

MIAA Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse Meeting  
(In Person) MIAA Offices - Franklin, MA  
September 14, 2021  
Combined Meeting

1. Call to Order at 10 am.
  - a. Welcome remarks offered by Kathleen McSweeney (MIAA Staff). She noted this was our first in person meeting in eight months. MIAA offices require masks for those not vaccinated for Covid, but members were free to wear them regardless.
  - b. Members will be going between our meeting and other MIAA meetings occurring simultaneously so voting member numbers will vary throughout the meeting.
  - c. Introductions of those in attendance were made (Attendance Attached)
2. Election of Officers – Girls
  - a. Motion to Appoint Lindsey von Holtz as Chair of the Girls' Lacrosse Committee made by Ellen Holmes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary Lou Thimas. Unanimous 5-0.
  - b. Motion to Appoint Dan O'Brien as Vice Chair of the Girls' Lacrosse Committee made by Lindsey von Holtz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ellen Holmes. Unanimous 5-0.
  - c. Motion to Appoint Ellen Holmes Secretary to the Girls' Lacrosse Committee made by Lindsey von Holtz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan O'Brien. Unanimous 6-0.
3. Election of Officers – Boys
  - a. Motion to Appoint Dan O'Brien as Chair of the Boys' Lacrosse Committee made by Justin Domingos, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ellen Holmes. Unanimous 7-0.
  - b. Motion to Appoint Lindsey von Holtz as Vice Chair of the Boys' Lacrosse Committee made by Dan O'Brien, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ellen Holmes. Unanimous 6-0.
  - c. Motion to Appoint Ellen Holmes Secretary to the Boys' Lacrosse Committee made by Lindsey von Holtz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan O'Brien. Unanimous 6-0.
4. Conflict of Interest and Mileage Forms
  - a. Members were asked to read and sign the form. It is good for one year (so if you've completed it already this fall for another committee, you are set). Mileage forms were also distributed for completion by members.
5. Role of Committee Members – Governance Structure
  - a. Kathleen McSweeney distributed a sheet identifying MIAA's Constitutional Organization. Dan O'Brien provided additional comment on the role of members and committee within the structure.
6. Approval of the 14 January 2020 Minutes
  - a. Girls' – Jeff Parcels, 2<sup>nd</sup> by ML Thimas. Motion to Approve - Unanimous 6-0.
  - b. Boys – Margaret Granados, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Lee. Motion to Approve - Unanimous 8-0
7. Tournament Directors' Report – None Present
  - a. Kathleen McSweeney wanted to publicly acknowledge the tremendous work done by the Tournament Directors (Kathryn Hopp, Dan Brothers, Scott Paine, Barry Haley and Ron Dowd) this past Spring. They went above and beyond for the benefit of the student athletes.  
Dan O'Brien expressed his thanks to the full Boys' and Girls' Committee members as well as they handled a great deal of work to put student athletes first.
  - b. MIAA is moving to one State Tournament with a State Director to cover Boys' and Girls' Lacrosse. Kathleen McSweeney will hire Assistant State Directors. They will have more intimate knowledge of their areas and school situations.
  - c. MIAA is using ARBITER not MAX PREPS this year. This information has been shared broadly, but there is still some confusion (based on communications received by MIAA).
    - i. Standings should be published weekly, but won't start until the week of September 27<sup>th</sup>.
    - ii. There are some questions with Arbiter still being worked out.

