

SSYL Meeting Agenda – Meeting Date: December 8th, 2021

Via Video Chat @ 7:00 PM

1. Roll Call – Sign-in Sheet
 - a. Call to order: 7:04pm
 - b. In attendance- **ER (Valerie), Gig Harbor (Jennifer), Graham (Melanie), Hornets (Mark F.), N. Tapps (Beth), Olympia (Drew), Orting (Chris G, Crystal), Peninsula (Poala), Rogers (Kris C., Matt), Sumner/Bonney Lake (Lewey, Suzanne, Wendy), Tacoma (Zeek, Drew N.), Vashon (Bret)**
 - c. Absent- Kitsap, N. Kitsap, Puyallup, UP, Twin Cities
 - d. Quorum count: 12:17
2. Review Meeting Norms-
3. Review and approve minutes from the **November** meeting.
 - a. Motion to approve minutes: Beth from N. Tapps motions to approve Nov. meeting minutes, Zeek from Tacoma, seconds.
 - i. Yea-Unanimous, Ney- None, Abstain- President
4. Board Reports
 - a. Review of meeting agenda and President’s Report- Mark F.
 - i. Just talking with some clubs regarding registration numbers. If you have a big team then parents rush to make sure that they get on the roster. If teams are typically struggling to field numbers, then everyone can trickle in.
 1. Lewey (SBL)- How’s registration going? Anyone else having challenges with kids aging out and/or $\frac{3}{4}$ registrations.
 2. Chris (Orting)- We have small numbers. 8- $\frac{3}{4}$, 4-5/6, 6-7/8
 3. Brett (Vashon)- I’m not sure if we will have enough for a 7/8 team. 5/6 looks good. I don’t know the numbers for $\frac{3}{4}$
 4. Beth (N. Tapps)- Our numbers are pretty good. 14- 7/8, 12-5/6, 7-3/4, 10-k-2. We had 30 kids show up for our little session. It was nice to see after our COVID slump.
 5. Mark (Hornets)- We did a clinic with our Parks and Recreation department. It was \$5 and we had 47 kids attend. I had high schoolers help run the drills and use soft balls and provided sticks. There was a lot of cradling and shooting on goals for fun. Once kids start playing lacrosse, they rarely quit. Maybe having coaches call former players and ask them if they are playing and encouraging them to register. Sometimes parents just drag their feet but it really hurts our planning. Try to do some free clinics like the one for K-2. I’ve seen free stick programs that can help reduce the financial barrier. Make more people aware of scholarship opportunities that are available either through SSYL or through your own club.
 6. Drew (Tacoma)- I think one of the cognitive disconnect is that our season was so late last year. It’s just not on the radar for families yet.
 7. Chris (Orting)- If you are low on numbers for $\frac{3}{4}$, you are allowed to have 2nd graders play up.
 - ii. New pads- Referees will come up to the coaches at the beginning of the game asking is everyone safe and equipped to play the game? The coaches will answer yes with chest pads, cups, goalie gear with throat protectors, mouth guards and all of my players have the new shoulder pads. Referees will not be checking to make sure. It is the coach’s and club’s responsibility to make sure everyone has them. The club may assume liability if they are not enforcing. If someone has a chest/heart injury, then your US Lacrosse insurance may be affected. This could be a lawsuit if a child is seriously harmed and the coaches/club was not enforcing this. The EKG shoulder pads may be hard to get because the manufacturers have not received what you call a booking order. So, a store or a location will put in a booking order to have their first shipment come in use these sometime before Christmas, then you'll get another one for the season, probably January or February. Then they usually get another one for the tournament seasons and so forth. I would definitely get the message out to your parents, that they need to go out and start looking in order to get a hold of a pair of the EKG shoulder pads. It may be up to a club to carry the liability if players aren’t properly equipped.

