

## Florida Division

Meeting held March 16, 2016 5:00 p.m. EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Katie Wieber, Dir. Membership Services; Univ. of Central Florida, Samuel Culver and Jack Gray; Florida Gulf Coast University, Jake Edelstein; Florida State University, Kyle Freire and Adam King; University of Florida, Billy Whidden; University of Miami, Emma Gregory

The call opened with Assistant Commissioner explaining the Kap7 Affiliate Program and reminding teams of the 10% discount to all league members on purchases of equipment and apparel. KAP7 is committed to the sport of water polo and always available to teams beyond just their needs for equipment.

Potential new schools include: University of South Florida and Stetson University. Both Central Florida and Florida also plan to continue with entering "B Squads in the 2016-17 Season.

The schedule was the next item on the agenda. The Assistant Commissioner reminded teams that the previous year a motion passed that the division champion from the prior year gets the right to host the championship. Florida State was the 2015 Division Champion and expressed they would like to host the championship. During the scheduling discussion, a number of sites and dates were debated and voted upon, with the result being the following:

- September 10-11 - Central Florida
- October 1-2 - Florida
- October 22-23 - Florida State (Championship)

Teams voted 4-1 in favor of October 22-23 as the championship date with October 29-30 as the backup. Additionally, teams voted 4-1 in favor of Central Florida hosting September 10-11 over Florida Gulf Coast on September 17-18 due to the concern over weather. It was noted that teams from the south would be travelling three times north. However, teams were reminded the teams from the north travelled south the previous season. Miami expressed concern with their participation on the championship weekend date but felt they could work it out. Teams voted unanimously to allow Miami to participate in the regular season even if they are not able to participate in the championship.

Hosts were reminded to complete the Pool Reservation Form, found under the Forms section on the website. Hotels will be reserved once these forms are submitted.

The call concluded with the Assistant Commissioner running through a series of updates from our communications, membership services and media departments. Additionally, leadership was reminded that all necessary team forms are found on the website under the Forms Tab. This includes the Participation Agreement that needs to be submitted by the Club Supervisor before June 1st. After the form is submitted, teams have until September 1st to remove themselves from the league without penalty. Likewise, Team Leaders need to turn in their Media Guide Info using the form on the website by August 31st. Emails for players should be included so athletes can be notified when games within the division will be streamed.

The Assistant Commissioner mentioned the streaming program now features a play-by-play announcer and will include graphics by this fall season in an effort to enhance the broadcast even further. Hosting Institutions can now select if they are interested in streaming games at their location on the Pool Reservation Form. Teams were reminded there is minimal work required of the host as the league office will contact the appropriate departments to set up the stream and arrange the camera operators as well as any announcers.

All teams were urged to complete an Evaluation Form about the officials and the tournament following each of the competitions. These form are found under the Forms tab of the website. If you are unsure of which referee you are evaluating, go to the officiating section and click on their picture for easy identification as well as use the Referee Assignment page to confirm the names of officials assigned to the event.

Teams were encouraged to send in pictures or story leads to promote their programs and enhance the interest of the website. Likewise, Team Leaders should take advantage of the Player of the Week program and nominate athletes each week, regardless of whether the games are within the CWPA league play or non-conference. Those selected are featured on the website and several other media outlets utilized by the league.

The Assistant Commissioner mentioned the requirement for Team Leaders to review the Team Orientation webinars as well as involving younger members of their team to be involved in leadership roles. The program consists of three webinars and can be accessed via the Membership Page. There is also an optional fundraising webinar that provides some great tips.

Finally, teams were reminded to update their contact information using the link on the Membership page and to encourage graduating seniors to consider becoming officials.