

Big Ten Division

Meeting held Wednesday, October 25, 2017 4:30PM EST

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Ohio State University, Megan Wolf; University of Iowa, Gena Tanquilut; University of Michigan, Megan Takahashi; Michigan State University, Maya Arsneault; Purdue University, Kate Eastman; University of Illinois, Kate MacDuff; University of Wisconsin, Jessica Westcott (7 of 8 schools)

The call began with a discussion about the new league website that was launched prior to the start of the 2017 Fall Season. The Assistant Commissioner noted several key reasons for the change including: mobile friendly site, member programs ability to have interactive control over their team profiles and the league office's ability to make updates and changes. Additionally, the site provides a better opportunity for the inclusion of social media. Leaders were reminded to update their team profiles and to contact the office if they did not previously receive an email with their school's login information. The Assistant Commissioner asked the leaders to contact the office if they have any problems with finding information when reviewing the site as the league office wants to ensure teams and fans have an easier time surfing the site.

Following the roll call, teams were asked if anyone knew of any new programs interested in joining or if any team planned to enter a "B" Squad which receives a reduction in league dues (\$1930) as voted by membership during the summer of 2016. League dues are also reduced for all collegiate club members from the previous year and teams can budget \$2750 for the upcoming season. Both Ohio State and Michigan stated they planned to enter a "B" Squad.

The first item on the agenda focused on the division format, conflict dates and interest in hosting. The Assistant Commissioner explained the current division format as two regional weekends and a championship where all teams play each other once and one opponent randomly selected for a second match. This season all games will be randomly selected since the division will consist of ten teams (the one exception is that schools entering "A" and "B" squads will not play each other. Teams were asked if they preferred to stay with the same format or if anyone would like to suggest an alternative. Teams voted 3 to 2 that they preferred moving to three regional weekends and a championship where teams only attended two of the regional sites and the championship. This was to help avoid any potential schedule issues with Spring Break as well as spread out the season. However, two options were determined with the final option being based on pool availability. All teams were asked for any dates they were aware of conflicts for their program including their Spring Break and Finals. Teams were also asked who was interested in hosting. Ohio State, Iowa, Michigan and Purdue all expressed interest.

The next item was the 2018 Division Schedule. Teams were reminded that the Northwest Division was next in rotation to host the Women's National Collegiate Club Championship (May 4-6, 2018) and that the University of Washington (Seattle, WA) was currently finalizing their bid. Next in rotation to host nationals was the Rocky Mountain Division. Teams that didn't host the previous year would have first option to host this season. Iowa was selected to host as they did not host the previous two seasons. Purdue was selected as they were the only team able to host a date earlier than April. Ohio State was selected because they only hosted once in the last two years. Michigan will have first option to host in the 2019 Season.

Teams decided to create the following two tentative schedule options based on pool availability:

Option #1

All teams attend all three weekends
February 3-4 Purdue

April 7-8	Ohio State
April 21-22	Championship at Iowa

Option #2

Teams attend one of the two Purdue weekends and all teams attend Ohio State and Iowa (Purdue would not attend Ohio State as they would play on both home weekends)

March 3-4	Purdue
March 24-25	Purdue
April 7-8	Ohio State
April 21-22	Championship at Iowa

Following the call, Purdue confirmed they could not host both dates in March due to a pool conflict. Therefore, Option #1 would be selected as no other school was available to host prior to the weekend of April 7th.

Hosts were reminded to complete the Pool Reservation Form found under the Forms section on the website once their date is confirmed. Team Leadership will be contacted by the office at least one week prior to their event to ensure they received the host package and are prepared for the weekend. Hotels will be reserved once the host sites are confirmed and pool reservation form submitted (Note: we had some issues during the fall season with our hotel booking agency due to several factors but we are working to rectify them before the women's season).

Before moving any further in the call, teams were asked if they had any questions or new business to discuss so that we do not run out of time at the end of the call.

The call concluded with the Assistant Commissioner running through a series of updates from the league office as well as a reminder that all [CWPA League Policies](#) are posted on the website under Membership. Specific policies discussed on the call were student-athlete eligibility requirements, teams must be recognized by their institution, the differences and penalties for "No Contest vs. Forfeit", and the definition between a "Varsity vs. Club" Student-Athlete. Any team may appeal the eligibility policy to the Club Governance Council comprised of three (3) current student-athletes and two (2) club administrators. The Assistant Commissioner acts as the liaison for the council and all appeals can be submitted directly to tracey@collegiatewaterpolo.org.

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 no later than December 15th for the Women's Season. After the form is submitted, teams have until January 15th to make any adjustments or remove themselves from the league without penalty.

Teams were encouraged to send story ideas to [Ed Haas](#), Director of Communications, to promote their programs and enhance their exposure on 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. Additionally, the website now has a social media aspect that we would love to see teams take advantage sending photos from their tournaments as well as other great experiences they have as a team.

The Assistant Commissioner pointed out [Jon Weaver](#), Director of Multimedia, continues to do exciting updates with the streaming program and featured game of the week. To ensure we can highlight games from every division, host sites are strongly urged to work with the multimedia department to stream at their facility. Additionally, the multimedia department is developing several video libraries to directly

benefit our members and officials. As the CWPA is a non-profit, all educational material will be available for free on the website. We encourage teams, players and coaches to take full advantage when this becomes implemented as it will possess everything from practice drills to game strategies as well as training videos for hosts.

The Assistant Commissioner introduced [Mike Shannon](#), Membership Services. While all the previous responsibilities will be maintained, Mike will be focusing on implementing more ways to better communicate with our membership as well as incorporating a new Social Media Campaign. Mike will also be a main contact for all hosting site prior and after the tournament.

The Assistant Commissioner also discussed the mentoring program. While the league encourages current team leadership to get involved as a mentor, we recognize many leaders are already heavily involved in many different areas of their institution and we do not want this to become more taxing on their limited availability. That is why we are seeking past alum who served as team leaders and had a positive impact on their programs. Current leaders were asked to submit names of individuals they felt would be interested in getting involved as a CWPA Club Mentor.

Team leaders were reminded about the Team Leader Orientation Program requiring each school to review four short webinars. The team representative reviewing the webinar will need to take a short test at the conclusion to ensure it is recorded that their team had completed the requirements. Teams should also encourage younger members of their team to be involved in a leadership role to help secure a smoother transition over the years.

Finally, teams were once again reminded the importance of reviewing and updating their [Team Contact Information](#) using the link on the Membership page. All team leaders were thanked for taking the time to be on the call to represent their program.