

Big Ten Division

Meeting held February 21, 2019 5:30PM EDT (4:30PM CDT)

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Indiana University, Will Vogeley; University of Iowa, Stephen Iannuzzi; University of Michigan, Zach Gan; Purdue University, Lawrence Cozzi; University of Wisconsin (Madison), Brian Portland; Northwestern University, Alex Morikado; Michigan State University, Zach Sneathen; University of Illinois, Patrick Burke; Ohio State University, Alex Puthoff (9 of 9 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. However, Ohio State University stated they were 100% sure they were moving to the Big Ten Division from the Great Lakes Division starting in the Fall of 2019. The Assistant Commissioner noted that any team has the right to change divisions, but we have always given the Big Ten Division some flexibility in who can join their division as they are more based on their NCAA DI Conference affiliation as opposed to geography. As Ohio State University is a member of the Big Ten Division I Conference, all schools were unanimous in allowing them to join.

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 where all teams participate at two regular season weekends and the championship. Iowa and Ohio State expressed concern for the distance in travelling to each other. The Assistant Commissioner explained another option utilized by other divisions that would consist of two regional weekends, a crossover weekend and the championship. Teams would play in one of the two regional weekends as well as the crossover and championship. However, in a nine-team format, one team would need to play in the two regional weekends and not participate at the crossover in order for all teams to play all opponents in the division. Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider this regional format or if they preferred staying with the current format. Teams agreed they wanted to try the new regional format. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Northwestern, Purdue and Ohio State all expressed interest. Wisconsin wanted to note that they would like to host in 2010 when their school's new facility will be completed.

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, how the two regions would be split, and what team would attend both regional sites, teams decided to create the following tentative schedule depending on pool availability:

September 14-15	East Regional - Michigan (backup Ohio State)
October 5-6	West Regional – Indiana (backup Iowa)
October 19-20	Crossover – Purdue (backup Indiana)
November 2-3	Champs – Northwestern (backup Oct. 26-27 @ Indiana)
November 8-10	Nationals – University of Pittsburgh

Based on participation, regions would be divided as:

East Region: Indiana (travels to both), Michigan, Michigan State, Ohio State, Purdue

West Region: Indiana (travels to both), Illinois, Iowa, Northwestern, Wisconsin

Note: If Purdue cannot host crossover, and Indiana can, then the schools would switch positions and Purdue would travel to both regionals instead of the crossover.

All dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. Teams voted 8 to 1 in favor of the championship dates as November 2-3rd. The weekend of October 26-27 was selected as the backup date.

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. Additionally, the Assistant Commissioner noted any of the schools who made themselves available to host this season, but was not selected, will have first right to host in the 2020 season.

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.