

MEETING NOTES

Texas Girls High School Lacrosse League – Central District

October 21, 2015, 6:30 pm

St. Andrew's Upper School, Library

1. Meeting called to order by Rich Weigand

2. Attendance and General Announcements

- Attendance list is at the end of these notes
- Recognition of DI and DII champs from last year - St. Michael's and Georgetown respectively.
- Extra special thanks to Laura Longoria and Chris Shea for their continued support of league business.

3. Contact List Update

Official Member contact list circulated. Updated version will be posted on the Secure web page in www.ctghssl.org

4. New Teams Applying for Membership or Moving up to Varsity Status

Dripping Springs approved for Varsity DII membership.

Lago Vista and Smithson Valley have expressed an interest in District play but did not apply for membership.

5. Election of District Coordinators

Rich Weigand and Laura Longoria voted in as District Coordinators

6. District Volunteers and their Roles

US Lacrosse All Academic and All American Coordinator roles were described and volunteers solicited. Members asked to try to identify potential candidates for these important roles.

7. Vandegrift Request to Field Both DI and DII Varsity Teams

The request was withdrawn by Vandegrift. All DII programs were strongly encouraged to schedule games with Vandegrift JV.

There was a general discussion regarding dual division Varsity members. There was consensus to revisit this option among all three League Districts after the current proposed new League Rules are finalized, and before the 2017 season.

8. Division Realignment for 2016 Season

The Varsity Division realignment proposed for 2016 was voted on and approved.

DI – Cedar Park, Georgetown, St. Andrews, St. Michaels, St. Stephens, Vandegrift, Westlake

DII – Austin, Bowie, Dripping Springs, Knitros, Lake Travis, LBJ/LASA, McNeil, Stony Point, Westwood

Members were asked if they planned to field a JV team and their total roster numbers to help define potential JV programs. The information presented at the meeting is included at the end of these notes.

JV plans for 2016 were discussed and the following recommendations approved.

- Teams that can honor all the League rules regarding JV and V eligibility will play a competitive JV season among themselves. These games will be referred to as "JV A count

games.” In addition to following all eligibility requirements, these programs must submit and maintain V and JV rosters in accordance with League and District requirements.

- Teams that cannot honor all the League eligibility rules may schedule JV B “non-count” games with other programs. Coaches should contact an opposing team’s coach in advance of any game (48 hours minimum suggested) and declare and agree on the use of players that would normally not be eligible for a JV competition, and to agree on any other rule alterations (number of players on the field, size of field, length of game, etc.).

Complaints that a team takes advantage of these rule waivers to specifically gain a competitive edge will be reviewed and, if confirmed, the team may have current and future season games cancelled.

Members were reminded that rosters are due January 15 and that there is a specific template that needs to be used. The form includes the name of the school each player attends and each player’s residence address. Private school variance for January 15 deadline is under review. Rosters will be posted on the district web site and teams may want to use them when preparing game day scorebooks.

9. Game Scheduling Process for 2016 Season

Laura Longoria described the upcoming process and asked for blackout dates once more. Scheduling meeting will be December 3 at St. Andrew’s.

10. Central Official’s Association Update – Carolyn Merritt

- There is critical shortage of officials for this coming season. Merritt wants to see at least 7 new officials come out of the high school division. All programs were asked to solicit players, parents, friends, etc. to find officials candidates.
- Mouthguards cannot be clear, ~~pink~~, or white, and may not have tabs sticking out. (Deleted “pink” as per Merritt update 10/27)
- Ear piercing will be enforced – no band aids to hide recent piercings.
- Legal sticks – new rule changes are very specific and need to be understood by coaches. Coaches are responsible for checking their player’s sticks. Anticipate more time for stick checks by the officials. Don’t assume a stick “purchased off the shelf” is legal.
- Coach and Umpire relations – officials are doing the best they can. If you get the “mom hand” you need to back down immediately.
- Coaches need to attend the rules update meeting. Will likely be January 27, and will likely be at the Chaps Room at Westlake High School.
- Officials will come to one of your practices, a scrimmage, etc. to help with your team understand the rules. Contact Carolyn Merritt.

11. US Lacrosse Central Texas Chapter Update – Julie Maynard

- Chapter Includes Austin, San Antonio, and could extend as far as El Paso and Midland
- Julia is the current president.
- Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month at Vandegrift, but they are shifting to conference calls.
- Chapter is trying to make sure there is growth in the area and that all is going as it should.
- Level 1 coaching clinic December 5 at St. Stephen’s. 8 hour long session. There is a stipend for US Lax members.
- One of Julia’s goals has been to make sure there is parity in US Lacrosse support of boy’s and girl’s lacrosse in this area.
- The Chapter will be supporting the GDA training on December 10 at Twin Oaks Branch Library.

