

HEARTLAND DIVISION

Meeting held November 8, 2011 at 5:00 PM with two follow up meetings

Attending: Dan Sharadin, Commissioner; Carleton College, Arielle Rebek; Iowa State University, Chloe Dedic; Knox College, Laura Blue; University of Minnesota, Jamie Wilt; Saint Mary's University of MN, Mark Ross and Anna Smaron; Grinnell College, Megan Januska; Illinois State University, Emily Bornhoff; Lindenwood University, Marko Cubranovic; Saint Louis University, Claire Fleming; Washington University, Anastasia Niedzielski and Kristen Saddis; University of Nebraska, Katie Swanson; Monmouth College, Chris Falkenrath

The Commissioner asked everyone if they knew of any teams wishing to join. Nebraska, Monmouth indicated their interest in joining and Augustana was also listed as a possibility.

The league schedule was the next item on the agenda. Several options were discussed relating to the alignment and teams voted to have the Iowa and Minnesota teams in the north and the Illinois and Missouri teams in the south. Nebraska would enter the north if they join.

The competitive format was discussed with several options presented. Teams voted 8-2 in favor of maintaining the current regional/crossover format. Dates and sites were determined as follows:

- February 25-26 Northern regional at Saint Mary's
- February 25-26 Southern regional at Monmouth
- April 14-15 Crossover at Iowa State
- April 21-22 Championship at Grinnell

The 2013 National Championship bid was discussed and only Minnesota expressed interest in hosting. Teams have a week to send in their bid.

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. Likewise, Club Supervisors must submit a Participation Contract by December 15 to ensure eligibility. It can be found on the Forms tab as well.

The Commissioner mentioned the new Orientation Program for all Team Leaders is required. The program consists of three webinars and can be accessed via the Membership Page. There is also a fundraising webinar that provides some great tips to help teams raise money that is optional.

Media Guide information needs to be submitted before teams leave for winter break and a form can be used online to submit the roster and team summary.

All coaches were urged to complete an Evaluation Form about the officials following each of the competitions. This form is 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.

Teams were encouraged to send in pictures or story leads to 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.

The Commissioner requested that each team contact ensure their athletes have read the Code of Conduct before the season starts. Likewise, deck coaches should adhere to the Dress Code established. Teams were also reminded to update their contact information using the link on the Membership page.

Conference Call II

Meeting held December 7, 2011 at 4:00 PM

Attending: Dan Sharadin, Commissioner; Carleton College, Nora Cassidy and Ben Cerjan; Iowa State University, Maggie Goldsmith; Knox College, Laura Blue; University of Minnesota, Kestutis Micke; Grinnell College, Megan Januska; Lindenwood University, Marko Cubranovic; Saint Louis University, Claire Fleming and Paige Nelson; Washington University, Anastasia Niedzielski and Kristen Faddis; University of; Monmouth College, Chris Falkenrath; University of Minnesota-Duluth, Eric Degonia

The purpose of the call was to discuss the league schedule and alignment. Since the last call Augustana has indicated interest in participating in the league.

The discussion focused on the problem between driving distances to competitive sites and the desire to play different teams throughout the season. Teal Leaders and coaches expressed views on both sides of the issue. The Commissioner also cautioned teams on voting for something that will eventually cause teams to forfeit or commit no contests.

Four basic formats were presented:

1. Split the division into two divisions-each with their own bid and separate schedule
2. Play only within your region during the regular season and crossover at the championship
3. Play one regional and one crossover with the crossover having three games/team
4. Play one regional and one crossover with the crossover split into two locations

Some teams indicated they would have difficulty making the crossover trip and could be in jeopardy of either not playing in the league or struggling to have enough numbers.

Minnesota Duluth explained it would take them 12 hours to get to Saint Louis for example.

The Commissioner explained that using the fourth option would require a Minnesota team to drive to Washington University unless the schedule was rearranged to find another location.

All but Carleton said they would not be able to make that drive. Carleton stated they should be able to do so, but the Commissioner asked them to consult with their team before making a final decision.

Other comments were made regarding the validity of following that format if the same teams were going to travel each season. In this instance it would be no different than splitting regionally and saving the drive.

After lengthy discussion it was determined that the Commissioner would create a few mock-ups based on the formats and the division would reconvene the following week after discussing the matter with their teams. The key question is how to find a schedule that teams are satisfied with, while at the same time not creating a hardship for programs in travel time and costs.

Conference Call III

Heartland Division Follow-up Meeting, December 14, 2011 5:00 P.M.

Attending: Daniel Sharadin, Commissioner; Grinnell College, Meghan Januska; Iowa State University, Maggie Goldsmith; University of Minnesota, Kestutis Micke; University of Minnesota-Duluth, Eric Degonia; Knox College, Laura Blue; Carleton College, Nora Cassidy and Ben Cerjan; Lindenwood University, Marko

Cubranovic; Monmouth College, Chris Falkenrath; Saint Louis University, Claire Fleming and Paige Nelson; Washington University, Kristin Faddis and Anastasia Niedzielski

The topic of the meeting focused on which format the division will use. Two were presented based on the last conference call: regional competition with teams crossing over at the championship or one regional tournament and then a crossover weekend before the championship. Teams ultimately voted unanimously in favor of the crossover/regional format.

Augustana was asked if they will confirm and they indicated it would depend upon whether Monmouth was able to switch their regional date to March 3-4. If they could, they anticipated having enough players to make it work.

Note: since the call Augustana has confirmed their attendance and we are awaiting confirmation whether Monmouth can host on the alternate date.