- iii. Still trying to figure out where we are with the South Sound letter and the outcome with that. – To be discussed during Treasurer’s report.
 - iv. Rumor was that the referees were thinking about raising their dues. This does not look to be the case. Maybe in the high school level but not at our level. Our biggest issue is equitability in getting assignments, and also having gaps where we don't have referees. This causes longer drives, which then isn't worth the money and getting less games in a day. We all know that they try to stack games. So, a referee can get two or three games in one day at one location and that motivates them to take those games and get signed up so that's kind of what we try to do scheduling wise.
 - v. Tahoma decided to go back to their previous league, GEL. They were unfairly dismissed from GEL about 5 years ago so they turned to SSYL. They run a really good k-2 and feeder program to their high school. They were very active with the SSYL. They were an immediate positive presence at the SSYL meetings, managed our SSYL website, and always shared good information and had a very educated board. They will be missed.
- b. Vice President’s Report- Chris G.
- i. Rename draft for consequences- “Consequences for SSYL”
 - ii. I have not had any emails regarding rules. This time of the year my inbox is usually flooded with questions about the rules. This may be a good thing. Maybe everyone knows the rules now.
 - 1. Mark (Hornets)- Just a reminder to everyone that Chris works closely with WALOA, our referee association, to make sure everyone (including the referees) know our SSYL rules. Reach out to Chris if you feel that rules need to be reinforced.
- c. Treasurer’s Report- Kris C.
- i. Checking: \$14,752.04
 - ii. Outgoing: Going to pay for the honor the game stickers hopefully tomorrow. Filing the annual report with the state of WA, which was \$10. MBO Coordinator, Nick Lyon, finally cashed his check from the 2021 Spring season.
 - iii. Fees should be about the same as last year.
 - 1. MBO: \$85 per declared team
 - 2. Referee fees: \$50 per declared 5/6 and 7/8 team per game, \$40 per declared ¾ team per game.
 - 3. SSYL Registration: \$100 per declared team.
 - 4. Arbiter fee: \$25 per declared team.
 - iv. Regarding the lawsuit, I didn’t state anything other than our insurance company is through US Lacrosse as advised through an attorney friend.
 - 1. Mark (Hornets)- Like mentioned previously, this is a case of mistaken identity. This is something we knew we were going to deal with when the for-profit business changed their name.
- d. Secretary’s Report – Melanie C.
- i. Accuracy of President and Rep Contact Information
 - ii. 2022 Club Compliance
 - iii. TO DO Secretary- Update the website with previous meeting minutes and add Consequences for SSYL document.
 - iv. Critical dates-
 - 1. 1/17 team declaration- email to Mark
 - 2. 1/22 General meeting- Club Compliance Due- club dues
 - 3. 2/9 MBO and Referee fees due
 - 4. 3/5 first Game of the season (10 weeks of games 1 bye week)
 - 5. 5/21-22 End of Season Tournament
 - v. Drew (Tacoma)- It looks like we have 12 weeks from our first game and the tournament.
 - vi. Mark (Hornets)- This will allow us to have a BYE week with 10 games, then the 12th week is our tournament.
5. Old Business
- a. Chris Hall Memorial Scholarship- DUE two weeks prior to General Meeting (Jan. 8th)
 - i. Mark (Hornets)- We have not received anything yet. Get the word out to your clubs, especially if you have a family on the fence with wanting to pick up lacrosse as a new sport. This will also help with costs for the new chest pads.

b. Referee team locations

- i. Mark (Hornets)- I was able to get the number of referees for each club/location. This hasn't excluded the kids that graduated so it looks to me like there's fairly a decent pool of kids that will be moving on. There's going to be an opportunity for new referees to be training. As a reminder we need 1.5 referee per each declared team per club. ER has 9 referees, Puyallup has 4, and Rogers doesn't have any but they are all from the same area. Auburn River side has 2 but their high school isn't in our league, so they would be Bonney lake (1 may be graduated out). 5 referees from bellarmine. 2 referees from Edgewood. We need to put some effort into this. If you don't get some feeders coming into this, you're going to end up with the same issue. This may be something we need to put into our consequences. We cannot continue to ignore this and not help build up the referees. If we don't have referees, we don't have a league. If you do not have referees close by, you cannot do weekday games.
- ii. This is the report from Bambrick.