- Julia described the Team Texas team process for last year and for this coming year in detail. Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more should contact Julia directly.

12. District Playoff Plans

- Member program preference is that the District keeps the Thursday (semifinals) and Monday (finals) format.
- Members were reminded that the highest seeded team has the first option to host both semifinal games. If they decline then the second seed team has the option, and so forth.
- Member programs interested in hosting the finals should declare their interest as soon as possible. Let Rich or Laura know.

13. Upcoming League Meeting

Everyone reminded that the Annual League meeting is November 15 at St. Stephen's School from noon to 5. Submit a proxy if you cannot attend. Adoption of new rules is very important.

There was additional discussion to determine if programs wanted the League to pursue the Dual Varsity program option for the 2017 season. There was general support for Dual Varsity programs provided there were specific restrictions on how it is implemented. There was strong support for this option if teams were required to field a JV program in addition to the two Varsity programs. There was little support for this option if teams could field the Varsity teams without fielding a JV program.

14. Administrative Reminders

Need Proof of Insurance, Rosters, Head Coach US Lacrosse membership confirmation, and League Dues by January 15.

15. District Web Site Update

Home team is responsible for reporting scores with 24 hours.

16. Medical Personnel at all District Games (V and JV)

The following was voted on and approved for all District V and JV games:

The home team shall make available immediate, on-the-field, first aid services by a licensed athletic trainer, team physician, or licensed health care professional. This individual should remain near the bench area before and during the game, and should be introduced to all officials and the visiting team coaches prior to the start of the game.

17. Recommended Improvements to the All State Selection Process

The following changes to the All State selection process were approved for use this season:

1. *As games are played throughout the season coaches will identify "Players of Note" from the opposing team (similar to the old game MVP process).*
 - *Home team bench crew will collect 0 to 3 Players of Note for the opposing team from each head coach.*
 - *Home team bench crew is encouraged to remind each coaching staff of this at the beginning of the game and/or at halftime.*
 - *Home team bench crew will collect responses at the end of game and will report Players of Note when reporting game scores and stats on the CTGHSL website.*
 - *In addition to the obvious players (high scorer/ high saves), coaches are encouraged to recognize other players such as strong/fast transition mid-fielders and strong defenders.*
2. *Coaches will submit nominations for All State recognition from their own team.*
 - *They should provide written support for each player they nominate by providing commentary and/or stats, including Players of Note recognitions.*

- *When providing stats coaches should distinguish between in-division game stats (D1 or D2) and /or out-of-division stats.*
 - *Coaches are not limited in the number of nominations they may make.*
3. *Coaches cannot vote for their own players.*

18. Uniform Colors

The following was voted on and approved for all District games:

The home team will wear white/light color jerseys. The only exception would be if the visiting team has a hardship that prohibits them from wearing dark jerseys. The visiting team must notify the home team at least 72 hours before the game if they intend to wear light color jerseys.

19. District Expense Reimbursement Stipend

A stipend amount of \$75 per Varsity team was approved for the 2016 season.

20. Upcoming Meetings

- a. League Meeting – St. Stephen’s School – 11/15 – noon to 5:00. Send Rich recommended changes to the proposed rules well before the meeting.
- b. District Scheduling Meeting – St. Andrew’s Upper School – 12/3 – 6:30 to 8:30pm
- c. Game Administrator Coordinator Training – Twin Oaks Branch Austin Public Library – 12/10 – 6:30 to 8:30pm

Other Business: Carolyn Merritt will send League dues invoices (amount still to be determined) in December.

Meeting Adjourned

Program	Attendance	Name of Rep	JV/Program #'s
Austin	X	Leslie Feldman	No/18-20
Bowie	X	Duane Lardon	Yes/30-31
Cedar Park	X	Dawn, Richard	Yes/30
Dripping Springs	X	Caitlin, Holly	No/25
Georgetown	X	Kristen Heg	No/22
Knitros			
Lake Travis			
LBJ	X	Chuck, Bridget	No/27
McNeil	X	Libby Covey	No/17
St. Andrew's	X	Alyssa, Jeff	Yes/34
St. Michael's	X	Caitlin, Laura	Yes/39
St. Stephen's	X	Xan Funk	Yes/35
Stony Point	X	Maggie Bishop	Yes/35
Vandegrift	X	Veronica, Hallie, Nancy	Yes/44
Westlake	X	Monte, Jessica	Yes/50
Westwood	X	Susan, Hannah	Yes/36