due lack of coaches
    - ii. Programs are encouraged to find parents/high school players to help coach if a scheduling conflict occurs
  - c. No games will be scheduled on playoff day
  - d. Late Schedule Development this season
    - i. **Team Entries due: January 15, 2008**
  - e. Let Doug know if you feel the travel balance needs to be adjusted between specific programs.
  - f. Ferry times will be taken into consideration with game scheduling, but field availability is always bigger issue
  - g. Double-headers – for programs with two teams, request to mix up the schedule to enable play against single-team programs. This year many of the two-team programs mostly played against each other.
  - h. Discussion about coordination of field scheduling with boys program. Decision that this mostly impacts a small number of programs. Suggestion that a discussion at the chapter level might bring more equity among the boys and girls programs. Position is open at Chapter, per Kelly. Chapter meeting: June 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - i. Number of games/team. Some programs would like more games. Most felt the 10 per team was an appropriate number and a great accomplishment to have equity among all programs. Teams may request more or fewer games during scheduling process.
  - j. Eastside Eagles would like to hold the jamboree next year.
6. WIAA Update
- a. Proposal being submitted in December.
  - b. Kelly is not optimistic that it will be accepted this round.
  - c. WIAA would help girls programs compete within their high schools.
7. Important Dates:
- a. MS Coaches Council Wednesday, October 17, 2007
  - b. Team Entries Due, January 15, 2008
8. Board Positions--Kelly
- a. Voting was held for the proposed slate:
    - i. President – Doug Armitrout (Lakeside)
    - ii. Vice President – Edith Harris (NE Seattle)
    - iii. Secretary – Betsy Bahn (Mercer Island)
    - iv. Treasurer – Jessanne Allen
    - v. 7/8 League Rep – Elaine Morse (Eastside Eagles)
    - vi. 5/6 League Rep -- ??