



**CAMBRIDGE MINOR LACROSSE ASSOCIATION  
EMERGENCY BOARD MEETING MINUTES (ZOOM)**

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

**Committee Members in Attendance:** Deana Ezekiel, Brady Campbell, Genevieve Oberlel, Dan Beaudoin, Jeff Lankowski, Katrina Campbell, Jason Whissell, Jason Gillespie, Charmain Rushton-Teynecka, Mark Kooting

**Members with Regrets:** Leigh-Ann Radley, Erin Hall, Sandi Merritt

**AGENDA**

2022 Alumni Game (Alcohol in Dressing Room)  
U15 Coaches – Zach Dunseith, Luke Kivell, Owen McGarr  
U22 Team / Coach – Josh Fenton, Rob McGivern

**Meeting Called to Order By: Jeff at 7:05pm**

**Seconded by: Katrina Campbell**

**Breakdown of Issues at hand: Jeff Lankowski**

- At 4:03pm on Monday July 18<sup>th</sup>, I received an email and phone call from Don Crowder from the City of Cambridge regarding the immediate suspension of floor time due to an incident that happened at the Alumni Game.
- Attached in the email was a letter from Chris Ziemski – Manager of Park & Arena Operations. The letter stated that several empty beer cans were found in the dressing rooms that were used for the game on Friday July 15, 2022. Photos were attached showing me that beer cans were definitely in the garbage. He reminded me that per our contract with the City of Cambridge

that there is absolutely no alcohol permitted in the arena at any time. The organization was sent a letter in 2019 after the last Alumni Game with the same issue at hand. With this being our 2<sup>nd</sup> infraction all our floor time from U9 to U22 has been cancelled for the remainder of the season. The City was also pointed out that players who were involved in drinking were also driving home after.

- I have also been informed from an outside source that U22 Head Coach Josh Fenton has admitted to bringing a cooler of beer into the Alumni Room saying this is what they do and we are the team that all of Cambridge follows. He had no remorse in doing so as he seems to think that the U22 and Alumni can do anything and nothing will happen. During Josh's coaches interview at the start of the season he was told more than once that no alcohol, drugs or any other banned substances are permitted. He totally agreed and said he would monitor it to ensure all rules were followed.

### **Brady Campbell**

- After being notified by Jeff regarding the situation at hand, I called Rob McGivern (U22 Asst Coach/Manager) to get a little background on the night. Rob said he had heard from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party that drinking took place in both the U22 room as well as the Alumni room but he didn't see anything. He had said that he went in the U22 right after the game and then left to assist in cleaning up. It was brought to my attention after an email was sent to the board the U15 Coaching staff took part in the Alumni game as a part of the Alumni Team. After speaking with U15 Head Coach Zach Dunseith, he admitted that drinking did take place in the Alumni room but he didn't drink in the room instead he went to the parking lot with his other coaches from the U15 team and had a drink there.

### **Jason Whissell**

- As a board we need to remember what the Code of Conduct, Zone Policies as well as OLA Policies are. If we just let this be and do nothing, it will not look good and teams will think they can get away with anything and not be punished. We should look at fixing this in house instead of just passing off to the Zone or OLA. All coaches know the rules and should have said something when they saw the beer in the dressing room, to me that is a failure to act as a head coach in CMLA even if you are not Coaching at the Time. Coaches also sign out Code of Conduct at the start of the year. Also it says all around Galt that No Alcohol in permitted in the building, so most decided to ignore that as well.

### **Katrina Campbell - Register.**

- We need to make sure we take this seriously. The result is we have no floor time for the entire association. The teams that weren't involved shouldn't suffer. The U22 team unfortunate as is may is the only other team besides the Alumni team mentioned in any of this.

### **Genevieve Oberlea- Scheduling Director**

- was anything mentioned about the alcohol policy? - Mark do you share any info with the returning players about rules?
- did some leave and not partake or say something?
- were any U22 kids involved, even of age from the team?
- I don't think punishing them is the best idea, maybe it was only 2 guys? Who is really liable for this, they are grown adults.

### **Jason Gillespie – Director of Media**

- I am upset to say the least. Understand that the U22 team was involved but if they did nothing why do they suffer?

### **Mark Kooting -Chief Referee**

- Both teams knew that alcohol is not permitted in the arena, my wife Ann even took the Alumni Team a cooler with gatoraid and water in it and told them to enjoy even though it there was no beer inside. I personally didn't see any drinking going on. Rules do state that it's a full out suspension for anyone caught with alcohol as OLA really frowns on this. We need to make sure we do the right thing.

### **Charmaine Rushton-Teynecke -Treasure**

- This is very unfortunate. Was the beer only found in the alumni room? It would be too bad if the intermediates are suffering because of the alumni. But I guess CMLA is now suffering because of this game.
- I would also add there not be another alumni game.

