

MHSLA Meeting Agenda

Location: Highline Office – 1203 N. Rouse, Bozeman, MT Unit C

Date: 10/4/2025

Time: 10:00 AM

Facilitator: Todd Thesing

Members Present: Present Members Highlighted in Yellow

Entity	Designated Representative	Other Representative	Other Representative
MHSLA President	Todd Thesing		
MHSLA Vice President	Pat Marron		
MHSLA Treasurer	Eric Sutherland		
MHSLA Secretary	Brad Koon		
Sheridan	Jeff Scheidemier	Online	
Billings Beartooth	Desarae Detling		
Billings Rimrock	Howard Ruzick		
Bozeman	Rob Leder		
Cody	TJ Gionet	Joe Haskins	Kevin Winters
Jackson	Tori Hederman	Online	
Last Chance	Nathan Nachtsheim	Rhett Buckland	
Butte	Dan Carroll		
Great Falls	Jeremy Comstock		
Missoula Wild	Jennie Grasser	Josh Angert	
Missoula Zoo Town	Elena Furrow		
Northwest Avalanche	Chris McLaughlin	Online	
Cheyenne	Colton Rasmussen	Online	

Introductions:

Went around the room and everyone introduced themselves and provided some information on themselves.

Discussion of Teams:

- Missoula
 - Wild - Boys only (Spartans and Wild Combined and are now HS Boys and Youth)
 - Zoo Town – Girls HS Only
- Billings (No change from last year)
 - Rimrock – Girls Only
 - Beartooth – Boys Only
 - Spartans doesn't exist anymore
- No other team changes
- Discussion of how to bring youth together to help grow the sport
- Billings HS and youth is separate
- Jackson Hole youth boys and girls are the same
 - Numbers are very high
- All MT teams are separate youth and High School
- Pat Marron VP said it is much better for scheduling fields when there are larger groups (i.e. work together with youth, HS, Boys, and Girls when scheduling fields to increase numbers)
 - Clubs should consider joining forces to have more negotiating power when scheduling fields.
- Nathan asked about Billings
 - Seems like there should be more field options
 - Desarae said there are fields but they aren't large enough
- Consider fields around town instead of limiting to keep all lacrosse games in one location.
 - Most Lacrosse people don't mind driving across town to a field in another location.
- Have draft schedule early this year which will help a lot.

1. President's Report

- a. Todd and Chris spoke with Dave Maderra regarding options for playing some Idaho teams.
 - i. Maybe a jamboree in Missoula.
 - ii. Work directly with Idaho club instead of Treasure State middle man
 - b. Chris needs blackout dates from Wild and Tori needs blackout dates from Bozeman Girls.
 - c. Working on some things in bylaws.
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2. Vice President's Report

Thank you for attending the annual fall meeting. I know we are all busy, but I appreciate everyone taking the time to make Montana High School Lacrosse better. I'm excited to see so many people here to develop and promote lacrosse in Montana. I don't have a high school player, but I do have two youth players that are excited to continue to play lacrosse and develop their skills. I hope this group will work together today to promote the game of lacrosse, sportsmanship, and player development for current and future lacrosse players.

3. Secretary Report

- a. Comments on 9/9/2025 MHSLA Minutes? None.
 - b. Update on Sports Engine or other platform.
 - i. John Noble has done some investigations including discussions with USA Lacrosse and online seminars.
 1. He has a little more work to do, but currently recommends Sports Engine.
 - a. No other program does all the things we need it to do.
 - b. Would need to use two separate programs in conjunction to do everything needed.
 2. Consider having everyone register individually through Sports Engine instead of teams registering.
 - a. Every person registers individually and pays through Sports Engine.
 - i. State Rep couldn't do it, it would all be done individually.
 - b. Club will collect money also to pay difference later on to cover the rest of the season.
 - c. When someone pays through Sports Engine, it will go directly to team.
 - d. Clubs would set up fees separately to cover other club costs.
 - e. Clubs can use other platforms, but will need someone to get info to John Noble separately.
 3. Jackson uses "Focus on the Field" to help with everything. They are a facilitator not a platform. Might be part of League apps.
 - a. ~\$1,000
 - 4. Ask John about Focus on the Field.**
 5. Only problem Todd has is getting parents to register twice if using different platforms.
 6. Ask John if we could hire Focus on the Field to register everyone.
 7. Maybe set up a lock system. Can't do one until you do another.
 8. Shouldn't be that big of a deal for parents to do this.
 9. Everyone register through Sports Engine to get everyone's name in the system.
 - a. Sports Engine will send out all registered kids to each team.
 - b. Then the team could just send an invoice out to everyone to pay fees to club.
 10. Struggled with Sports Engine for years because we have been using it backwards. Can offer much more ease if using it correctly.
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- 11. Clubs are using multiple different programs.
 - a. Crossbar
 - b. Team Snap
 - c. Sports Engine
 - d. USA Lacrosse
 - e. Team Stack
- 12. Just let the parents do it.
- 13. 566 un-rostered kids last year (boys and girls)

- **Individual players register in Sports Engine with deposit of \$50 to MHSLA to cover administrative costs.**

- Motion: Nathan
- Second: Jeremy
- Discussion:
- VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Butte (Not Present)	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Great Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Tally:	AYE 12 NO 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PASS	<input type="checkbox"/>
			FAIL	

John will set up in Sports Engine for individuals to register right away.
 Email Brad to let me know who is registering first.

