

Texas Division

Meeting held Thursday, October 25, 2018 5:00PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Rice University, Ellie Dullea; University of Texas at Austin, Kate Asmis; Texas A&M University; Jenny Kerry. Not represented: Baylor University and Texas State University. (3 of 4 schools)

We began with a discussion about the league website while waiting for all team representatives to join the conference call. The redesigned website was launched at the start of the 2017 Fall Season and we just concluded the first full year. The Assistant Commissioner noted several key reasons for the updated site including it being more mobile friendly as well as membership having the ability to log in and update their team profiles directly. Team representatives were reminded the importance of keeping their team profile up-to-date as this is how the league office stays in contact with every school. The Assistant Commissioner noted if a team did not receive the original emails regarding the women's season conference calls then their profile needs to be updated. Leaders can contact the office if they need their login information or if they are having any issues with signing in to their profile.

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. League dues for the 2018-19 School Year will be \$2740 when entering one team. The dues for entering a second squad from the same school is \$1905. Both amounts have decreased from the previous year which has been the pattern the last few years.

The following schools are interested in adding a "B" Squad: Texas A&M.

There currently were no schools mentioned for having possible interest in joining the league. However, teams discussed the possibility of having school play exhibition and/or combining to field a full roster as we watched both Texas State and Baylor struggle last season with numbers. Teams voted unanimously to allow two teams struggling with their roster size to combine in the 2019 Season and compete in the division if under the following agreement by those schools:

1. Both institutions must be in agreement to allow players from the opposite institution to compete together.
2. An agreement between schools must be reached regarding the handling of payment of league dues.
3. Institutions must agree to understanding they are eligible to compete with the Texas Division as a combined team but would not be eligible to qualify for nationals (unless these two schools have an institutional wide agreement regarding a co-exchange).

Teams would be eligible to combine for the 2019 Spring Season only with the division rule being revisited during the 2019-20 season.

The following schools were also mentioned to see if they had interest in participating as exhibition teams: University of Houston Southern Methodist University and Austin College. The stipulation was added that the rosters must be all female which received a unanimous vote.

The first item on the agenda focused on the division format, conflict dates and schools 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 additional games are randomly selected (schools entering "A" and "B" squads will only play each other once). The Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different or if they preferred staying with the current format. Teams

agreed to stay with the current format. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Rice and Texas A&M expressed interest with Rice willing to host twice.

The next item was the 2019 Division Schedule. Teams were reminded that the Rocky Mountain Division was next in rotation to host the Women's National Collegiate Club Championship on the weekend of May 3-5, 2019. (Please Note: The Rocky Mountain schools considering hosting have declined and is now being offered to the Atlantic Division as next in line to host). The Assistant Commissioner noted that there were several divisions who had expressed interest in seeing the championship date rotate every other year between the first and second full weekends of May. This would avoid having the date fall constantly on the graduation weekend of the same schools. Several teams will be working together to write a proposal for the next calendar cycle.

After discussion of potential conflict dates, teams decided to create the following tentative schedule depending on pool availability:

February 2-3*	Rice
February 23-24*	Rice
April 13-14	Championship at Texas A&M

All dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. In an effort to reduce the amount of downtime between the regular season and the championship, Rice is also looking into the weekend of March 23-24 for hosting. The University of Texas expressed concern with that weekend as it falls on the end of their Spring Break. However, they will talk with their teams and let the office know by November 12th their ability to compete on that March date.

Potential hosts were asked to update the league office by November 1st regarding their ability to host. Once a site is confirmed, hosts were reminded to complete the Pool Reservation Form found under the Forms section on the website. Team Leadership will be contacted by the league office at least one week prior to their event to ensure they received the host package and understand their host responsibilities. The Assistant Commissioner will release an update to the division once he has heard back from each of the potential hosts.

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 beyond allowing two teams the ability to combine during the 2019 Spring Season.

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 December 15th for the Women's Season. After the form is submitted, teams have until January 15th 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.

If teams weren't already aware, [Jon Weaver](#) serves as our Director of Multimedia and continues to do exciting updates with the streaming program and featured game of the week. The league was excited to announce that the CWPA has partnered with our main sponsor Kap7 to cover costs associated with the remote streaming program. This means all regular season and division championship streams for FREE for viewership!!! Individuals would still be required to have a login, but they would not be charged any fee for the regular season (Please note: Post-season championship events remain pay-per-view as these are multi-camera onsite productions that carry additional costs). Host sites are encouraged to consider doing the remote streaming program for their division to have the opportunity to be streamed during the regular season.

The multimedia department is also looking to partner with our clubs to get team footage to create video features during the women's season. Jon will create two video webinars on "what to shoot" and "how to shoot" if your team is interested in being featured. Additionally, the multimedia department continues developing the video library that directly benefits our membership 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 finished by explaining how the league office is working to create new growth and development within the organization. One program highlighted was the Ambassador's Program with a focus on an Alumni Initiative. Upperclassmen will be asked to give a few minutes during a league weekend to talk with one of the league ambassador officials about how they can stay involved after graduation whether as a coach, official, mentor or donor. Alum Leadership who are interested can also get involved in the recently revised CWPA Mentoring Program designed to help reduce the attrition and stimulate growth. Teams were asked to provide the office with any names of alum that were strong role models with their program and could help mentor a new or struggling team.

Teams were reminded one more time 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.

Additional Note for Current Team Leadership: Remember you are responsible for completing the Team Leader Orientation Program that includes four short webinars. The team representatives 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 of leadership the following year.