Emerald Ridge Lacrosse Club-9
Gig Harbor Lacrosse-1
GK Eagles Youth Lacrosse-1
Hornet Youth Lacrosse-0
Kitsap Youth Lacrosse Association-1
North Kitsap Lacrosse-3
North Tapps Legacy Lacrosse-2
Olympia Lacrosse Club-1
Orting Lacrosse Club-1
Peninsula Lacrosse Club-2
Puyallup Vikings Lacrosse-4
Rogers Lacrosse Club-0
Sumner Bonney Lake Youth Lacrosse-2
Tacoma Tigers lacrosse Club-1
Twin Cities Lacrosse Club-0
University Place Lacrosse Club- 2
Vashon Lacrosse Club-1

- 1. Matt (Rogers)- Can we get information regarding refereeing that we can share with upcoming freshmen? Also, when does the training program start?
- 2. TO DO President- Get information from Bambrick regarding training for referees.
- 3. Chris (Orting)- as of right now Bambrick has not set the date for the training. He needs to know how many people are interested, then he will set a date.

c. League Athletics vs Sports Engine-

- i. Mark (Hornets)- I've been in contact with Lynn Porterfield, the USL regional rep. She was not aware of a timeline. She will be looking into it and get back to me.

6. New Business.

a. SSYL Website Coordinator-

- i. Mark (Hornets)- Do we have anyone interested in taking on the SSYL Website Coordinator position? This was previously done by Eric from Tahoma. Since Tahoma has left, the position is open. I've talked Melanie about taking this on as the Secretaries position.
- ii. Melanie (Eagles)- Yeah, I can start doing this as part of the secretary's position. It would mostly be updating the meeting minutes on the website and when games start, updating the scores. Also, updating the executive board with any comments from the games.
 - 1. TO DO President- email information for the website to the secretary.

b. Team Declaration Forms

- i. Mark (Hornets)- It seems as though no matter where teams are placed, there's always some teams unhappy. Some people feel that they should be able to choose which division their teams should play at. We understand that teams' abilities fluctuate since kids age out or move up to the next age group. This complicates placing teams in the correct division. Last year our number one ranked team on paper (based on years of experience, year-round play and coaches experience), placed 4th or 5th place. It's not a perfect science. Last year we had teams swap divisions and the team that moved down won most all their games and the team that moved up lost most all of their games so they were probably in their correct division. Sometimes coaches feel want to win to show their community that they are a good coach. Happy teams are those that win but that's not the way sports leagues work. We have a metrics in deciding where the teams should be placed in their divisions. This is very quantitative so that way have provable measurements that can say why we made those decisions. Once in a while we miss the mark but for the most part, it's right on mark. Please make sure the athletic director and coaches work together in filling out their declaration forms. Try to make it as accurate and honest as possible and let the cards fall where they may.
 1. Drew N. (Tacoma)- I agree with just about everything. I think if we did more inter division games, it would give a better level of competition. It may give the lower A division team as chance to play against the higher B division teams.
 2. Mark (Hornets)- it makes sense but it works best if you have more weeks than teams. The year before last year we had 3 divisions. Maybe that is something we can do this year, 3 divisions with some cross overs. The best isn't always feasible.
 3. Chris (Orting) – Since half the team moves into a different level, it's hard to solely consider from the previous year's stats.
7. Next Meeting –**Wednesday, January 12th @ 7pm Via Video chat**
 - i. 1/17 team declarations due- email to Mark
 - ii. 1/22 General meeting- Club Compliance and dues
- b. Motion to adjourn: 7:58pm