

North Atlantic Division
Meeting held February 21, 2019 4:00PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Bowdoin College, Teddy Wecker; University of Vermont, Kevin Hancock; Colby College, Lily Wilson (3 of 5 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*).

Schools who expressed interest in adding a “B” Squad included: Vermont. They will talk with their team and coach to determine if this was something they wanted to pursue knowing there was a discounted price for a second team and their roster has consistently been between 20-30 student-athletes.

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 division currently plays a five-team format over two regional weekends and a championship where all teams play each other in a double round-robin. This would include: Bates, Bowdoin, Colby, St. Michaels and Vermont. The Assistant Commissioner will confirm their intent to participate as both stated they would be represented on the call.

Conversation transitioned into discussion over the 2019 scheduled dates and locations. Teams were reminded the Men’s Division III National Collegiate Club Championship is currently being explored by the independent schools with the Mid Atlantic Division next. In the event both divisions decline, it would move to the North Atlantic Division. This event will take place the weekend of October 26-27. Bowdoin was asked if they would be interested as they were currently the only all-deep facility within the North Atlantic Division. They could not confirm on the call without talking to leadership or Administration.

Colby asked about possibly adding a fourth weekend of competition. The Assistant Commissioner explained the league is based on eight regular season games to seed the championship weekend. The league office would be willing to help coordinate a non-conference crossover event between the North Atlantic vs. one of the other divisions in the Northeast Area. Bowdoin, Colby and Vermont were all interested. The Assistant Commissioner will bring the idea up in both the Colonial and New England Divisions to see interest levels. Cost of the event would be on the individual schools participating.

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

September 14-15	Regional – Vermont (backup Sept. 21-22)
October 5-6	Regional – Colby (backup Sept. 28-29)
October 19-20	Champs – Bowdoin
October 26-27	DIII Nationals – TBD

All dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability.

Colby mentioned October 5-6 is also Parents Weekend which the Assistant Commissioner stated could be an issue for hotels. This could also be an issue for Bowdoin as it is the start of their Fall Break. Colby mentioned October 19-20 is the conclusion of their Fall Break. Vermont mentioned September 14-15 is a

little early as they will only have a few practices as they will just be returning to school. All schools recognized each team was making some compromises and will do their best to make it work.

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 beyond the idea of a non-conference crossover event between North Atlantic Teams vs. either New England or Colonial Teams (see above).

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 #CWPA Clubs 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.