



Iowa Lacrosse Association Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 10, 2021, 7:00 pm - Zoom Conference Call

Attendees: Beech Turner (West Des Moines), Sean Mahoney (Waukee), Jeff Kueter (Iowa City), Bruce Maxwell (Ames), Marc Shulman (Ames), Dave Hankins (Ankeny), Vince McGee (Quad Cities), and Eric Reeves (Dubuque).

Meeting was called to order by Beech Turner at 7:06 pm.

Minutes Approval

The January minutes were approved with Marc Shulman making the motion to approve and Sean Mahoney seconding.

Treasurer's Report

Bruce Maxwell advised that the Association has \$4160.60 in its checking account. No major expenditures anticipated over the next 30 days although activity may pick up with the start of the ILAX Youth League in April as the Association collects and pays out officials and trainer fees.

Old Business

Coach Development Training

Beech reminded the board of the pending US Lacrosse Level 1 & Level 2 virtual coaching workshops available before the spring season starts. Only 4 individuals from Iowa have registered in the state since January 1. An ILAX flyer with details was shared earlier with all the clubs, and Beech asked the clubs represented to promote the workshops and US Lacrosse credentials within their organizations.

New Officials Training

Beech advised that online training for new mens officials has started. Weekly online sessions are planned until early March. Sessions will be archived in the event a candidate needs to make up a session. Bob Hoffer and Kevin Hawn have shared the virtual classroom training

details with several candidates many of which officiate other sports. Kevin has roughly ten Iowa-based candidates and is hoping he can get the majority of them to commit to the training. On-field evaluations for new officials will eventually be scheduled in the early part of the upcoming season probably as part of local club scrimmages. No update on new women's officials was available, and the board is concerned about the lack of candidates to date. Beech closed by challenging the clubs to identify potential candidates within their ranks and their networking, and share with Meghan and Kevin.

Spring Season Preparations

All clubs reported they were continuing to gear up for the season. All clubs represented said their fees were similar to last year's. Additional details shared:

West Des Moines – Beech reported that the club has about 90 registrations to date. HS Boys & Girls practices have started. Still plan to field U10 thru HS teams both Boys & Girls. Adel girls (7th & 8th grade) plan to register with WDM this season. New USL website platform generally working well with “a few bumps in the road.”

Waukee – Sean reports that season registration is open with around 70 registered including roughly 30 HS. Planning for U10 through HS Boys teams. HS practices have started, and expecting strong MS & Youth numbers.

Ankeny – Dave Hankins advised that registration is open and early numbers look good. HS teams are practicing. Plan to field U10 through HS Boys teams, and HS Girls numbers are improved.

Ames – Marc reported that registration has opened. Planning to field a HS Boys JV team. Open to U12 & U14 Boys too, but expect light numbers. They also have a new HS coach. Had some concern about getting the Ames MS field space due to COVID restrictions, but Bruce reported the club had clarified they would continue to have access.

Iowa City/Cedar Rapids (Kingfisher) – Jeff Kueter told the board that registration had recently opened and that they had their first registrations. Hoping to have 7-8 boys in each age group. Registration opened to girls as well. Club has a free “try lacrosse” clinic coming up soon. Said their club has also transitioned to the new US Lacrosse web platform and that there is a learning curve involved.

Quad Cities – Vince McGee reported that the club is also using the new USL website and is opening registration. Hopes to have HS Boys & Girls and some U14 & U12 Boys & Girls. Unsure of U10 prospects. Said the club has good field space with Bettendorf Parks & Rec, but

has scheduling challenges with Illinois clubs due to fall sports being moved to spring and spring sports starting later.

Dubuque – Eric Reeves said that registrations opened February 1. They plan to have a HS Boys JV squad with about 20 players. He expects a small number of U14 boys and will be offering a developmental program for younger players both boys and girls with minimal equipment involved. Outdoor practice space will be a challenge due to the snow cover and anticipated wet fields and may not be able to get on them until mid-April.

Meskwaki – Beech reported that Britt Mitchell had called him recently with news the tribal council approved their plans to offer a spring lacrosse season. He was opening registration within the next day or so. More info later.

ILAX Spring Youth League – Sean shared a tentative schedule outline for 14U/12U/10U Boys with all clubs interested in taking part in some of the scheduling at select age groups depending on registration results. The games are mostly on Saturdays and begin April 10 and end the second weekend in June. Tentatively plans are for jamboree weekends at St. Ambrose and possibly at the Meskawaki Settlement or Solon. Club registrations and subsequent team formations will ultimately dictate who plays at what age level, and that should come into focus before spring break. Sean also is monitoring the cost of officials and trainers which will come into focus at the same time.

Iowa Games – Dave is handling our participation in the upcoming competition. Many details are to be worked out, but the lacrosse competition most likely will be held in Ankeny in the first half of June, and involve Boys 14U/12U/10U teams.

New Business

IHSADA Convention – Beech advised the board that the Iowa High School Athletic Directors planned to hold their annual convention in-person on March 28-29 in Coralville. ILAX has again been invited to participate as a vendor during Exhibit Hall hours. Cost is \$475. There were concerns about how well attended the event would be, and Beech was going to try to get more feedback on expected attendance.

Youth Hockey Promotion – Beech reminded the board about past ILAX efforts to share information about the upcoming lacrosse season with Des Moines Youth Hockey and the Ames Hockey Association. He shared a flyer that could be updated, and then distributed. He plans to share the flyer with DM Youth Hockey director Scott Long, and ask him to distribute to hockey families which Scott has done in the past.

Concussion Testing – With the recent decision by NELAX not to require testing from participating clubs, Sean asked what other clubs planned to do. After some discussion, it appears each club will need to decide whether to test and who to use as a vendor. Marc gave his opinion that good testing resources are available and promised to share more information.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm with a motion from Dave, seconded by Bruce.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, March 10th at 7:00 pm via Zoom