

**WSLA Middle School Coaches Council Meeting
June 9, 2008**

Minutes

1. Sign in
 - Verify and update contact information (scheduler, billing). Contact Doug with any changes.
2. Minutes from February 6, 2008 meeting posted on www.wslax.org website. Contact Doug with any comments or changes to minutes
3. Budget Update - Doug
 - Increase of 8%: 75 Teams (30 youth; 45 high school) and 1,427 players (600 youth and 827 high school)
 - 15% fee increase to WWLUA incorporated
 - League-sponsored/supported end-of-season jamboree for youth this year
 - Financial results as of 6/1/08 distributed. Subject to change with outstanding receipts and bills. Should be final by 8/3/08. Ref fees balance to 0.00 so not reflected in P/L statement.
 - Changes will occur to '09 proposal prior to fall '08.
 - Travel fee increase projected for 2009 (compensates refs for travel over 18 miles one way)
 - High school board discussed making treasurer a paid position given the growth of the league and the year-round nature of the position
 - Refunds (short-ref/game cancellations) and fines (meeting attendance/ref pool contribution) are being processed. Final reconciliation will be distributed this summer or at the fall meeting.
 - Budget questions - Jessane Allen at 425-836-8821 or rallen252@comcast.net.
4. HS Board Election Results (6/1/08)

President	Bruce Reid (Lk Samm)
Vice President	Jamie Asaka (Lakeside)
Treasurer	Jessanne Allen (at large)
Secretary	Talia Klein (Overlake)
VA Rep	Michele Grose (Roosevelt)
VB Rep	Meghan Toner (Garfield)
JV Rep	Claire Merril (Kennedy)
5. Youth Board Elections
 - Victor Vasquez nominated Elaine Morse to fill the open Secretary position.
 - Val Torrens moved to submit the following slate; seconded by Emmett Soffey.

Youth President	Doug (Lakeside)
Youth Vice President	Edith Harris (NES)
Youth Secretary	Elaine Morse (ESE)
7/8 Rep	Nathan Lawless (Snohomish)
5/6 Rep	Kate Roper (Overlake)
 - All voted in favor of slate
6. Officiating Update
 - Recruitment of Youth Refs a resounding success

- High school refs pool continues to lag
- Requirement to train one high school coach as an official was not successful
- In some cases, high school players (trained as youth refs) officiated high school games (JV).
- WWLUA continues to need assistance from WSLA to find adult officials
- The penalty for not submitting new official to the high school pool is not sufficient disincentive; cost of recruiting/training can be nearly equal to the fine. For many programs it's easier to pay fine than find an official. WWLUA needs refs not fines.
- Suggestions to WWLUA for recruitment:
 - Refs from other sports (soccer, basketball)
 - High school players who are trained as youth refs and stay in area for college
 - Active recruitment at local universities (more than a posting a flyer)
 - Cooperation for clinics in outlying areas – some reluctance on WWLUA's part in past for holding these clinics; minimum participation requirements sometimes challenging
 - Boeing
 - Bremerton Naval facility
 - Fire Departments
 - Police Departments
- Coaches agreed that high player refs for youth games did a great job
- Coach feedback form introduced this season
- Overall coaches complimented on their respectful behavior towards youth refs
- Youth Board will refine recruiting requirements/penalty next year
 - Programs that did not submit a viable ref and will be fined accordingly
 - Discussed situation where program adds multiple new refs to pool one year but does not add new refs the following year; over-supply in one program can lead to frustration if refs received numerous game denials
- Corrine is the new WWLUA President
- Questions or comments should be referred to omaggieo@gmail.com or wwlua.chair@gmail.com
- Home teams are responsible for alternate color pinnies w/numbers. USL offers grants. Ray suggested www.waveone.com

7. Scheduling

- Jamborees
 - Consensus that two was a good number
 - Prefer to have them spread out more
 - End-of-season jamboree worked well
 - Wenatchee jamboree unsuccessful (too early? too far?)
 - 2009 host for jamboree needed
 - Magnuson park has four fields
 - Jamborees require lots of work; need to have enough volunteers to coordinate
 - Discussed space limitations and how some teams were not able to participate. Importance of finding location with enough fields. Consider a two-day jamboree with the age group separated
 - Discussed having more of a tournament format (bracketing, competitive)
 - Complaints received regarding coaches taking a must-win attitude at jamborees rather than using it as an all-participating forum; league will continue to focus on developmental aspect
- Games needed to be scheduled on HS playoff day
- HS ref qualifying event should be held outside of Youth Schedule
- Late schedule questionnaire submittal deadline worked well
- Need incentive to have team committed by submittal deadline. May institute non-refundable deposit with form.
- Scheduling Priorities for 2008 achieved:
 - Spring breaks incorporated
 - 10 games per team (unless otherwise requested)
 - Home/Away balance

- Travel balance year-to-year
- Challenge with finding time for make-up games
- Frustration with late cancellations for distant games; unfair to hosting team who loses a home game. Coaches are encouraged to communicate situation to find a solution (sharing players if short-rostered, etc.)

8. Residency Rules

- Middle school board will refine for 2009; high school rules are not totally applicable
- Coach-to-coach contacts encouraged to resolve exceptions
- Discussed interest in “grandfathering” prior year waiver status to eliminate the uncertainty year-after-year regarding which program a player will participate in
- Issues with players self-selecting programs and creating inequities
- Some programs require a level of commitment (i.e. number of practices attended each week) and will turn girls away if they cannot commit; discussed how this situation weighs into waiver process
- Current policy not working for parents, players, and coaches
- Coaches/program managers need to educate parents on process
- Waiver process/forms need to be more accessible on website
- For high school, WIAA dictates importance of following rules
- Youth level, focus is to keep it fun and developmental; accessible to all who want to play
- Timing of process is difficult

9. Admission of 3rd/4th grade program to Youth League

- Mini jamborees held weekly with certified refs (for the most part)
- Level B rules used (approved per USL handbook)
- Formal proposal to join WSLA will be presented
 - Scheduling
 - Refs
 - USL membership

10. Important Dates:

- MS Coaches Council Wednesday, October 22, 2008
- Team Entries Due, January 15, 2009