

Mid-Atlantic Division

Meeting held March 15, 2016 4:00 p.m. EST

Attending: Dan Sharadin, Commissioner; Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; University of Pennsylvania, Zachary Ennis; West Chester University, Dallas Commons; University of Pittsburgh, Brendan Barnes; Drexel University, Josh Hoornaert; Carnegie Mellon University, Quincy Liu; Penn State University, Grant Wandling; University of Delaware, Eric Park and Adam Bowers; Lehigh University, Erich Riedlmeier; Saint Joseph's University, Chris Belletieri and Kevin Shaloo; Widener University, Tyler Palma; Bloomsburg University, Gabby Friday

The call opened with the Commissioner discussing the league sponsorship with Kap7 and briefly explained the affiliate program and reminded everyone 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.

The Commissioner asked if anyone was aware of any potential new teams. Both Swarthmore College and Temple University were mentioned in addition to Indiana University of Pennsylvania who contacted the office directly. The League Office will reach out to these programs directly.

The next topic was focusing on the competitive structure and if teams wanted to stay with the format from the 2015-16 Season where the division was divided into two brackets based on ability and the winner of the B Bracket had the option to move up and compete in the A Bracket Championship. Teams expressed they wanted to stay with the current format.

The Commissioner covered the reminders for all teams prior to determining the schedule. 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 Commissioner ran 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 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 Commissioner reminded Team Leaders the requirement 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. Teams were encouraged to talk with their graduating seniors about becoming officials as this could help reduce the league costs by reducing travel needs.

The schedule was the next item and the B Division chose the following weekends and sites:

- September 17-18 - Bloomsburg
- October 1-2 or 8-9 - St. Joseph's
- October 15-16 or 22-23 - Widener (B Championship)

The A Division is attempting to ensure one weekend (crossover or championship) is held in the western area of the state. Since sites could not be confirmed 100% as of the call, the locations for the dates may be revised. The tentative schedule was stated as follows:

- September 24-25 - Penn State
- October 8-9 or 15-16 - West Chester or Villanova (crossover)
- October 22-23 or 29-30 - Pittsburgh (A Championship)

The weekend of the 10/29-30 was the preferred weekend for the championship, while 10/8-9 was requested by Pitt to be used as the date for the crossover.

Hosts were urged to submit their pool reservation forms within a week so the schedule could be finalized.

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.

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Finally, teams were reminded to update their contact information using the link on the Membership page.