

## **New York Division**

**Meeting held April 11, 2018 3:00PM EDT**

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Columbia University, Max Offsay; New York University, Meghan Hamwey; U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, David Pulis; U.S. Military Academy, Michael Benson and Jeff Stark; Binghamton University, Jason Grana; Hamilton College, Chris Wan; Syracuse University, Hugo Marsans (7 of 11 schools)

Please note that RPI (Karthik Suresh) provided information such as hosting dates because they could not have a representative on the call.

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 aware of any new teams and no one was interested in entering a "B" Squad at this time.

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 where teams play four games in their region, followed by a crossover event where they compete against teams they did not face the previous weekend. Every team attends the championship, with the top four teams from the East Region and the top three from the West Region based on standings compete for first place. The remaining teams play a round robin for final places. The format used to determine crossover matchups will again be the Cornell Proposal passed at the start of the 2016 season. The Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different. Teams preferred staying with the current format. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Army, Hamilton and RPI (via email) expressed interest. The Assistant Commissioner will follow up with Cornell, Colgate and Buffalo to determine a second host location in the West Region.

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 22-23	Crossover – Army (All Teams)
October 6-7	West Regional – TBD (Colgate, Cornell or Buffalo)
October 13-14	East Regional – RPI
October 20-21	Championship at Hamilton

West Regional Teams who participated in the call (Binghamton, Hamilton, Syracuse) all expressed they preferred Oct. 16-7 as their first choice for the West Regional with Sept. 29-30 as the backup. Hamilton expressed concern over Oct. 13-14 due to Fall Break. The Assistant Commissioner will confirm with the other schools their preference and ability to host the West Regional. Additionally, the league office will reach out to the potential hosts by May 15<sup>th</sup> to receive an update with the hope those sites can be confirmed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

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. US Merchant Marine Academy wanted to discuss the problem that occurred the previous year with a team not participating the final day in scheduled games. The Assistant Commissioner opened discussion on the potential of creating a policy that requires a team who forfeits games, and does not play because the forfeit was accepted by the opponent, to be required to pay for the hotel hosts the previous night to help deter teams from doing this in the future. Syracuse believed this could have helped in their situation to have players on their team be more committed. The Assistant Commissioner, Merchant Marine and Syracuse will work through a proposal to submit to the division for review and a vote. Army requested to discuss the fine for teams not staying at the league hotel during nationals and wondered if it was something to discuss on a separate call. The Assistant Commissioner agreed and asked Army to reach out to the office at their convenience.

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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

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