Atlantic Division
Meeting held April 12, 2018 4:15PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Duke University, Charlie Bailey; Georgetown University, Alex Heldring; James Madison University, Logan Leftwich; Johns Hopkins University, Will Paustenbach; U. S. Naval Academy, Zach Hudgens; University of North Carolina, Matt Bravante; Virginia Polytech, Brian Daly; University of Virginia, John Trismen; North Carolina State University, Ricky Cates; University of Maryland, Brody Nesemann (10 of 10 schools)

The call began with a discussion about the new league website that was launched at 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. The Assistant Commissioner asked the leaders to contact the office if they have any suggestions that they felt would enhance the site. Leaders were also reminded to update their team profiles and to contact the office if they do not have their school's login information.

Following the roll call, teams were asked if anyone knew of any new programs interested in joining or if any team had interest in entering a "B" Squad which receives a reduction in league dues as voted by membership during the summer of 2016. While league dues have not been determined for the 2018-19 School Year, teams were reminded the previous year's dues were $2750 for the first team and $1930 for the second team entered from the same university. No one was interested in entering a "B" Squad at this time. Teams were asked if they were aware of any new programs interested in joining and American University was mentioned. The Assistant Commissioner stated he would reach out to their leadership as well as Wake Forest University who expressed interest. The office would also reach out to Washington & Lee University in regards to their intent following the programs inability to field a team in the Fall 2017 Season.

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 four regional weekends and a championship where all teams play in two of the four regional weekends based on location and availability. When possible the ability of teams is taken in consideration for more like-opponent competition. All teams attend the championship. Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different or if they preferred staying with the current format. Teams voted 6 to 4 in favor of basing schedules more on ability then location and travel time using the previous season's final standings. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Virginia Tech, Navy, Maryland, North Carolina State and James Madison expressed interest.

The next item was the 2018 Division Schedule. Teams were reminded that the Southwest Division was next in rotation to host the Men's National Collegiate Club Championship (November 9-11, 2018) and that the University of Arizona (Tucson, AZ) was currently reviewing their option to bid. Next in rotation to host nationals is the Mid Atlantic Division. Additionally, the Men's Division III National Collegiate Club Championship is tentatively scheduled for October 27-28, 2018 and hosted in the Colonial Division (Host TBD).

Teams voted 7 to 3 in favor of their championship date as October 27-28 with a backup dates as October 20-21. Teams also voted 9 to 1 in favor of Navy as their first choice with Maryland as the backup. Teams wanted to wait to determine additional dates and locations. North Carolina State prefers hosting the weekend of September 22-23 and Virginia Tech the weekend of October 13-14. James Madison had no preference but could not host September 15-16, 22-23 or October 6-7 due to home football games. Teams will submit an availability form based on dates to determine when teams compete and at what locations.

The Assistant Commissioner will format a schedule based on teams' submitted forms. Based on the above, tentative dates would look as following:

Sept. 23-24   North Carolina State
Sept. 29-30   James Madison (no home football)
Oct. 6-7   Maryland (no home football)
Oct. 13-14   Virginia Tech
Oct. 27-28   Navy (Championship)

Once sites are confirmed, 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.

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. None was discussed.

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 June 1st for the Men's Season. After the form is submitted, teams have until September 1st 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.

The Assistant Commissioner explained the recently launched Ambassador's Program with a focus on an Alumni Initiative. Teams will be asked to give a few minutes during a league weekend to talk with one of the league ambassadors about how they can stay involved after graduation whether as a coach, official, mentor or donor. The Assistant Commissioner also launched into the newly revised CWPA Mentoring Program and discussed how the office felt this would help reduce the attrition and hopefully promote

additional growth. Teams were asked to provide the office with any names of current alum that were team leaders in the past and that they felt would be great mentors for either a new team or struggling program.

Current 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. Additionally, all potential hosts were reminded to follow up on their ability to host on the selected dates by June 1st.

All team leaders were thanked for taking the time to be on the call to represent their program.