Aug 10, 2026 | Lax Board Meeting

Attendees: Ryan M, Erin B, Jon W, Becky P, Katie I, Nate I, Lindsay S.

Created on August 10, 2026 at 7:06 PM by Minutes AI app, Edited by Becky P.

Called to order at 7:06 pm

President's Report
- Three new policies were emailed to the board in advance (Coaching, Equipment, Sportsmanship Code of Conduct)
- One-page summaries are being developed for each board position (e.g., Secretary, Treasurer, etc) to outline typical monthly duties and busy periods. Katie will assist Ryan with refining these summaries.
- Google Drive access: All new executive members should have access to last season's and current season's folders. Older information (15 years old) is being moved to an archive, accessible upon request.
- No new business was presented beyond what the President introduced.

Vice President's Report
- Jonathan W. stated no report.

Secretary's Report
- Meeting Minutes Review: Minutes are now more detailed than previous versions. A suggestion was made to include who makes and seconds motions.
- New Minutes App Trial: A two-week trial is underway for a new app that is expected to note who makes and seconds motions, identify speakers, and create action items. It generates a summary, full transcript is available.
- **Decision**: Last month's meeting minutes were approved following a motion by Erin and second by Nate, passed by "Aye" votes. A discussion occurred regarding the terminology for opposed votes ("same sign" versus "nay"). “Same sign” also say “Aye”.

Treasurer's Report
- - July Financials:
    - Booster Account: No changes.
    - General Account:
        - Expenses: Included supplies, sticks, shirts for 6U, storage ($70 per month, auto-pay), and fundraising expenses ($250 for a raffle winner, $50 for "Miss Stock 726").
        - Revenue: Expected from Crossbar once linked to the bank.
        - Equipment Purchases: Shirts, deeples, lime green indoor balls (for distinction), stringing kit supplies (Dave Blackburn to string six heads), and three new deepholes (replacing 10-15 year old ones).

- Outstanding Checks: A new check needs to be written for Matt Post due to a misplaced original. The Wanaki check will be given more time to be cashed. Check expiration (180 days) was noted.
- **Decision**: The financial report was approved following a motion by Katie and second by Becky, passed by "Aye" votes.

Budget (2026-2027)

- The board reviewed the budget two Sundays prior, comparing anticipated expenses and revenue to the previous year's budgeted numbers.
- Key Discussion Points:
    - Coaching salaries and changes to rental gear.
    - Anticipated gear needs for the year.
    - Team fees: Two fees for youth, one for high school. The second WLF fee might be for the Badgerland conference. The Bay Valley fee is no longer needed. The Minnesota game fee is currently grouped with tournament fees.
    - The budget is similar to last year's but accounts for an increase in players, an increase in coaches (aiming for three paid coaches per team), and inflation.
    - Advertising Budget: Set at $1,000. Previous advertising included a sign at the Omni Center. Billboard advertising was discussed but not priced. A booth at National Night Out was suggested (successful for hockey, but a previous lacrosse attempt resulted in a child's broken collarbone). The board is open to new advertising ideas if costs are presented. Social media advertising has already been utilized, and additional funds can be approved during a meeting if needed.
- **Decision**: The 2026-2027 budget was approved following a motion by Jon and second by Katie.

- Bank Change Discussion (Citizens Bank)
    - Corey had discussions with Citizens Bank.
    - Fee Structure Concern: Citizens Bank charges $5 per month and $0.35 per item over 100 items (deposits and withdrawals). Fundraisers could involve around 400 checks, incurring significant fees, and Crossbar deposits would also count towards the limit. This will be investigated by Erin
        - Action Item: Inquire with Citizens Bank if the per-item fee structure can be waived or modified for a non-profit, especially for large, infrequent deposits like fundraisers.
- **Decision**: A motion to approve changing banks to Citizens Bank was passed following a motion from Becky and second by Jon, contingent on securing favorable modifications to the per-item fees.

Youth Report (Lindsay)

- The Goal Patrol Program was described as "the cutest flipping thing," "awesome," and "adorable." It attracted 5-10 new kids and parents were enticed by "free T shirts and ice cream." Kids are happy, and parents are observing positively.

Coach Rep Report (Dave Blackburn not present, presented by Ryan)

- A draft of policy and handbook, based on online information and other club policies, has been created and reviewed by Dave Blackbourn, who suggested changes.
- Coaches will be required to review and sign the policy, with the coaching director ensuring adherence.
- Key Discussion Points/Areas for Board Review: Playing time requirements and equal opportunity at positions.
- Action Item: Board members are to review the draft and provide comments for further discussion by Ryan with Dave B.
- Discipline and Accountability: A section on discipline and accountability has been developed, which the board needs to be comfortable with. This will be added to the players' code of conduct/sportsmanship agreement as a basis for disciplinary actions.
- Coaches Certification: Dave B wants coaches to obtain the "next level" of USA Lacrosse certification, which is a progressive requirement within USA Lacrosse.

