

**Missouri Valley Division
Meeting held April 16, 2018 5:30PM EDT (4:30PM CDT)**

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Washington University, Eric Olaya; Lindenwood University, Dave Miller; Saint Louis University, John Pasquesi; University of Missouri, Jonah Zukosky; Missouri University of Science and Technology, Alex Daues (5 of 6 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. Potential new teams mentioned were: Missouri State University, Mizzou-Kansas City and Kansas University. Additionally, McKendree was planning to enter a club team in the division as well. Only Lindenwood expressed interest in entering a "B" Squad and possibly a "C" Squad. No other team expressed interest.

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 two opponent twice based more on competitive similarity. 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. Lindenwood, Washington, St. Louis and possible Mizzou (depending on cost) expressed interest. Lindenwood expressed they would prefer not hosting this season but will do so if needed.

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

September 15-16	TBD (backup dates 9/8-9)
September 29-30	TBD (backup dates 10/6-7)
October 13-14	TBD - Championship (backup Lindenwood)

The teams willing to host were going to check on the following dates and confirm pool availability by April 24th:

Washington University in STL (9/8-9, 9/15-16, 9/29-30 and 10/13-14)
St. Louis University (9/15-16, 9/22-23, 9/29-30 and 10/6-7)
University of Missouri (any dates)
Lindenwood (10/13-14 already confirmed)

(Update: Washington Univ. was able to confirm Sept. 8-9 and St. Louis Sept. 29-30. As neither could host Oct. 13-14 Lindenwood has agreed to host the championship).

Once a site is 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. Lindenwood expressed their disappointment in the Missouri Valley Division All-Conference Selections from the previous year as they felt a biased against their players and was unsportsmanlike. The Assistant Commissioner reminded team leadership that is their right to vote how they would like, the league office would hope the All-Conference Team was an accurate depiction of the student-athletes' abilities within the division. All teams present agreed.

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.

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.

As the call was winding down, the Assistant Commissioner briefly explained the recent launch of the Ambassador's Program with a focus on an Alumni Initiative and the newly revised Mentoring Program. The Assistant Commissioner encouraged team leadership to go online and read more about it as time was running out.

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.