

**Florida Division
Meeting held April 12, 2018 5:30PM EDT**

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; University of Central Florida, Sam Culver; Florida Atlantic University, Martin Silva; Florida State University, Evan Blanchard; University of Florida, Jake Wiley; University of Miami, Madeleine Hill; University of South Florida, William Huether (7 of 7 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. Several teams agreed they felt the website was more mobile friendly and suggested giving each team the ability to host a team page from the website. The Assistant Commissioner stated he would investigate the ability to do this and also asked the leaders to contact the office if they have any other 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. Both Florida and Central Florida expressed their interest in entering B Squads. Teams also heard Florida International University was interested in coming back into the league. The league office will try to get in contact with current leadership but teams were asked to pass along any contact information they might have as well.

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 the additional games selected at random. The only difference is that schools who enter two teams would only be scheduled to play each other once. Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different but teams preferred staying with the current format. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Florida, Florida State and Florida Atlantic 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.

Teams decided to create the following tentative schedule depending on pool availability:

September 22-23	Florida
October 13-14	FAU (Backup FSU)
October 27-28	Championship at Florida State (Backup FAU)

Teams discussed a concern for being able to host in conjunction with a home football game (specifically FSU on the championship weekend). If they cannot, FAU will be the backup with the hope of playing games at St. Andrew's School and FSU host the second regional. FSU will notify the league office once they receive a decision from their school's administration.

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.