- c. Update contact list
 - i. Pass around “Key Contact” and “Coaches” contact lists.
 - 1. Please clearly review contact names, emails, and phone numbers.
 - 2. If different than contact info for 2025, legibly write in 2026 row (Highlighted in Light Green).

4. Treasurer Report

- a. Bank balance \$17,953.32.
- b. Outstanding officiating fees from 2025.
 - i. Jackson = \$1,650
 - ii. Missoula Wild = \$950
 - iii. Great Falls = \$470
 - iv. Butte = \$420
 - v. Cheyenne \$400
- c. **Please Pay.**

5. Schedule

BOYS:

- Chris Mac presented draft schedule for Boys.
- Incorporated Idaho teams
 - Want to do North and South League every year where locations can be switched
 - Week 3 looks like the best weekend.
 - Try to get jamboree with Idaho every year.
- Tried to get youth and HS teams together as much as possible
- Tried to keep drive time similar for everyone, but some are more.
- Every change affects every other weekend.
- Chris asked everyone to go through the schedule and email Chris if you have any issues.
 - Issue examples:
 - Cannot play this weekend
 - Request moving time of game
 - Let's get this done by November 1.
- MLOA situation similar to last year with a few retiring.
- Jackson JV boys want to play in MHSLA league this year.
 - Don't need to vote because already a club on girls side.
- There will be some mistakes. Go to master schedule.

GIRLS:

- Tori working on schedule.

6. Elections

- a. President and Treasurer terms are up.
 - b. Nathan likes to maintain consistency.
 - c. Bylaws have President and Treasurer/Secretary and VP every other year.
 - d. Rep is a 2 year term also
 - e. Nathan has tried to step down in past but no one else steps up.
 - f. If people don't want to move these positions and are willing to stay in positions, put in notes that it was open for discussion. Don't need to go through 2 year process, but have discussions about elections.
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- g. Update a few issues in Bylaws. Specifically name of team. Make it more generic regarding when elections for each team are. Recently updated bylaws were not filed.
- h. Following is a summary of the proposed revisions for election cycles:
 - i. Odd Years
 - i. Missoula
 - ii. Helena
 - iii. Butte
 - iv. Bozeman
 - v. Jackson
 - j. Even
 - i. Kalispell
 - ii. Great Falls
 - iii. Billings
 - iv. Cheyenne
 - v. Sheridan
 - vi. Cody

If teams are added in the future, they will be added to one or the other of the above election cycles.

Change bylaws as noted above for elections and file bylaws.

- Motion: Nathan
- Second: Elena
- Discussion:
- VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Butte	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Great Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Tally: AYE 12 NO 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAIL

If anyone wants to run for President or Treasurer, names have to be in before November Meeting. If not positions stay as is.

- Motion: Nathan
- Second: Rob
- Discussion:
- VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Butte	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Great Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Tally: AYE 12 NO 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAIL

Odd Year Towns will have to submit new representatives by November meeting if plan to change.

- Motion: Nathan
- Second: Rob
- Discussion:
- VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Butte	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Great Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Spartans	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Tally: AYE 12 NO 0	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAIL

7. New Business

- a. Should there be a player code of conduct on the state level.
 - i. Maybe set up for register in Sports Engine.
 - ii. Leave it with the club
- b. Nathan asked if everyone has met new USA Lacrosse Rep
 - i. Elouise
 1. She's great
 - ii. Sent a letter to Nathan and Nathan sent to Todd.
 1. The letter from Elouise will be sent out to everyone.
- c. Can't grow High School without growing Youth.
 - i. Youth is struggling.
 1. Don't even have a board.
 - ii. Need guidance at the state level.
 - iii. After talking to Elouise and Lynn, they think the Youth and HS should be combined.
 1. Would need to get youth people to show up at our meetings.
 2. Elouise pulled numbers and numbers are down.
 - a. Focused on Montana and wants to help us out.
 - iv. Helena is taking another step to promote lacrosse.
 1. Promoting clubs through High School.
 2. Schools will need to support.
 3. Draw more attention that lacrosse is in schools.
 - v. 42 kids coming out of Capital this year.
 - vi. Youth needs someone to lead and keep youth on track.
 - vii. Treasure State organized last year and very expensive.
 1. \$750 per team to play.
 - viii. Josh Angert said preference is that one day trip model is better for youth.
 - ix. Tournament model became compromise between teams with and without the numbers.
 - x. Kalispell is hosting their own tournament to keep costs down. Has \$25K in corporate sponsors.
 - xi. Jackson also holds a tournament in Spring.
 - xii. Treasure State is pushing Great Falls to hold a tournament. Great Falls will likely hold own tournament without Treasure State.
 - xiii. Bozeman, Billings, and Helena using Treasure State.
 - xiv. Lots of issues with TSL tournaments last year, mostly with officials.
 - xv. Elena noted it might be good to have MLOA at our meeting.
 1. Todd said good point, and we have in the past.
 - xvi. Lighten up requirements for ref training for some of these youth tournaments.
 - xvii. Nathan will talk to some of the youth programs and Elouise to see what others have done and give a report in November Meeting.
 - xviii. Deserae asked if subcommittee should be set up.
 1. Pat Marron may be interested in coordinating this.
 - xix. Offer help to towns to help pay for TSL to host tournaments.
 - xx. Chris's take is that kids like to play for a trophy every weekend.
 1. Chris likes Todd's idea of raising money to supplement.

