

CONNYLACROSSE

February 6, 2007 MEETING of the CONNY BOARD of DIRECTORS

The CONNY Board of Directors met on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 in the Boardroom of the Pitt Center, at Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. A quorum being present, President Bob Russell called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

A. ATTENDANCE

Program/Position	Name	Program	Name
President	Bob Russell	Milford	Terry Tiernan
VP-Competition	Charlie Dear		Andrew West
VP-League Play	Mac McDermott		Michael Jambaluo
Secretary	Jack Couch		Brian O'Neill
Amity	Steve Makowski	New Canaan	Doug Richardson
Bethel	Dan Sieban		Jenkins Marshall
Brookfield	Mark Sackerson		Steve Kraus
	Jim Brady	New Fairfield	Marty Morgan
	James Burns		Rick Bouwman
Cheshire	Rich Heritage	New Milford	Mac McDermott
	Alex Trasacco		Mike Cipriani
	Marc Russo	Newtown	Robert Marsi
Darien	Tim West	New York City/Doc's NYL	Robert Phillips
	Kevin Waldron	North Haven	Mark Butterworth
	Jason Pokorny		George Fredericks
Eastchester	Joe Gendusa	Norwalk	Chris Plumb
Eli	Fred Groen	Old Lyme/Connecticut River	Shawn Block
Fairfield-Wakeman	Rich Greenwood		Jeff Flower
	Brian Smith		Mark Fader
	Brian Nerreau	Pomperaug	Mark Zaloumis
	Scott Seymour	Redding-Easton	Paul Stauffer
	Dean Ryan		Robbie Palazzo
Guilford	Steven Lee		Steve Miller
	Brad Isnard		Mark Cammarota
	Rick Fitzgerald		Dan O'Hara
	Ann Ranfone		Paul Taylor
	Frank E Ranfone	Shelton	Scott Smith
	Mark Gamrandella		Tony Branca
Greenwich	Marty D'Andria		Bob Clarke
	Susu Miller		Tim Arrico
	Eugene Miller	Stratford	Pat Corcoran
Hamden	Dominick Sannino	Trumbull	Paul Watson
	Tom Geirin	Watertown	Al Saavedra
John Jay	Chris Maxim		Matt Glaser
	Sunho Lee	Weston	Bob Peyreigne
Larchmont/Mamaroneck		Westport	Don Kubie
Litchfield Hills	Greg Gannon		Steve Orban
	Steven Cornell	John Solder	
Madison	Paul Alberti		Dave Long
	Hugh O'Toole		Barry Leskin
		Wilton	Dave Nightengale
		Yorktown	Steve Mabus

B. MINUTES

- December 5, 2006 Minutes**—Approval of the minutes of the December 5, 2006 Meeting of the CONNY Board of Directors as distributed was moved, seconded, and carried (msc).

President's and Executive Committee Report

President Russell had nothing to report not covered elsewhere in these minutes.

- Treasurer's Report**—Treasurer Rob Campbell recommended keeping the CONNY Dues unchanged as follows:

\$275.00	Covers the first two teams a member program enters in CONNY play (not counting Bantams)
\$100.00	Fee for each additional Junior and Senior team entered in CONNY play (no fee is charged for Bantam teams).

Approval of the Treasurer’s Dues Proposal was moved, seconded, and carried (msc).

3. **Secretary's Report**—Secretary Jack Couch’s report covered several pieces of business:

- **2007 CONNY Schedule of Events:** The schedule as distributed was changed to move the last opportunity to designate teams entered in the CONNY Tournaments to the May 8 CONNY Board meeting. Revised schedule is attached.
- **D & O Insurance:** Mr. Couch proposed that CONNY purchase directors and officers insurance through USLacrosse. A proposal to direct the Treasurer to secure the insurance was msc.
- **Shrub Oak:** Mr. Couch distributed copies Shrub Oak’s request to reactivate their membership in CONNY. Approval of the request was msc.
- **Danbury 9th Grader Request:** President Russell tabled this discussion until the March meeting of the board.
- **Shelton Youth Lacrosse:** Mr. Couch clearly identified the leadership of Shelton's CONNY-member program as recognized by the Board at the December 5, 2006 meeting and differentiated it from the renegade one-man regional program now run by the previous Shelton leadership. As reported in the December meeting, that previous leadership had refused to adhere to published City of Shelton requirements for youth programs using city facilities (open registration, a formal organization with board of directors including parents, etc.) and as a consequence, was denied recognition by Shelton Recreation and Parks Dept. and use of city fields. More important from CONNY’s standpoint, under questioning for the CONNY officers, that previous leadership subsequently admitted that he had flagrantly ignored the CONNY Bylaw and Regulation that require 100% USLacrosse membership for all players and coaches (only a small percentage of players were members). Therefore, the program was not a CONNY member in good standing at any time during the 2006 season, and thus, the Board acted properly when it recognized the new leadership in Shelton. Because the former leadership is presenting his regional elite team as “Shelton Lacrosse,” Mr. Couch urged CONNY members to be sure they are scheduling the CONNY-member program if they get any calls to schedule games with Shelton.