Coaches Policy - Discussion

- Equal Opportunity at Positions:
  - A suggestion was made that first-year players should have the opportunity to play all positions.
  - The current draft states "have the opportunity" rather than mandating every child play every position.
  - Consensus: U6, U8, and U10 teams should encourage kids to try all positions, while U12 teams should begin working towards specialization.
- Goalie Position Discussion:
  - A suggestion was made that everyone should play goalie.
  - Counter-arguments included disagreement, especially for older age groups (U14), where a set goalie is preferred. Forcing kids who excel in other positions into goalie could negatively impact morale and game quality.
  - Current practice involves coaches offering the opportunity to try goalie in practice, which has led to a lack of goalies in certain years.
  - Suggestions included
    - Coaches working towards having one goalie move up each year
    - Implementing a system where players are required to play a certain number of quarters (e.g., four) as goalie throughout their youth years (e.g., up to U10 or U12), with prorated requirements for late joiners, to ensure multiple players gain experience.
- Discussion was had that one opinion was that everyone should play goalie at some point in the younger ages to help the bigger picture and the overall quality of the team. - A middle ground suggestion was that anyone that wants to try goalie should, no matter what level, be given a chance to play goalie.
- The Coaching Director's role could include "oversight and accountability" for coaching compliance and discussing goalie rotation with coaches annually, with guidelines added to the Coaching Handbook.
- Specific policy ideas discussed (not yet decided) included "a minimum of four people

play goalie a year" or "at least 50% of kids have to try goalie during practice, 25% have to play it during the season."
    - General take away that goalie should not be mandated or forced for all players in games, but may take a practice to rotate each player

Discipline and Accountability Policy (for Players):
- The current draft includes verbal correction and warnings.
- A suggestion was made to add physical consequences like "take a lap," "running," or "push-ups" for "immediate correction," to be detailed in the Coaching Handbook.
- This will be a "blanket policy" for all ages, with coaches having discretion based on the severity of the infraction.
- The escalation process involves parent notification, then escalation to the Coaching Director, and further to the board.
- This policy, developed by Dave Blackburn, is more detailed and includes clearer notification steps and timelines than previous versions.
- Coaching Handbook: Dave Blackburn is developing this, which will include practice plan ideas, plays, and progression for learning offense and defense. It can incorporate goalie development guidelines and "redirection options" for player discipline.

Sportsmanship Agreement (Player/Parent):
- Developed from other agreements and AI, it outlines responsibilities for players, coaches, parents, and spectators, including "parent player commitments" and "parent expectations." It currently uses the same discipline section as the coaches' policy but can be made more detailed.
- Parent Issue Resolution Process (Proposed):
    - 1. Wait 24 hours after an issue before contacting the coach.
    - 2. If unresolved, contact the Coaching Director.
    - 3. If still unresolved, escalate to the board. This is considered a "great thing to have" to guide parents

Grievance Policy and Reporting Hierarchy
- Parent Concern Reporting: Parents can direct concerns to the youth representative, coach, or coaching director via any contact method (email, direct message in Crossbar). Team managers and coaches will be listed in Crossbar. The policy will be built off an existing policy and added to the sportsmanship agreement.
- The board is open to suggestions for changes or removing "fluff," as the current code of conduct is "very" basic.

Sportsmanship Agreement and Signatures
- Decision: Every parent and player will be required to review and sign a physical copy of the sportsmanship agreement at the kickoff event (e.g., Green Island) to allow for questions and ensure understanding. This is preferred over a checkbox during registration.
- For split households, the agreement will include two signature spots for parents, and the

Club will inquire if one or two copies are needed.

Discipline and Accountability (Parent Notification)

- For Step 2 (warning) or Step 3 (disciplinary action), parents should be notified by phone call or in-person at pickup, as text or email are not considered sufficient. A phone call within 24 hours is preferred.
- Progression through disciplinary steps (3, 4, 5) may occur at one practice or game, depending on behavior and severity, even before a phone call can be made. Parents will be notified "at the next available moment" to prevent arguments about lack of prior notification for consequences.

Next Steps for Policies

- The current discussion is for gathering input, not for voting or approval. Minor tweaks will be made based on feedback, and the policies will be presented for approval at another meeting.

