

Heartland Division

Meeting held November 1, 2016 4:00 PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Carleton College, Adam Tigar; Knox College, Clarice Bennett and Joe Hilger; Washington University in St. Louis, Isabelle Trier and Dave Jimenez

The call opened with the Assistant Commissioner reminding everyone that the purpose of the call was to determine potential competition sites and dates as well as run through a series of reminders from the office.

The schedule was the first item on the agenda as well as teams' conflict dates. The Assistant Commissioner reminded the division of the previous season's scheduled sites and dates. Teams were asked who was interested in hosting as well as when their facility was available. Carleton and Washington expressed interest. Discussion began regarding the championship site and teams voted 3-0 in favor of allowing Grinnell to host if they are interested and the pool is available.

Dave Jimenez provided an excel document to be used with everyone's spring break schedule. It was clear there was limited opportunity early in the season when all teams were available. The Assistant Commissioner proposed two schedule options:

Option #1: All teams attend all three weekends
(requires St. Mary's to compete their first weekend of spring break)

February 25-26	Carleton
April 8-9	Washington Univ. in St. Louis
April 22-23	Grinnell (Championship)

Option #2: Teams attend two of three regional weekends and the championship
(teams would need to play opponents twice on the same weekend)

February 25-26	Carleton (includes: Carleton, Grinnell, Knox)
March 11-12	Grinnell or St. Mary's (includes: Grinnell, St. Mary's, Wash STL)
April 1-2	Washington in STL (includes: Wash STL, Carleton, Knox, St. Mary's)
April 8-9 or 22-23	Grinnell (Championship: all teams)

Note: A third option could be considered if two teams were willing to travel to all four dates which would reduce the chance of teams from having to play an opponent twice in the same weekend)

Option #3: Several teams travel to four weekends and reduce the number of games played on each weekend. Additionally, schedules would be adjusted to help reduce travel costs for those teams attending all four weekends.

February 25-26	Carleton (Carleton-4, Knox-4, Grinnell-3, Wash STL-3)
March 11-12	Grinnell (Grinnell-3, St. Mary's-3, Wash STL-2)
April 8-9	Wash STL (Wash STL-3, Grinnell-2, Carleton-4, Knox-4, St. Mary's-5)
April 22-23	Grinnell (Championship: all teams)

The Assistant Commissioner noted he would follow up with both Grinnell and St. Mary's regarding the schedule as they did not have representation on the call. Based on their response, we will determine if we need a follow-up conference call to finalize the schedule.

Note: The Assistant Commissioner spoke with Grinnell and they would also like to see Option #1. If not, their second choice is Option #3 and they are willing to travel the four weekends if needed. Additionally, they are available to host the championship in April and prefer April 22-23 if possible.

Hosts were reminded to complete the Pool Reservation Form, found under the Forms section on the website, once the schedule is finalized. Schedules can be completed and hotels 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 multimedia 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 December 15th. After the form is submitted, teams have until January 15th 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 January 15th. 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 remote announcer and includes graphics 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.

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.

The Assistant Commissioner discussed the Kap7 Affiliate Program and reminded 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.

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