- d. Nathan re-visited Boundaries
 - i. Look at what boundaries have done for Football.
 - ii. Bozeman has 2 great high schools.
 - iii. Take Lyn's letter and Elouise's letter from this year.
 - 1. Recommend associating with a school.
 - iv. Not prepared to propose a boundary change at this time, but request everyone to start thinking about it.
 - e. Nathan thinks we are going in a positive direction.
 - f. Recommend bidding for State on 2 year basis.
 - i. Will help put on great tournament.
 - ii. Chris agrees with Nathan on having a 2 year schedule.
 - iii. Rob thinks every town should have opportunity to host state
 - iv. Bozeman gets this season. Bid for 2026 is due by November.
 - v. Todd asked if anyone will be making a bid for November.
 - 1. No one is.
 - vi. Plan rotation for 10 years out.
 - vii. Nathan said if plan for rotation, 2 years in a row is not as important.
 - viii. Local businesses support.
 - ix. Rob asked if Bozeman has a Google Drive with info regarding State Planning.
 - x. See if anyone submits a November Meeting for 2025.
 - 1. Go back to boards and see if rotation works for everyone and which years.
 - 2. Make decision for 2025 and future years in November meeting.
 - 3. November 2025 is the deadline.**
 - 4. Default for 2025 is Bozeman if no other bids**
 - xi. Set up rotation schedule for hosting state for several years into the future at the next meeting. Not as critical to hold two years in a row if there is a rotation and clubs know they will be hosting ahead of time.
 - g. Nathan said lets follow the rules.
 - i. If you want to change a rule, get 1/3 sponsorship.
 - ii. Don't flip flop back and forth
 - 1. Give things time to develop.
 - h. Jeremy also said he doesn't like flip flopping.
 - i. Understood that we were going to re-visit the rule changes.
 - ii. A team cannot field more JV teams than Varsity teams.
 - iii. In order to grow the sports, having more varsity teams is in best interest of league.
 - iv. Jeremy thinks you need to have more Varsity teams than JV teams.
 - v. Rob said he doesn't like that because lower team got beat bad.
 - vi. Todd agrees with Jeremy.
 - vii. Nathan is all about a conglomerate that plays high level teams.
 - 1. That is where kids get noticed for College.
 - 2. But if you listen to USA Lacrosse and what works across the Country, boundaries are what work.
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- viii. Todd doesn't principally disagree, but Bozeman needs to make the decision.
 - 1. If what happens in Bozeman like what happens in Billings and Missoula.
- ix. Nathan noted when Missoula and Billings failed, boundaries weren't in place.
- x. Parent issues were cause of issues in Missoula.
- xi. Todd thinks you need the numbers to make boundaries work.
- xii. Number of boards is more of a factor.
 - 1. Recommend one board for both teams in one town (Helena).
- xiii. Back to Jeremy's proposal
 - 1. Can't have more JV than Varsity.

Clubs can't have more varsity teams than JV teams.

- Motion: Jeremy
- Second: Nathan
- Discussion: Chris Mac asked if we need 20 days notice and 1/3 support. Nathan said not needed if at this in-person meeting. So yes, we can vote on this.
- VOTE:

Sheridan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Beartooth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Billings Rimrock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Bozeman	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cody	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Jackson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Last Chance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
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Great Falls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Wild	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Missoula Zoo	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Northwest Avalanche	<input type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO
Cheyenne	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO
Tally:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AYE 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	NO 2
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PASS	<input type="checkbox"/>	FAIL

- i. Jeremy asked if MHSLA should be able to enforce a certain team to be moved to Varsity.
 - i. Todd asked Chris how JV Northwest will be this year
 - 1. Chris said they should be top 1 or 2.
 - ii. Sheridan, Kalispell, Cody, Jackson Hole will be top teams.
 - iii. Try to set up schedule with as competitive games as possible.
 - 1. Not possible in all situations.
- j. Schedule will be revamped no, so comments deadline is no more.

8. Adjourn: 1:50 PM
