

New England Division

Meeting held March 24, 2016 4:00 p.m. EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Wesley Paulson, Kap7; Yale University, Calvin Rhodes and Doug Hausladen; Boston College, Sean Fisher; Boston University, George Gelinias; Dartmouth College, Eric Thorpe; Middlebury College, Brian Goodwin; University of Connecticut, William Perret and Michael Hanley

The call opened with Wesley Paulson, 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.

Before determining the schedule, Middlebury was given the opportunity to express their concern for level of competition with the division and the need for larger roster teams to enter a "B" squad. While Middlebury would like to stay in the New England Division, they felt other divisions in their area could provide more like competition and they will consider switching if things don't change. Connecticut also stressed their concern and losing a team would potentially threaten the existence of the division. Dartmouth, Boston College and Boston University all stated they would talk with their team but were considering entering "B" Squads. However, each team was concerned with the current fees. The Assistant Commissioner stated he would reach out to the three teams to discuss further but reminded teams they would need to make a decision prior to June 1st when the participation agreement was due.

If Middlebury stays in the division, the following schedule was tentatively determined based on pool availability:

- September 24-25 - Boston University
- October 8-9 - Yale
- October 22-23 - Middlebury (Championship)

Dartmouth would prefer not to host but could if no other pool was available. There would be an additional \$2000 fee that would need to be split among the division. It was stressed that the earlier we find out about the "B" squads the earlier we will know about Middlebury so teams were asked to let the office know once they make a decision.

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.