

Great Lakes Division

Meeting held March 15, 2016 9:00 p.m. EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Wolf Wigo, Co-Founder Kap7; Grand Valley State University, Jacob Davis; Loyola University, Colin Belfiore; University of Chicago, Grant Kushner; University of Illinois (Chicago), Alex Shkiler; Ohio State University, Michael Smith; University of Cincinnati, Xavier Jimenez and Eric Sutton; University of Dayton, Joseph Milton; Miami University (OH), Alex Waldherr; University of Notre Dame, Dan McGlinn; Xavier University, Dillon Oswald

The call opened with Tom Tracey, CWSU, and Wolf Wigo, KAP7, explaining their affiliate program and reminding teams of their 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 interested in joining the division included DePaul University. However, they may not join until 2017-18 school year. The Assistant Commissioner asked for contact information to reach out directly to the leadership.

Teams voted unanimously to move to a three weekend format (two regional and championship schedule). Teams also voted 7-3 in favor of splitting the division based on geography instead of ability. It was also determined competitors will be determined at random. The Assistant Commissioner will work on a schedule using the above criteria as well as the below dates and availability of teams:

- September 24-25 - Miami OH (NA: Univ. of Chicago)
- October 1-2 - Notre Dame
- October 8-9 - Chicago (NA: Loyola, Dayton, Xavier)
- October 15-16 - Ohio State (NA: Cincinnati, ND, GVSU)

Championship

- October 29-30 - Cincinnati (if Nationals hosted by Missouri Valley Division)
- November 5-6 - Notre Dame (if Nationals hosted by Great Lakes @ Cincinnati)

A tentative schedule with participating schools at each location will be released by Thursday, March 31, 2016. 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 forms 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.

Meeting held September 7, 2016 7:00 p.m. EST

Attendance: Tom Tracey, CWPA; Notre Dame, Justin Jellinek and Mark Hancrer; Loyola, Mark Kegan; Ohio State, Steve Maldonado; Miami (OH), Aaron Abraham; Xavier, Jude Krauss; Cincinnati, Eric Sutton; Grand Valley State, Ian Hewitt; Dayton, Roberto Millan-Ayala; Chicago, Grant Kushner

To replace the University of Illinois-Chicago, Ohio State has decided to field a "B" squad to keep the division at eleven teams. Ohio State has requested to name their squads Scarlet (which will represent the "A" Team) and Gray (which will represent the "B" Team). Additionally, Loyola has agreed to switch competitive locations from Miami (OH) to Notre Dame in order to allow Ohio State squads to be at the same location. This will be reflected in the revised schedule.

Cincinnati will not be able to host the nationals. Notre Dame is currently in the process of receiving approval from the school in order to keep the championship in the Great Lakes Division. If Notre Dame is able to host nationals, they are still interest in hosting the other regional and division championship weekends if needed. However, they do not want to be perceived as usurping all the hosting opportunities. Originally, we discussed shifting the date from November 5-6 to October 29-30 and allowing Cincinnati to host the division championship if they were not able to host nationals. Both schools had the opportunity to address the division and all team leadership the chance to ask questions.

The division voted 5-4 in favor of keeping the division championship at Notre Dame on November 5-6th. However, Cincinnati will host the division championship if Notre Dame cannot host nationals. The league office will have this determined with Notre Dame early next week and confirm with Cincinnati. Additionally, teams voted unanimously to give Cincinnati the first option to host the division championship during the 2017-18 school year.