

Pacific Coast Division

Meeting held March 4, 2009 10:00 PM

Attending: Dan Sharadin, Commissioner; University of California, Davis, Adam Donovan; California State University, Chico, Brian Bearley; San Jose State University, Sean McDonough and John Wagner; St. Mary's College (CA), Pat Hudgins; Cal Poly State University, Brandon Ross; University of California, Los Angeles, Doug Merkle and Caleb Greig; University of California, Santa Barbara, Chase Motley; University of California, San Diego, Tyler Fischer-Tolbrie; University of San Diego, Gary Becker

The Commissioner asked if anyone knew of teams wishing to join. UC Irvine has indicated an interest in participating for the fall season. In addition, Cal State Northridge was mentioned and UC Davis may have a "B" team.

The meeting opened with a discussion about the expansion of the division. Questions were raised regarding whether the division could split and receive an additional bid to the National Championship. The Commissioner explained why that was not possible at the moment for a number of reasons including the limitation on the size of the event, pool availability, and costs for teams.

After some discussion, teams agreed to wait to make a final decision regarding the format for the competitive season. They would review the various options presented and then send in their input prior to a second conference call. The options are listed below in no particular order.

- Option 1

Teams would play opponents within their region during two regular season tournaments. At the conclusion of the regular season, a certain number of teams from each region (north and south) would qualify to attend a division championship. The teams that did not qualify would be finished for the year.

All teams would be guaranteed eight games. Some teams would receive 3-4 more at the championship (depending upon championship format).

Advantages: Teams play within their region, keeping costs and travel low. Pool requirements are more reasonable with fewer teams at each site.

Disadvantages: Teams do not play outside of their region. Some teams do not play as many games as they currently receive, with no championship experience. If the regional membership remains below nine teams, some teams will play an opponent more than once during the season.

- Option 2

Teams would play opponents within their region during two regular season tournaments. At the conclusion of the regular season, all teams advance to a regional championship. Based on their finish at the regional championship, a certain number of teams from each region (north and south) would qualify to attend a division championship. The teams that did not qualify would be finished for the year.

All teams would be guaranteed 11-12 games (depending upon championship format), with some teams receiving an additional 3-4 more at the division championship.

Advantages: Teams play within their region, keeping costs and travel low. Pool requirements are more reasonable with fewer teams at each site. All teams receive a championship experience.

Disadvantages: Teams do not play outside of their region. If the regional membership remains below nine teams, some teams will play an opponent more than once during the season. Teams advancing to the division championship will have higher costs due to more games.

- Option 3

Maintain status quo. Teams play one tournament regionally (primarily keeping programs within their region) and one in which they may need to travel to compete against the opposite region. All teams attend a championship. Top teams attend an "A" championship and remaining participate in a "B" championship. Dependent upon the site chosen, the two championships may be at the same location, or if possible, split at two different sites. All teams would be guaranteed 11-12 games (depending upon championship format).

Advantages: No team plays anyone twice. All teams receive a championship experience.

Disadvantages: Teams incur greater costs and inconvenience traveling outside of their region. With the number of teams increasing, pools may not be able to accommodate the number of games required without establishing unreasonable game times early Friday and late Sunday night. Furthermore, we may not have enough pool time to run two championships at one site. If no one agrees to host the second championship mid-season, some teams may not have a championship opportunity.

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Championship guaranteed	no	yes	no
Guaranteed number of games	8	11-12	8
Maximum number of games	11-12	14-16	8-12
Travel costs	lower	lower	higher
Guaranteed different opponents	no	no	yes
Requires some teams to play another weekend	no	yes	no

Meeting held June 4, 2009 8:00 PM

Attending: Dan Sharadin, Commissioner; UC Davis, Adam Donovan; Cal Poly, Justin Lekos;

San Diego State, Trevor Abbey; UC Santa Cruz, Alan Cima; UCLA, Doug Merkel; University of San Diego, Gary Becker; UC Santa Barbara, Chase Motley; Saint Mary's, Deve Cello

The Commissioner mentioned that USC had withdrawn for the next season and would not be participating. UC Santa Cruz also confirmed their participation for the fall.

The league schedule was the first item on the agenda. Teams voted 8-1 in favor of Option 2, which provides three regional tournaments and a Division Championship (Chico State sent in a mail ballot). The Division Championship was determined to follow an 8-team elimination format, with the top four teams from each region qualifying. The 1st, 3rd, 5th, and 7th seeds will be awarded to the Southern Region based on Cal Poly's qualification to the National Championship last season.

The regional weekend dates and locations were determined as follows:

North

October 3-4 at UC Santa Cruz
October 10-11 at UC Santa Cruz
October 24-25 at UC Davis

South

October 3-4 at UCLA
October 17-18 at UC Santa Barbara
October 24-25 at San Diego State

October 31-November 1 at Cal Poly for the Division Championship

Gary Becker indicated he would try to assist San Diego State in locating timing equipment for their tournament if they have not purchased it as of that date.

The Southern Region teams requested to play all games during the weekends provided there was sufficient pool time available. The Northern region teams might need to play a portion of their games during the weeknights, depending upon the number of hours available at each site. Likewise, in the event San Jose State would like to host a tournament or a portion of the games, some of the contests might be placed at their pool.

Teams hosting were reminded to submit their Pool Reservation Form as soon as possible in order to complete the schedule for the fall and to book hotels.

The link to do so is: http://www.collegiatewaterpolo.com/tournament/pool_resv