Voting on Suspensions for various parties. (All people asked to leave who had any conflicts with the team while voting took place).

**Motion – Jeff Lankowski**

Zach Dunseith / Luke Kivell / Owen McGarr – All coaches are suspended for remainder of 2022 season and the full 2023 season from coaching within CMLA.(Unable to vote – Deana & Gen)

**Vote: Yes – 6**

**No – 0**

**Motion – Jason Whissell**

Rob McGivern –Suspended for remainder of 2022 season and the full 2023 season from coaching within CMLA. (Unable to vote - Jason G)

**Vote: Yes – 8**

**No – 0**

**Motion – Jeff Lankowski**

Josh Fenton– Suspended for the remainder of the 2022 season and given a lifetime ban from Coaching or participating in CMLA events as well as being a part of the board or volunteering. (Unable to Vote – Jason G)

**Vote: Yes – 8**

**No – 0**

A Team meeting with the following will take place with the U22 team to go over all issues and possible suspensions. Brady Campbell, Mark Kooting and Jeff Lankowski will run the meeting on July 20<sup>th</sup>. (Both Erin Hall & Jason W. have Covid so they can not attend)

Brady Campbell will inform the U15 Coaches & Rob McGivern  
Erin Hall will inform Josh Fenton

**Close of Meeting Moved by: Jason**

**Seconded by: Katrina**

That the Cambridge minor Lacrosse Association emergency meeting of Tuesday, July 19, 2022 be adjourned at 10:15pm

***Update on Owen McGarr after receiving a phone call from Taylor Best of the Alumni Team. Owen is an Assistant Coach on the U15 team. He participated in the Alumni game but following the game got changed and went straight home as per Taylor Best and it lined up with a writeup that Owen sent in as well. Owen will not be suspended and can continue to coach.***

***Update on Rob McGivern. After receiving more information regarding Rob, he will not be suspended as more than one person confirmed that Rob was nowhere around the room after the game as he was cleaning up from the event.***

***Update on U22 Team after the team meeting. 2 players came forward and admitted to having sips out of the Hurley Cup in celebration. These 2 players will be suspended for the round robin of Conradi and the remainder of the team can participate in the tournament. Players and parents who attended the meeting were asked if they had any other issues regarding the situation and all understood where the board was coming from.***

***A email vote with the board was take and the results to suspend each player for the round robin was.***

***Yes – 10***

***No – 0***

***Below is the email sent to the board after the U22 meeting took place on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022***

Good evening all,

So this evening a discipline committee made up of Merk Kooting, Brady Campbell and myself Jeff Lankowski sat down with Rob McGivern as well as the U22 Team and some parents who sat in with any minors that may be on the team. I have also spoken with Eddy Jack regarding the decisions we came up with for both parties.

While speaking with Rob McGivern before the meeting took place, it was brought to our attention that Rob misunderstood Brady when we first talked to him about the Alumni night. After the game Rob entered the U22 dressing room and talked to the team after the victory and then headed to the lobby and also started to clean up after the event. He never saw anyone on his team drinking but heard afterwards from a source that players were drinking out of the Hurley Cup. If he would have seen anything going on he did say that he would have put a stop to it right away as Rob understands the rules and the seriousness.

We then spoke with the U22 team regarding the situation at hand. We let them know how serious of an issue this is and we would like no more than to settle everything up within our association and not have to take it higher. After telling the team the events that have gone on since receiving the pictures from the City of Cambridge, you could see that the kids were understanding what was happening even more. We then gave the floor to the players and 2 players stepped up saying that they had drank out of the Hurley Cup in a little celebration. Both players understand that they what they did impacted the association greatly and apologized to the board for their actions. We continued to talk with team answering all questions players may have had regarding everything. It was a good sit down with these players and we see that this team means a lot to all of them.

Below is what we have come up with for discipline for the two players and a additional update for Rob McGivern. I have spoken with our Zone 8 Director Eddy Jack and he has given great response for going forward. Please vote yes or no only like in our last email today and only reply to myself.

1 - Lift Rob McGivern Suspension as he truly did not see any alcohol being consumed but was told after the fact when the night was completed.

2 - Owen McGivern was player 1 to step up and admit to having a drink out of the Hurley Cup. Owen's suspension will be the served during the Round Robin of Conradi which will be 3 games.

3 - Evan Girdler was player 2 to step up and admit to having a drink out of the Hurley Cup. Evan's suspension will be the served during the Round Robin of Conradi which will be 3 games.

4 - U22 allowed to participate in the Conradi Tournament and Provincials. There will a ZERO tolerance with the alcohol during these tournaments and if something is brought to our attention the full team will loose the remainder of the season and face possible additional suspensions.

Lastly this was a hard decision for us to come up with as we are trying to make sure we are not affecting everyone who was involved, but we also feel that this is a good thing to move forward with