Expanding on that theme, and picking up on the discussion of regional self-styled “elite” teams in Greenwich and Madison as well as the Shelton renegade team at the December meeting, Mr. Couch urged members to "Know Who You Are Scheduling!" He reminded members that games played with the regional “elite” teams do not count for CONNY Tournaments or All Star qualification.

- **2007 CONNY Rules of Play:** Mr. Couch reported that nobody had proposed changes to the CONNY Boys Rules of Play (for Juniors and Seniors) or Bantam Rules. Furthermore, there apparently are no substantive changes in the 2007 NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Book that require changes to the CONNY Rules (there are some renumbering, terminology, and organizational changes in the NFHS book). Therefore, Mr. Couch moved that the 2006 CONNY Boys Rules of Play and Bantam Rules be adopted for 2007, with suitable changes to numbering, etc. required to correspond with the NFHS Boys Lacrosse Rules Book. The seconded and carried. In a related decision, a list of sticks that will not be legal in 2009 will be prepared so member programs will be able to discourage players from using them and, perhaps, becoming psychologically dependant on them.

4. **League Play Committee**

VP-League Play Mac McDermott reported that there were no new developments, but reminded members that schedules must be posted on CONNYlacrosse.org before games will count for CONNY Tournaments qualification and All Star eligibility. In addition, as reported above, the date by which all CONNY tournament teams must be designated is now May 8, coincident with the May CONNY Board meeting.

5. **Competition Committee**

2007 CONNY Tournaments: The committee had nothing new to report, except that discussions continue with Yale. A proposal to give priority to playing Senior games at Yale/Hopkins in the event of rain was msc. Thus, if rain curtails the Tournaments as it did in 2006, Junior games will be played at other venues.

2007 CONNY East-West All-Star Festival: Proposals to host this event should be sent to VP-Competition Charlie Dear. The site and date will be chosen at the March meeting.

2007 Connecticut Chapter Select Teams: Steve Makowski reported that the Select Team tryouts had taken place as scheduled and the teams selected. All other paperwork, etc., is on schedule.

6. **Coaches Training**

On behalf of the Executive and Training Committees, Mr. Couch proposed the following Rules Training protocol for 2007:

- **Require passing the current CONNY Online Rules Test every year, but do not require attending in-person “rules training” at all.** Passing the online rules test has become a de facto annual requirement because it is how someone registers as a coach on CONNYlacrosse.org. CONNY still should offer the rules workshops as a service to prepare coaches to pass the online test. The 2007 CONNY Online Rules Test will be posted shortly on CONNYlacrosse.org.
- **Add the US Lacrosse Level 1 Online Coaches Course as an alternative to the Positive Coaches Alliance Double-Goal Coach 1 online course.** The US Lacrosse Level 1 course contains much sport specific information not included in the PCA course, while also conveying much of the behavioral training so important in the PCA course. The US Lacrosse Level 2 Course will be available by next season, and the Level 1 Course will be a prerequisite for taking it, so steering CONNY coaches to the US Lacrosse progression now will benefit them later. US Lacrosse assures us that they will be able to let us know in a timely manner who passes their course (PCA reports only once per month).
- **Eliminate the in-person training requirement for 2007 ONLY, unless a convenient schedule of PCA or US Lac clinics can be scheduled before the end of March.**

All proposals were msc.

C. **NEXT MEETING**

The Board considered various dates on which the Board Room of the Pitt Center at Sacred Heart University will be available over the next six months. The Board will meet next on Tuesday, March 13, at 7:30 PM.

Subsequent meetings will be on April 3 and May 8, starting at 8:30 PM to accommodate practices.

However, as dates are subject to change, be sure to check www.CONNYlacrosse.org for confirmation.

D. **ADJOURNMENT**

Prior to adjournment and the beginning of the Scheduling Scramble, President Russell came back to the theme of “Know Who You Are Scheduling.” He restated clearly and emphatically that CONNY does not and should not prohibit member programs from scheduling games with regional non-CONNY teams that draw their players from several CONNY member communities, such as those in Shelton, Madison, and Greenwich. CONNY has never restricted participation in non-CONNY tournaments or contests. However, President Russell and the other CONNY officers did urge members to “look into their consciences” if they do choose to schedule games with such self-styled “elite” regional teams because they so directly challenge the very essence of CONNY as an organization of *community-based* youth lacrosse programs.

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Jack Couch
Secretary