

York County Lacrosse Association

Meeting Minutes –

August 12, 2006 at Penn-Air Hydraulics, York, PA.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Rhein at 6:05pm. Roll call was performed:

Present

Kevin Heiland (Central York)
Bill Marks (Dallastown)
Bob Rhein (Eastern York)
Dave Reeder (Northern)
Joe Dashler (Red Lion)
Dave Hagan (Red Lion)
Dan Wilmot (Spring Grove)
Marcus Sweitzer (West York)
Nick Hendler (York Suburban)

Absent

Guy Muller (Shooting Irish)
Dave Collins (HARP)
TJ Buchanan (South Western) -- excused
Steve Marshner (Warrior)

1. The floor was opened for nominations for committee members to fill the officer positions as outlined in the By-Laws. Without any immediate volunteers, questions were raised about: a) could a non-committee member serve as an officer?; b) could an individual hold two or more positions?; and c) should the process be delayed until next month's meeting? Per the by-laws it was determined that only committee members could hold an office and that an individual could hold more than one position. Furthermore, there was a general consensus that officers needed to be put in place immediately. Dan Wilmot nominated Bob Rhein for the dual positions of President and Chairman and Dave Reeder for the positions of secretary and treasurer. Bill Marks seconded the nominations. After both agreed to serve, all present voted unanimously in favor of the nominations.
2. Bob Rhein introduced the topic of an age-based vs. grade-based structure for the youth levels (i.e., everything below the high school level). Bob informed the group there was a similar conversation several years ago when the league was organizing its youth programs. It was determined at that time to use the grade-based structure with the understanding that the issue would be re-visited in the future. Now that the YCLA is becoming more involved in post-season tournaments that are predominantly age-based, it seems appropriate to reconsider the issue.

A lengthy conversation followed with the following points made, including a list of pros and cons of converting to an aged-based system:

Age-Based vs. Grade-Based Team Structure

Age Based*		Grade Based
U15	=	8 th Grade
U13	=	6 th /7 th Grades
U11	=	4 th /5 th Grades
U9	=	2 nd /3 rd Grades

*US Lacrosse determines a player's age as of December 31 of the previous year. Age groupings include players that age, i.e., U15 includes players 15 years and younger.

Pros for converting to age-based:

1. Conform to the rules of US Lacrosse, the governing body of youth lacrosse nationwide;
2. Alleviate conflict/confusion on the rules to be followed for each level of play, thus providing officials with a clear understanding of how the games should be refereed;
3. Facilitate the process for creating post-season travel all-star teams that play in age-based tournaments; and
4. Better prepare players for out-of-season games and tournaments by having them play under the same set of rules during the regular season.
5. Eliminates the physical maturity disparity that exists with a grade based system

Cons for converting to age-based:

1. The addition of an extra team, meaning additional coaches, fields and referees may be required;
2. Because most 15-year olds are in ninth grade and playing at the high school level and some 8th graders are still eligible for U13, clubs may have problems fielding sufficient U15 programs. This may leave older 8th graders without an opportunity to play (US Lacrosse rules prohibit 9th graders from U15, while PIAA rules prohibit 8th graders under the age of 15 to play at the high school level).
3. Because most Mid-Penn and Lancaster clubs play middle school schedules, it could be more difficult to schedule non-league games.

Dave Reeder recommended that a vote be delayed until members had the opportunity to share the points made in the meeting with their clubs. Because several clubs will begin their registration process in the next few weeks and the high school coaches will hold their annual scheduling meeting on August 26th, the committee did not feel it could wait until the September meeting to vote. Thus, it decided to hold an email vote. Dave Reeder will outline the pros and cons discussed and forward them to all 12 executive club members. Members will have until August 24th to vote by email.

3. Bill Marks announced that a men's pick-up league was beginning this fall. Games will be played on Thursday evenings, alternating between Rexroth Park and Franklin & Marshall College. More advanced high school players are welcome to play.
4. The next meeting was scheduled for 6:30pm on Sunday, September 10th at Penn-Air Hydraulics.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Reeder