

Heartland Division

Meeting held March 9, 2016 9:00 p.m. EST

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Wolf Wigo, KAP7; Macalester College, Vanessa Seljeskog; Augustana College, Jake Rancic; Carleton College, Daniel Lewitz and Adam Tiger; Grinnell College, Tristan Knoth; Knox College, Clarice Bennett and Nicolette Laird; Saint Mary's University of MN, Zachary Finkelstein; Saint John's University, Callie Stark and Matt Stinar

The call opened with Wolf Wigo, co-founder of 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.

Teams discussed dates and hosting ability. Based on the number of conflicting weekends, the Assistant Commissioner suggested the option of splitting into two regions within the division. Teams would play a tournament within their region (only your region), a crossover tournament (all teams attend) and a championship tournament (all teams attend). Teams voted unanimously to do what is best for the division and provide the best competition. The Assistant Commissioner will provide two template options by Friday, March 10, 2016. One template will be the regional split based on team availability and the second will be the current format.

Teams determined the following weekends as potential host dates:

- September 17-18 or 24-25 - Site TBD (Oct. 8-9 is also an option)
- October 1-2 - Macalester
- October 15-16 - Championship at Grinnell

St. Mary's and Carleton both expressed interest in hosting any of the dates. Macalester was in rotation to host the championship but deferred to the 2017-18 school year to allow Grinnell to host due to a team conflict. While St. Mary's had expressed preference for the first weekend in October, Macalester would have first option to host a regional weekend as they did not host in the 2015-16 school year and has selected the weekend of October 1-2.

St. Mary's has listed the championship weekend as a potential conflict but will confirm with their team. Although discussed, moving the championship to the weekend of October 22-23 is less than five days out from the Division III NCCC hosted in the New York Division and the ability to arrange travel would be limited and expensive for the potential qualifying team(s).

The rotation of the championship weekend was also discussed as Grinnell is hosting two years in a row because of the same conflict with their alumni meet. The Assistant Commissioner offered to reach out to Grinnell's swimming coach to discuss the possibility of shifting the meet to the weekend before Halloween or adjusting the time of the meet to allow Grinnell to travel later if both events stayed on the same weekend. This would be for the 2017-18 school year as it was explained that the event is already scheduled for 2016-17.

Note: The division has the ability to lock in the championship date to be traditionally two weekends prior to the Division III NCCC which is on the Halloween weekend. This would allow for better planning for all teams for future years. The championship host will rotate by year between all deep facilities. Currently these pools include Grinnell and Macalester.

As the call was beginning to run short of time, the Assistant Commissioner reminded hosts to complete the Pool Reservation Form. This can be found under the Forms section on the website. Hotels will be reserved once these forms are submitted.

The Assistant Commissioner mentioned that all necessary forms for Team Leaders 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. Likewise, Team Leaders need to turn in their Media Guide Info using the form on the website by the fall. Emails for players should be included so athletes can be notified when games within the division will be streamed.

All coaches were urged to complete an Evaluation Form about the officials following each of the competition dates. This can be found under the Forms tab of the website. Teams were also reminded to update their contact information using the link on the Membership page.

A few additional reminders to emphasize with team leadership include:

Please send in pictures or story leads to promote your program and enhance the interest of the website. Team Leaders should take advantage of the Player of the Week program and nominate athletes each week, whether the games are within the league or non-conference.

The streaming program is a great way of promoting the division. Streams will feature a play-by-play announcers and graphics to help enhance the broadcast. Efforts will be made to stream every division at least once during the season and hosts are encouraged to take advantage.

Team Leaders should review the Team Orientation webinars. This must be completed by new Team Leaders. 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.