Coaching Survey Report

- End-of-year and coaching surveys were sent out, but received a low response rate (U10: 5 responses, U12: 8 responses).
- Feedback was inconsistent, contradictory, or lacked actionable comments, making it difficult to extract insights. The platform was noted as "not a user-friendly platform."
- Dave (coaching director) has not yet reviewed the compiled results. It is believed that the new coaching policy and handbook will address any negative comments. Coaches will not see their individual reviews directly. The focus will be on ensuring coaches follow the new policy and handbook.
- Survey results can be made available if requested, but their value is limited.

Fundraising Report

- Druggen's Event: Trish Johnson's daughter's team made $1,200 at Druggen's by calling games and receiving half the pot. Trish has emailed the coordinator, but a response is not expected until fall as it's typically a winter event. It's considered an "easy money" fundraiser for a small group of volunteers and good for visibility.
- Sponsorships:
  - Goal: Increase sponsorship from the budgeted $5,000 to $30,000 (Corey's suggestion at previous meeting 7/13/25).
  - Timing: Companies' fiscal year is July to June, so budgets are being set now, requiring proactive outreach.
  - Shelby is the sponsorship chair and is willing to continue.
  - Targeting Sponsors: Identify "easy targets" from last year's list. Add-on ideas from the July meeting included Jumpstart, Lacrosse Sign, T-shirt printing (as an in-kind donation), Kwik Trip, and Citizens Bank (especially if banking moves there).
- Action Item: Nate (fundraiser chair) is to form a committee and create a "to-do list" for targeting sponsors.

- Sponsor List Verification: Current sponsorship levels are $300, $500, and $1,000. An issue was identified where some sponsors listed on the website (based on logos provided by Shelby) do not have corresponding checks in the account.
  - Specific Missing Funds: Niebur Plumbing ($500 and $1,000), Schiller Supply Company ($500) and Onalaska Family Chiropractic ($1000 possibly as two checks).
  - La Crosse Area Community Foundation / Shilling Grant: A $500 check was received on 7/10 from the La Crosse Area Community Foundation, noted as being from the "Shilling Grant." It's unclear if the Community Foundation acts as an intermediary for Shilling Paper's donations or if it's a separate grant, as the Community Foundation was not on the sponsor list. Two $500 checks have been received from the Community Foundation in the last two years.
  - Erin reached out to Shelby on 8/9 to see if she has any documentation and as the meeting has not heard back.
- Action Item: The sponsorship committee is to follow up with missing sponsors to verify donations and reconcile records.

- Sponsorship Levels: Discussion about renaming sponsorship levels from "grow the game," "for the love of lacrosse" to "silver, gold, platinum" for easier association.
- Bowling Activity ("Lightning Strikes")
  - Idea for a fun activity to invite non-current players to get involved.
  - Proposed timing: Initially November, but February or March were suggested as alternatives (after winter sports, before youth hockey state tournaments).
  - Fundraising method: Pledge per pin or a team fee (e.g., $40 per team of four). Cost for space/lanes **needs to be determined.**
- Advertising: Ideas included billboards, radio promotion. Inquiries were made about contacts at radio stations and community segments on local TV channels (e.g., Channel 8).

Recruitment

- Recruitment will be a major focus for the next meeting.
- Goal Patrol: 16 registered players. Positive feedback indicates it's "going great" and "kids are having fun." It could lead to a "learning to play lacrosse" team in spring or continue as a low-commitment recreational program. It's seen as a good way to engage kids in families new to sports and is recommended for repetition.
- Skills Camp: Stick skills (13 registered) and shooter skills (13-14 registered) camps were completed. A D-Pole camp is currently underway (8 registered). Face-off or goalie camps were planned but dates uncertain.
- Scheduling feedback: Back-to-back camps (week after week) were challenging; a suggestion was made to space them out (e.g., one per month: June, July, August).
  - Recommendation: Create a "yearly calendar" for planning events like skills camps well in advance (e.g., six months ahead).
  - Leadership: Need to find someone to lead the recruitment committee.
- Girls Lacrosse Recruitment: Efforts included leaving messages for a UWL assistant

coach (a women's lacrosse recruiter) for ideas and contacts (e.g., college students to help coach/host events). The director for girls lacrosse (Jang) was mentioned. Ideas included targeting girls hockey leagues and high school girls.

- Board Action: The board needs to work on getting someone to take over the recruitment committee. The next meeting will dedicate "a lot of time and effort on recruiting."

Equipment Report

- Jersey Status: There are 80 total jerseys, with 30 being the old style (mostly youth small and youth large). The budget includes replacing 20+ old jerseys with the newer, reversible, thinner, and more durable style. Orders will be placed "well before the season starts." Jerseys are not kept by players.
- Equipment Inventory: A lot of equipment still needs to be inventoried; also awaiting returns from players. There is a good count on gloves, sticks, and chest pads, but a better count is needed for elbow pads and helmets. The equipment person will provide a better report after checking the storage shed.