- d. Terri Riggs inquired about how assigner will work. Some assigners during the lacrosse season were paid; Girls' assigners were not. Kathleen McSweeney asked Terri Riggs to reach out and see how this might be reconciled. All assigners should have been paid as there were funds made available to schools to cover costs (due to the grant). Moving forward, assigners will now fall under the State Director.
8. Coaches' Representative Report – None Present
  9. Officials' Representative Report
    - a. Terri Riggs covered Girls' Rule Changes. These changes were focused on expanding the opportunities to make the girls' game more fluid. (Substitutions – throughout the game including between overtime periods, during a re-draw and during the administration of a player suspension/ejection matching the flow created by free movement.)
    - b. Goalkeepers allowed to wear clear, molded and rigid helmet eye shield in combination with tinted/clear eyeglasses.
    - c. Allow facemasks which are soft and non-abrasive worn for medical and/or religious reasons.
    - d. Players allowed to wear hair ties and other soft, non-rigid items on the arm. Hair adornments such as beads can be worn in the hair if they are secured and do not endanger other players.
    - e. The requirement of shin protection for goalkeepers has been removed, but the option to wear is maintained to create consistency with boys and girls.
    - f. The requirement to stop the clock on every whistle during the last two minutes of each half and overtime has been eliminated. The clock will stop on all fouls in the critical scoring area during the last two minutes of each half, overtime (unless playing with a running clock). Official's timeouts include alternating possession, inadvertent whistle and offsides.
    - g. D. Benson not here, but Dan O'Brien provided updates for the Boys' game. We will return to pre-Covid rules regarding face-offs. During the pandemic, NCAA rules for faceoffs were in place to help make the draw occur faster. We will return to Federation rules for this season as we have in the past.
  10. Three Person System (Tournament)
    - a. Terri Riggs and Mary Lou Thimas both spoke on the challenges they have found implementing this. There simply are not enough officials available to fully cover Tournament play. (We began 3-person coverage at Sections in Girls' Lacrosse last season.) Beyond the shortage, where we have had three officials, occasionally it has been only three bodies, not three fully trained officials experienced in the Three Person System. They noted at a time when many girls' officials are aging out of the sport, not enough young folks are coming into it. There is an open ask that people speak to their networks and encourage more participation in officiating. A question was asked about reaching out to the many colleges, but that provides very limited stop gap assistance (not nearly at the levels needed). It also tends to create a brief period of coverage as most leave after graduation. Further questions were asked about seeking a rule change. It was noted that this is most likely looked upon as a Title IX legal question. The Three Person System is used in Boys' (and they have not experienced the challenges the girls have). Boys start their Three Person at the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> Round where Girls received a waiver to start at the Sectionals.
  11. Arbiter
    - a. Jan Martin provided a brief demonstration of the Arbiter site that Ads would be using.
    - b. Questions about Arbiter's Gender Categories (Male/Female only). Not reflective of the DEI work school districts are undergoing especially with our non-binary students. Jan Martin noted it was a national system, and there are aspects MIAA is still in discussions with Arbiter to resolve.
    - c. The officials noted the challenges they are experiencing.
      - i. Not being notified of games being cancelled
      - ii. Jeff Parcels shared he uses a filter to monitor "Game Problems". If an AD cancels a game, but the other school's AD does not accept the change, the game will still show that is still to be played. If an official shows up to a game, schools must pay them.

## 12. State-wide Tournament Discussion

- a. Sherry Bryant provided an update to changes to the tournament.
- b. TMC meets tomorrow to discuss these changes.
  - i. There is a FAQ which will be uploaded.
  - ii. Power rankings are not showing as they require approximately 4 weeks of scoring data. They should be available by the week of the 27<sup>th</sup> of September. It is dependent upon scores being entered. ADs control that so they must enter the information. The Assistants will remind Ads, but not enter the data for them.
  - iii. Higher seeded teams will host through the Round of 8. The Final Four and Finalists sites will be set by the assigners.
  - iv. Online ticketing through Go Fan will be used from the Round of 16 forward. At the finals, set General Admission ticket prices will be used. Prior to that \$5 Student/ \$10 Adult will be used. (There is a conveyance fee in addition charged.) Some districts may wish to investigate Go Fan to be used during the regular season to eliminate collection and security of funds. You can also use it for other activities such as dances, graduation, performances, etc.
  - v. Another Town Hall meeting will be hosted by TMC shortly.
  - vi. Spring Alignments have not been posted yet, but should be next week
  - vii. State Tournaments' Tie-Breaker Process
    1. Head to Head
    2. Higher average of each team
    3. League Champion
    4. Coin Flip or (for more than 2) Number pulled out of a hat – which will return you to #1
    5. Handshake is being replaced by Sportsmanlike Gesture, Tapping of Sticks, etc.

## 13. Title IX – Fifty Year Celebration

- a. Kathleen McSweeney highlighted that this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of Title IX. It would be great if members would highlight women during this anniversary. Additional suggestions included Title IX decals on courts and field hockey sticks, etc.

## 14. Educational Athletics

- a. Twenty different programs available

## 15. DEI Committee Update (Discriminatory Incident Report)

- a. The Discriminatory Incident Report will come before the Board of Directors at their September 28<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting. If accepted, it will go into effect for the winter season. The training for the DIR will be like the online tool used for Concussion Training, and districts will need to demonstrate compliance of players. Incidents will be handled in a fashion resembling the Chemical Health infractions. The intend is to be instructional/educational; not punitive.

## 16. Adjournment – 11:45am

- a. Girls' Committee - Jeff Parcels, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan O'Brien - Unanimous
- b. Boys' Committee – Justin Domingos, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lindsey von Holtz – Unanimous

**Next Meeting January 14, 2022 – Virtual**

### **Attendees**

**Girls' Committee: Lindsey von Holtz , Dan O'Brien. Ellen Holmes, Terri Riggs, Mary Lou Thimas, Jeff Parcels**

**Boys' Committee: Dan O'Brien, Lindsey von Holtz , Ellen Holmes, Jeff Ogden, James Forrest, Dan Lee, Justin Domingos, Margaret Granados**

**MIAA Staff: Kathleen McSweeney with Jan Martin and Sherry Bryant**