

Rocky Mountain Division

Meeting 1 of 2 held April 11, 2018 9:00PM EDT (7:00PM MDT)

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Colorado State University, Jake Marinkovich; University of Colorado, Niki Duer; University of Denver, Cole Pollina; Northern Arizona University, Patrick "PJ" Ninteman (4 of 8 schools). *Please note: No vote can be finalized as this was not the majority of teams in the division.*

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, the Assistant Commissioner went over updates from the league office as well as reminder for team leadership in order to give other schools an opportunity to sign in before discussing the division schedule and format. Leadership was reminded 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.

At this point, no additional teams joined the call. While nothing could be confirmed as a majority of teams weren't present, the teams on the call discussed schedule options as well as teams willing to host and potential dates.

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 Colorado stated they planned to enter a "B" Squad. No other teams on the call expressed interest. The Assistant Commissioner noted he would reach out to Colorado Mesa University, Grand Canyon University and University of Wyoming regarding their interest in joining.

The next item on the agenda focused on the teams' interest in hosting, conflict dates and potential schedule options to reduce teams travel based on the size of the division. The Assistant Commissioner explained the current division format as two regional weekends and a championship where games were selected at random (other than "A" and "B" squads from the same institution not being scheduled against each other). Assistant Commissioner reminded teams they voted the previous year to allow each region to host one league weekend with regions determined as Colorado, Utah and Arizona/New Mexico. The Assistant Commissioner discussed the idea of adding an additional site depending on interest of teams to host. All teams would only attend only two of the three regional weekends and all teams would attend the championship. The focus would be looking at teams' availability as well as travel distances with a goal of reducing the overall travel time compared to the previous year and reducing the number of games at each site to take strain off each host. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Colorado and Northern Arizona expressed interest. Colorado State felt they may have the opportunity in the future when their school finishes their facility project. The Assistant Commissioner stated he would follow up with the schools not in attendance to determine their interest in hosting.

The next item was the 2018 Division Schedule dates and possible conflicts for the teams on the call. 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. None of the teams on the call expressed a concern with starting the first weekend on Sept. 22-23 which has been the first date of competition the last few years. Additionally, no team had an issue with the championship date going as late as Oct. 27-28. Both Colorado and Northern Arizona expressed a concern for the weekend of Oct. 6-7 due to parents' weekend on campus. However, Northern Arizona stated they would be interested in hosting that weekend if possible (only concern would be hotel availability). Additionally, Colorado State (Oct. 13-14) and Denver (Oct. 19-20) expressed concern regarding their parents' weekends as well.

No specific dates or locations were determined at this time. However, the Assistant Commissioner stated he would provide a mock-schedule after talking to the other teams about their interest of hosting as well as conflict dates. This would give teams a better understanding of how the above adaptations would have an

impact on the schedule. Once this is completed, a second conference call will be scheduled to discuss options further.

Finally, teams were once again reminded the importance of reviewing and updating their [Team Contact Information](#) using the link on the Membership page. If needed, they could contact the office to receive the login information on file for their school.

All team leaders who were able to make the call were thanked for taking the time to represent their program. They were also reminded they could sign-off on the next conference call once the schedule is determined as they have already listened through the league office reminders.

Rocky Mountain Division

Meeting 2 of 2 held June 27, 2018 9:00PM EDT (7:00PM MDT)

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Colorado Mesa University, John Hildebrand; University of Denver, Cole Pollina; Colorado State University, Thomas Mayer; University of Colorado, Blake Martella; Utah State University, Scott Jones; Colorado School of Mines, Cameron Webb; University of Utah, Tom Taylor (7 of 10 schools). *Please note: This is the rescheduled call in order to finalize the schedule as the previous call did not have more than 50% participation of the division membership.*

The call began with a discussion about the new league website that was launched at the start of the 2017 Fall Season in order to give everyone an opportunity to sign-in. 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. Team leaders were reminded to update their school profile as the league office uses that information to create all distribution lists as well as uses the phone numbers for direct contact. Teams can contact the office at office@collegiatewaterpolo.org if they need their login information sent again.

Discussion shifted to the 2018 schedule and the electronic draft sent to all team leaders. The schedule example was based on three regional sites and a championship site. All teams would only attend two regionals and the championship. The purpose was to reduce the amount of travel required and give more teams an opportunity to host. Additionally, Colorado Mesa was selected as the championship site in the draft as they were the most centrally located for all teams. Colorado Mesa expressed concern for their ability to field a full roster and being a member this season. If they do not have the needed number of players, they would like to participate as an exhibition team and they would still be willing to host. Teams voted unanimously to allow Colorado Mesa play as an exhibition team if they cannot field a full roster as well as agreeing to allow them to host.

After a discussion of dates, locations and potential conflicts, teams decided to create the following tentative schedule depending on pool availability:

Sept. 22-23	VMAC hosted by Colorado (Backup Sept. 29-30) – east regional
Sept. 22-23	Northern Arizona (Backup Sept. 29-30) - west regional
Oct. 13-14	Colorado Mesa – crossover
Oct. 27-28	Kearns Aquatics Center hosted by Utah - championship

Potential hosts were asked to do their best to confirm the pool by the week of July 9th in order to get the schedule released by the end of the month. *(Update: following the call, Colorado Mesa confirmed they can host Oct. 13-14 but VMAC can only host on Sept. 15-16. They are also checking in on Oct. 6-7).* 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. After a brief description of the CWPA Club Governance Council, the Assistant Commissioner asked if any of their players or administrators would have interested in being nominated as a candidate. If so, please send their name and contact information to tracey@collegiatewaterpolo.org.

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.

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