

WSLA Youth Coaches Council Meeting
February 6, 2008
Minutes

I. Minutes from 10/17/07 Coaches Council Meeting -- approved

II. Consent Agenda

- USL Washington Chapter Convention at SPU Feb. 9/10. Minimum of one rep from each program. Link on website with program details
 - One rep from each program must attend WWLUA rules review on Sunday
 - Timers/Scorekeepers clinic not mandatory for youth programs
- By-laws and Handbook Acknowledgement form signed and due to Betsy Bahn at meeting. Otherwise, mail to 7209 92nd Avenue SE, Mercer Island, WA 98040
- Signed WSP Background Certification (RCW 43.43.830) due to Betsy Bahn on or before 2/25/08
- All programs have received invoices for league dues and officials' fees. Fees are due to Jessanne Allen by March 7th. Please include the paperwork with your check so funds can be allocated between WSLA and WWLUA. If you need information about the contact person for your program, contact Doug Armintrout.

III. Referee Recruitment – Each team is required to recruit one new ref to achieve certification and work a minimum of 5 games. Information at www.wwlua.org

- Training for new refs: 2/10 at SPU and 3/2 in Auburn
- Encourage high school refs
- WWLUA needs more experienced refs for high school games
- Duke Kamstra will be the ref scheduler this season
- Youth ref rating day will be Sunday 3/9 at Lakeside. A second location will added if the number of refs dictates a need for more space.

IV. Celebration Jamboree – Wendy Kozina

- WSLA is sponsoring a youth division jamboree to celebrate end of season on Saturday, May 31st
- Robinswood fields, Bellevue 9:00 am – 9:00 pm reserved
- Will need interest from programs for planning
- Does not conflict with Lake Oswego tournament
- Will include other WA teams (like Wenatchee)
- Skills challenges in addition to games
- League will subsidize some of cost (estimate \$100-\$150)
- PR person thru Washington Chapter of US Lacrosse will be contacted (Gail Loveland?)
- Discussion about whether 3rd/4th league will be included. Issue of US Lacrosse insurance discussed.

V. 3rd/4th League

- Several programs have 3rd/4th teams. They will be playing with Level B rules and a three pass rule. Rules must be consistent with US Lacrosse and WWLUA regulations for consideration to join WSLA.
- A petition to join league will be submitted at end of season

VI. Scheduling

- Each program must have a single designated scheduling contact
- Send Doug feedback on conflicts by February 13th
- Send Doug field locations and preferred start times by February 13th
- Schedules will be posted on Sportability by February 18th

VII. League Documents Revisions

By-laws, Handbook, and Handbook Addendum revisions were approved at the HS Coaches' Council meeting on 1/23/08. Youth Council must approve revisions for them to go into effect.

- Start of Season 2/25 (Handbook Addendum). Teams polled for start date. Six preferred earlier start; eight preferred same date as high school. Consensus to leave start date at 2/25/08 so that

teams can start season at same time and not give unfair advantage for programs who have earlier access to fields.

- Residency Rules revised (Handbook).
 - Guideline is that player first plays on school team, then with program closest to residence. Policy is designed to assist growth of newer programs.
 - Discussion of need for strict guidelines vs. letting families decide where they prefer to play (since we're not part of WIAA). League philosophy is to have policy regarding placement in order to grow teams
 - Concern that some programs have many players who do not fit the current residency rules. Waivers will still be considered.
 - **Decision to review and revise residency rules pertaining to Youth program for next year**
- Temporary Migration of players between teams (Handbook)
 - Involve other coach prior to game day if short on players
 - Rotate through entire roster rather than using a select few players
 - **Discussion regarding two halves per day rule. Provides a way to reduce chances of stacking roster, but also not always feasible for programs with 30 players on two rosters with a double-header.**
 - Consensus was to eliminate option a. from section 7.3.3, stating "Ask the short rostered team to forfeit"
 - Consensus that language prohibiting programs with multiple 7/8 teams from borrowing players from a 5/6 program should stand. Programs without a 5/6 program may have 6th graders play on the 7/8 team. Programs with a single 7/8 team may borrow 6th graders from a 5/6 team.
 - Consensus to eliminate "Limits on playing time described in 7.3.1 apply" from the final paragraph of section 7.3.3 as it is a repetition of language outlined in section 7.3.1.
- Youth guidelines for posting of rosters and statistics (Handbook)
 - Accurate rosters must be posted on Sportability by team, not program
 - Statistics are optional
 - Timers/Scorekeepers Clinic is optional
- Revised Policy concerning out-of-season recruiting clinics for youth division programs (Handbook)
 - Issues discussed include:
 - Clinics for novice players only
 - Policy is designed to level playing field, as programs have held extensive pre-season training in the past
 - Summer clinics/tournaments are allowed until the start of the fall season (August 20th)
 - Outlying areas do not have access to the off-season opportunities such as Rainz, indoor programs. Need to consider this advantage afforded to players in some programs and not others
 - Suggestion that we move towards league-sponsored clinics rather than program-sponsored
 - Discussed example where a parks & rec program offers a clinic independent of WSLA (with or without using WSLA-affiliated coaches). Programs having trouble with numbers need these clinics to introduce kids to the sport. Consensus that league cannot/should not try to control these types of clinics.
 - Section 9.3.0, decision to eliminate language starting with "Youth Division..." in second sentence through end of section
 - Consensus that the intent of the policy is to allow pre-season recruiting efforts for novice players not to allow pre-season practice for individual programs.
 - Focus should be on dealing with the violators of this policy rather than changing the rules and restricting all programs
 - **Decision was to write a new policy (for implementation next season) that emphasizes the novice orientation of these clinics**
- Conduct Feedback Form (Handbook)
 - All agreed that this is a good policy.
 - Thank you to Kendall Wills and Nathan Lawless for their efforts to organize this important process

VIII. Voting

- Handbook Addendum – Accepted

- Changes to By-Laws – Accepted
- Changes to Handbook as submitted with the changes detailed above to the following sections:
- *Residence Rules* Section 7.2.1 – revise for next year pertaining to youth programs
- *General Rules “Borrowing” Players* Section 7.3.3 (a) - eliminate
- *Out-of-Season Clinics* Section 9.3.0 – eliminate second sentence through end of section; revise for next year

XI. Next Youth Coaches Council Meeting at TOPS, 5/28/08.