

Minutes – Badgerland Youth Lacrosse

October 2024 Board Meeting



Date: 11/20/2024, 7:00pm CT, Virtual Call

Attendees

- Brian King (Waunakee) - President
- David Armiak – Dir of Sportsmanship
- Russ Coley – VP - Boys
- Ric Stoor – Treasurer
- Mike Hamilton (Sauk Girls)
- Angie Puls (Waunakee – Girls)
- Danielle Kalscheur – Middleton
- Bennet West - Sauk
- Travis Callaway – Deforest
- Alex Kramer - Verona

Tentative Agenda

- Call to Order – Brian King
 - Opened
- Meeting Minute Acceptance – Brian King
 - Accepted minutes from October
- Open Board Positions (Secretary Role, Girls VP Role) – Brian K
 - No update. Positions still open
- Treasurer Update - Ric Stoor
 - \$26,464 is current balance
 - Got bonuses out to girls officials (~\$650 total)
 - Chubb Insurance bill coming in December
 - Our income in 2024 was about \$700 higher than expenses in 2023
 - Ric went over 2025 planned budget. Was noted voted on.
 - Decided to keep in funding for Grants and for 2025 All Star game for now.
- Sportsmanship Update – David Armiak
 - No updates.
- Marketing Update – Ava Kenny
 - Brian provided brief update that changes are moving forward.

- Working to complete by EOY.
- Currently sitting at different URL and will switch over to badgerlandlacrosse.com URL when completed.
- Girls Division Change Proposal – Alex Kramer
 - Waunakee
 - Voiced support for 10u/12u/14u divisions.
 - 8u they typically don't recruit so will need to see what happens
 - Sauk
 - Don't think they have enough girls to field 3 age levels.
 - Will likely only have teams in 10u/14u age levels
 - Madison
 - Planning to have 12U team practice with 14Us
 - **Proposal**
 - Maybe large clubs do 12U, and other clubs with less girls stick to 10U and 14U divisions
 - Clubs with 12U teams would have modified schedule where they do some just 12U-only games, but then split back to 10U and 14U for some other games
 - Each club looks at numbers in February and makes call about what divisions to put teams into. Scheduler will determine schedule based on club identified mix.
 - Need to finalize baseline rules but could be modified for games where kid count is low.
 - If not enough 12U teams, clubs expressed that they didn't want keep playing same teams over and over again.
 - General agreement to try and field 12U teams, but we will look at # of teams and kids.
 - Clubs should provide feedback to scheduler on quality of 12U team to determine if they play against 10u or 14u teams
 - **No objections voiced. Proposal accepted. BLA will work to the above proposal with noted flexibility for clubs**
- Walk On Items – All Clubs
 - Girls Helmets
 - Waunakee wanted to understand clubs' approaches to helmets
 - Deforest provides helmets to its girls.
 - If club provides helmets, they typically need to be recertified every couple of years, or you open yourself up to liability
 - USA LAX mandates for boys, but not for girls (at any age level).
- Meeting Close
 - Motioned and no objections.

2025 Lacrosse Calendar – Proposed

XXX – Pending WLF

January

- All Month Official Outreach and Recruiting
- January 15th, 2025 Publish Draft Badgerland Rules
- Tue., January 21st, 2025 January BLA Board Meeting

February

- Tue., February 18th, 2025 Feb BLA Board Meeting
Publish Final Badgerland Rules

March

- Sun., March 2nd, 2025 Girls Officials – Virtual Training 1
- **Sun., March 9th, 2025** Boys Officials – Virtual Training 1
- Fri., March 14th, 2025 Provide Team Counts and Field Information to BLA
- **Sun., March 16th, 2025** Boys Officials – Virtual Training 2
- Mon., March 17th, 2025 Earliest Start of Practice
- Sun., March 23rd, 2025 Girls Officials – Virtual Training 2
- Tue., March 25th, 2025 Badgerland All Clubs/Coaches Meeting
Note: No March Board Meeting
- Sun., March 30th, 2025 Publish Draft BLA Season Schedule

April

- Sat., April 5th, 2025 Boys Officials – Field Rating Day
- Sun., April 6th, 2025 Girls Officials – Field Rating Day
**MAYLA Field Rating April 6 (backup day of April 13)
- Mon., April 7th, 2025 Publish Final BLA Season Schedule
- Sat. April 12th, 2025 Badger Spring Invite (Girls)
- Sun., April 13th, 2025 Badger Spring Invite (Boys)
- Tue., April 15th, 2025 April BLA Board Meeting
- **Sat/Sun, April 19th, 2025** **First Weekend of BLA Games**
**MAYLA First Games Weekend April 26/27th

May

- Sun., May 11th, 2025 Mother Day Weekend (Kettle Moraine Tournament)
- Tue., April 20th, 2025 May BLA Board Meeting
- Sat/Sunday, May 24-25th, 2025 Memorial Day Weekend (No BLA Games)
- Sat/Sunday, May 30-31st, 2025 Last Weekend of BLA Games

June

- Sat/Sunday, Jun 7th-8th, 2025 Deforest Tournament
**MAYLA Last Games Weekend 6/7-8th

- Wed., June 11th Badgerland All-Star Game(s)
Location TBD
- Tue., June 24th, 2025 End of Year BLA Club Meeting

Girls Division Change Proposal

Proposal:

For the 2025 season and forward, Girls Youth Lacrosse will transition from 2 divisions to 3 divisions.

Current Divisions	Proposed Divisions**
10U (1 st grade to 5 th grade)	8U (1 st grade to 2 nd grade)
14U (6 th grade to 8 th grade)	10U (3 rd grade to 4 th grade)
	12U (5 th grade to 6 th grade)
	14U (7 th grade to 8 th grade)

*** - If a club is not able to put together a team at a certain age level, the program can have girls play up, and in very specific circumstances, allow them to play down, based on size, experience, etc.*

Rationale

Balanced Competition

With our current split, we have 8th graders playing against 6th graders, and 5th playing against 3rd graders, and in some cases 2nd and 1st graders. With that 5th-8th grade being a time that girls are going through puberty, you start to see a big discrepancy in the size, speed and athleticism. This hurts the girls chances to find success in the sport which impacts their level of enjoyment, and ultimately brings me to the next point of player retention.

Player Retention

By having more age-appropriate division, the level of enjoyment will ultimately go up, and we will see a high retention rate for girls teams. Many clubs we do a great job of recruiting new players, but struggle to keep new 6th graders, and new 3rd-2nd grades in the program primarily based on the fact that they are outsized in their division.

Incentivized Growth

Although there will be growing pains by switching back to this age split, it will now incentivize programs to put together more teams. If teams are not able to put together a team at a certain age level, we shouldn't stop programs from having girls play up, and in very specific circumstances, allow them to play down, based on size, experience, etc.