

Atlantic Division
Meeting held February 22, 2019 4:00PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Georgetown University, Gustav Gulmert and William Houston; James Madison University, Liam Mulcahy; Johns Hopkins University, William Paustenbach; University of Maryland, Mira Morgan; North Carolina State University, Ricky Cates; University of North Carolina, Donald Fejfar; United States Naval Academy, Tim Bavisik; Virginia Tech, Doug Brown; University of Virginia, John Trismen; Wake Forest University, Cal Morrison (10 of 10 schools)

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 2019-20 School Year cannot be confirmed until after the budget is set and approved by the board in June (*While we hope to continue to see a decrease in the league dues as we have seen the last few years, teams could budget on no greater than a 5% increase as common practice. Dues for the 2018-19 School Year were \$2740 when entering one team and \$1905 for a second team from the same institution*).

At this time, no school expressed interest in adding a “B” Squad.

Potential schools that were mentioned to contact included: UNC-Charlotte, American University, George Washington University and Virginia Commonwealth University. The Assistant Commissioner would follow up with each to see their interest.

The next item on the agenda focused on the division format, conflict dates and schools that were interested in hosting. The Assistant Commissioner explained the current division format of three regular season weekends and the championship. Teams attend two of the three regional weekends, based on dates and location, that work best for their school. All teams attend the championship. The Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider a different format or if they preferred staying with the current format. Teams agreed to stay with the current format.

Teams voted unanimously to make one exception to the current requirements of participating in the Atlantic Division as follows:

While the members and league office encourage schools to have full participation, a program may decide to participate in only one regional weekend and still attend the championship. This decision must be based on a program's financial constraints, roster constraints or a major date conflict but should not be used by a program as a convenience or competitive advantage.

The purpose of this exception is to promote growth within the division as potential new programs look to begin participating. Additionally, this would have allowed a program such as Johns Hopkins to have competed the previous year when they were looking to rebuild but had multiple conflicts with the selected dates and their school started much later than the rest of the division.

All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. James Madison, NC State, Navy and Maryland expressed interest.

Conversation transitioned into discussion over the 2019 scheduled dates and locations. Teams were reminded that the Mid Atlantic Division was next in rotation to host the Men's National Collegiate Club Championship on the weekend of November 8-10, 2019 and the University of Pittsburgh has confirmed.

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

September 21-22	James Madison (backup Sept. 28-29)
September 28-29	NC State (backup Sept. 21-22)
October 12-13	Maryland (backup Oct. 5-6)
October 26-27	Champs – Navy (backup Nov. 2-3)
November 8-10	Nationals – University of Pittsburgh

All dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. Teams also voted 9 to 1 in favor of the championship dates as Oct. 26-27 and the backup date Nov 2-3.

Teams will be selected to regional sites based on competitiveness, location and availability. Teams provided the following availability for the four potential regional site dates:

Team	9/21-22	9/28-29	10/5-6	10/12-13
Georgetown	NA	Avail	Avail	Avail
JMU	Avail	Avail	Avail	Avail
JHU	NA	Avail	Avail	Avail
Maryland	Avail	NA	Avail	Avail
NC State	Avail	Avail	Avail	NA
UNC	Avail	Avail	Avail	Avail
Navy	Avail	Avail	Avail	Avail
VA Tech	Avail	Avail	Avail	Avail
UVA	Avail	Avail	Poss	Poss
Wake Forest	NA	Avail	Avail	NA

The travel location for each team will be determined when sites and dates are confirmed.

Potential hosts were asked to update the league office as soon as possible (preferably by March 15th) 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. Assistant Commissioner will release an update to the division once we hear 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.

The call concluded with the Assistant Commissioner reminding teams to update their profiles as this was the way our office contacts each program's leadership. If teams need their login information they can request it by sending an email to office@collegiatewaterpolo.org.

The Assistant Commissioner then ran through a series of updates from the league office:

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 or through the appeals form located on the website.

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/Coed Season. After the form is submitted, teams have until September 1st to make any adjustments or remove themselves from the league without penalty.

New Team Leaders were reminded to complete the [Leader Orientation Program](#) that includes four short webinars followed by a short test at the conclusion to ensure it is recorded that they completed the requirements. Teams should also encourage younger members to be involved in a leadership role to help secure a smoother transition of leadership the following year.

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, teams should consider following the new club twitter account #CWPAClubs to get all the latest news regarding the CWPA Club Divisions.

Teams were made aware that [Justin Cypert](#) was recently hired as our new Director of Multimedia. Justin is familiarizing himself with the organization but expect more exciting things to come from our multimedia department!

As part of the multimedia department, the league plans to continue its partnership with our main sponsor Kap7 to cover costs associated with the remote streaming program. This means all regular season and division championship streams will remain FREE for viewership!!! Individuals would still be required to have a login, but they would not be charged any fee for the regular season. 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. *(Please note: Post-season championship events remain pay-per-view as these are multi-camera onsite productions that carry additional costs)*

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.