

Texas Division

Meeting 1 of 2 held April 17, 2018 9:00PM EST (8:00PM CDT)

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Rice University, Antonio Merlo; Texas A&M University, Brandon Charles; Texas Tech University, Matthew Rowe (3 of 10 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 as we waited for more teams to join the meeting. 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.

At this point it was evident no more teams were going to be joining the call but we did have the three schools represented who typically have hosted all divisional events (Rice, Texas A&M and Texas Tech). All three schools were interested in hosting again. We discussed pool dates based on availability and determined the following potential schedule to be confirmed on the next call:

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|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sept. 20-21 or 29-30 | Texas Tech (West Regional) |
| Sept. 29-30 | Rice (East Regional) |
| Oct. 13-14 | Texas A&M (Crossover) – two courses |
| Oct. 27-28 | Rice (Championship) |

While Texas A&M was interested in hosting the championship, they believed they would only be able to host one weekend. Based on that information, it was preferred Texas A&M host the crossover as it had the greater potential for more games and the ability to host two courses. If Texas A&M receives permission to host two, they would have first opportunity to also host the championship. Otherwise, the championship would be at Rice unless another school is interested that was not present on the call.

Texas A&M also asked how the regions would be split. The Assistant Commissioner reminded everyone that teams agreed the previous year that Texas "A&B" and Texas A&M "A&B" would rotate back-in-forth between the two regions with Texas beginning in the East Region and Texas A&M in the West Region in 2017. Therefore, the teams would switch in 2018 with Texas in the West Region and Texas A&M in the East Region.

Teams were asked if they would like to run through the updates and reminders from the league office or wait until the rescheduled conference call since we did not have enough participation to finalize the schedule. All three agreed they preferred to wait. Team leaders were thanked for taking the time to be on the call to represent their program. The call ended.

Texas Division

Meeting 2 of 2 held June 26, 2018 9:00PM EST (8:00PM CDT)

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Rice University, Chris Watkins; Texas A&M University, Brandon Charles; Louisiana State University, Phil Emden; Texas Tech University, Matthew Rowe; University of Texas, Andrew Beresford and Nathan Craig (5 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 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.

Once enough teams were represented, the discussion shifted to the 2018 schedule. The Assistant Commissioner explained Rice, Texas A&M and Texas Tech all expressed interest in hosting and provided the following dates during the previous call:

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|-------------|--|
| Sept. 29-30 | Texas Tech (West Regional) – backup date 9/20-21 |
| Sept. 29-30 | Rice (East Regional) |
| Oct. 13-14 | Texas A&M (Crossover) – two courses |
| Oct. 27-28 | Rice (Championship) |

The Assistant Commissioner asked if any other schools had interest in hosting. While Texas and LSU both stated they would like to host, neither felt it would be possible based on either finance and/or pool availability. Texas Tech stated they preferred hosting on Sept. 29-30 but still confirming the pool. Therefore, September 29-30 was listed as the first option with September 20-21 as the backup date for the West Regional. Rice and Texas A&M both confirmed their dates are reserved. The above locations and dates were approved as the tentative schedule.

Teams were also reminded of the competitive format used the previous year 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 eight teams competing for first place and the remaining four teams play a round robin for final four places. The Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different. Teams wanted to stay in the current format.

LSU expressed concern with both Sept. 29-30 and Oct. 13-14 dates as members of their team may have schedule conflicts. This was discussed and the decision reached that the dates would not be able to be changed due to pool availability. LSU will do their best to field a full roster but teams are aware they may show with less than the required seven starting lineup players and need to borrow from their opponents. When asked, LSU was confident they would have at least five players on either weekend.

Teams were reminded both schools agreed the previous year that Texas "A&B" and Texas A&M "A&B" would rotate back-in-forth between the two regions with Texas beginning in the East Region and Texas A&M in the West Region in 2017. Therefore, the teams would switch in 2018 with Texas in the West Region and Texas A&M in the East Region.

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.

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.

Finally, teams were once again reminded the importance of reviewing and updating their [Team Contact Information](#) using the link on the Membership page.

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