

CTYLA

Central Texas Youth Lacrosse Association

Board Meeting: 5/21/13

As a wrap-up to the season, the board and affiliates in attendance reviewed and heard discussion on several topics to assess strengths and weaknesses and begin plans for the 2014 season.

Affiliate programs represented: Georgetown, Trojans, T&C, St Andrews, New Horizons, Lake Travis, WAYL, WAYA, Vista Ridge, Round Rock, Vipers, Dripping Springs, and Regents.

SCHEDULING:

For the 2013 season, we divided teams into regional “Pods” to reduce travel. It was a formal division at the Bantam level but was also a guideline at the other levels. Red and White flights did not have enough teams to take advantage of the concept. Overall reaction was positive with suggestions that we formalize it at every level for the majority of games – perhaps with 6 games within a pod and 2 games outside to ensure that we have good cross-pollination around the league.

Suggestions for future scheduling include proper execution of a manual scheduling process – a meeting or draft done in-person by each team or organization – and consideration of either a new online system or entering “Pods” as separate leagues to simplify the online process. Additional aspects of divisions may include “directors” to manage schedule and changes.

Next Step: Looking for volunteers to form a task force that would look into software, develop a plan for a manual scheduling process, and develop a proposal for regional divisions. A plan and date for manual scheduling meeting should be announced in September to allow all teams to prepare.

DIVISIONS:

We had very few teams entering the Red and White divisions of Junior and Senior levels, there was discussion to determine the hesitancy toward utilizing these divisions and whether they should continue. The ability to accurately choose the best division for a team at the beginning of the season remains difficult and proposals were made to build on league guidelines and formalize a metric system to rate players, and therefore teams. Counter arguments suggest the additional work and data collection wouldn't necessarily pay off. Additional suggestions included the development of a fourth division, either splitting “Upper Blue” and “Lower Blue” teams, or perhaps a high-end division for teams who are consistently participating in championships to make sure all divisions are truly competitive.

Next Step: Looking for volunteers to form a task force that would develop realistic and valuable solutions.

RULES:

We had two sets of rules this season; Seniors playing by modified NCAA rules and Junior, Lightning and Bantam playing by US Lacrosse (modified NFHS) which caused a great deal of confusion for coaches and officials. The overwhelming recommendation was to return to a single set of rules with a strong suggestion that they be NCAA to align with high school programs.

Further suggestions included creation of a PDF file that would include all the rules plus our waivers so all the information is in one place.

Next Step: Dan St Andre and Dave Emerick will head up a rules task force and could use some other voices to help develop plans for identifying a rule system, clarifying waivers for each level, and distributing it to programs.

TRAINING:

As the rules are developed, we also need to ensure both officials and coaches are trained properly so they can teach and apply them and increase player safety.

With the change to US Lacrosse and its budgeting process, a proposal was made to develop a local training corps for coaches in addition to USL CEP training.

Next Step: Looking for volunteers to develop a plan for coach and official training that can be rolled into the USL chapter budget proposal in July.

COMMUNICATION:

Requests have been made to hold additional CTYLA meetings. From simply adding a meeting during the season to hosting monthly meetings, there's a call for increased contact. A suggestion was made to incorporate technology so that some meetings could be via phone or video conference so we can achieve that contact while ensuring that more programs can participate.

Next Step: Looking for recommendations and ideas – starting with objectives for meetings.

PERSONNEL:

With continued growth and ideas/needs that require attention, the league will suffer if only a couple people are actively executing. A proposal was made to require each affiliate program to put forth 2 volunteers each year to participate in task forces activities, scheduling or other administrative functions.

Next Step: Looking for ideas and recommendations – and volunteers.

MEETINGS:

Many of these topics will need to be developed and ready for a vote in September. Tentative date for that meeting is Monday, September 9, though we may require another before then.