Equipment Rental Policy (Draft):

  - A written policy has been needed outlining rental costs, included items, return expectations, and costs for unreturned items.
  - Proposed Major Changes:
  - First-year players: Full set (including helmet) for $50 for the season.
  - Returning players: $50 for a helmet, and another $50 if they need anything else.
- Goal: Encourage parents to invest in equipment, making it "more important for their kids to show up and also take care of the stuff that they have."
- Cost of New Equipment: A chest protector costs $75, a helmet $175, gloves/elbow pads $50, and basic Maverick sticks $48-$52. Helmets last approximately six years.
  - Comparison to Hockey (LYH): LYH rents "learn to skate" gear for kids 7 and under, but expects older kids to buy gear, offering assistance to families who cannot afford it. Most only rent for the first year.
- Deposit Checks: Previously used for equipment, but stopped due to logistical difficulties (collection, trust issues, mailing). (Note: Deposit checks are being considered for fundraising).
- Unreturned Equipment: Currently, "six or seven sets of equipment that are out there with jerseys," some from players two years ago. One player was charged for a lost helmet and paid. A parent has approached about a lost chest protector and wants to pay for it. The new policy will address how to handle lost equipment.
- Discussion on charging for lost equipment (jerseys, monitors). Consideration of Crossbar's ability to charge for lost items, with concern about cumulative costs for parents.
  - Suggestion: Include written costs for lost items in the policy to inform parents.
  - Proposal: Limit equipment rental to 3-4 years, then expect players to purchase their own gear. Links to purchase full sets ($187) are available on the website.
- Equipment return deadline: by the date designated during registration.
- Existing policy: "Equipment should be returned reasonable condition, excluding normal

wear and tear." "Any equipment lost, stolen, damaged beyond normal use or not returned will result in replacement or else."

- Requirement: Signature or checkbox in Crossbar during registration to acknowledge the equipment policy for rentals.
- Additional Protective Package: Clarification is needed for the wording of "additional protective package" to specify if the $50 fee applies to "all or individually" or "any of these items."
- Decision: The equipment rental policy will be brought up at the next meeting for adoption; no changes will be made before then.
- Equipment Orders: Poles, heads, stringing kits, and indoor balls were ordered based on discussions at the budget meeting.
- Action Item: Send a note to Crossbar to inquire about functionality to securely hold a credit card number for potential future charges (e.g., for lost equipment).

New Business Meeting Protocol

- Proposal: To limit meeting length, new business items (never discussed before) will be allocated two minutes for the proposer to discuss. The board will then decide whether to continue the conversation or table it for the next meeting. This approach is similar to Robert's Rules of Order and aims to prevent meetings from extending to three hours. This is proposed as an agreement for meetings, not a hard-written rule.

High School Agreement/Relationship

- Discussion about the current one-year agreement with the high school. There is a need to plan for the relationship 3, 5, and 7 years out.
- Questions to consider: Should the club collaborate more or separate more from the high school? Is more confirmation needed from the athletic director regarding finances and potential issues? How do high school team issues or bad reports reflect on the club due to the shared "Lightning" name?
- Action Item: Board members are to review the agreement from last year, located on the Google Drive. This will be a future discussion item.

Bylaw Writing Committee

- A bylaw writing committee needs to be formed. This will be added as new business for the next meeting, with the goal of adopting new policies in conjunction with the bylaws.

PLL Games (Old Business)

- PLL games are scheduled for the end of August. Tickets are handled, and emails regarding ticket availability are legitimate.

Next Meeting Logistics

- Location: Same as the current meeting.
- Date: The day after Labor Day 9/8/26 @ 7:00 pm
- Action Item: Confirm the new date with the manager of the meeting location.

Meeting Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 PM following a motion by Jon and second by Lindsay.

Action items

- [ ] Inquire with Citizens Bank if the per-item fee structure can be waived or modified for a non-profit, especially for large, infrequent deposits like fundraisers
- [ ] Nate (fundraiser chair) is to form a committee and create a "to-do list" for targeting sponsors.
- [ ] The sponsorship committee is to follow up with missing sponsors to verify donations and reconcile records.
- [ ] The board needs to work on getting someone to lead the recruitment committee.
- [ ] Send a note to Crossbar to inquire about functionality to securely hold a credit card number for potential future charges (e.g., for lost equipment).
- [ ] A bylaw writing committee needs to be formed. This will be added as new business for the next meeting, with the goal of adopting new policies in conjunction with the bylaws.
- [ ] Action Item: Confirm the new date (Tuesdays at 7:00 pm) with the manager of the meeting location.