

New York Division

Meeting held February 27, 2019 4:00PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Binghamton University, Jason Grana; University of Buffalo, Maksym (Max) Soloninko; Cornell University, Andrew Triscari; Hamilton College, Frankie Hearne; New York University, Colin Hong; Syracuse University, Connor Hanan; U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, David Pulis; U.S. Military Academy, Sam Greulich (8 of 11 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: Cornell. No new schools interested in joining were mentioned.

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 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 four teams from the East Region and the top three from the West Region based on standings compete for first place. The remaining teams play a round robin for final places. The format used to determine crossover matchups will again be the Cornell Proposal passed at the start of the 2016 season. The Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different. Teams preferred staying with the current format except for the championship weekend format and seeding.

Teams voted 5 to 2 (with 1 team abstaining) in favor of a new seeding for championship based on the overall won/loss record instead of the regional seeding. Additionally, teams voted 5 to 2 (with 1 team abstaining) in favor of a championship schedule where all teams can compete for the championship title. Anywhere from the top 3 or 4 seeded teams will receive a first-round bye which will depend on the final count of teams participating. Losers of the first-round games will play either a round robin or head-to-head format depending on the total number of teams within the division.

Note: Example of the 12-Team Format vs. 11-Team Format:

12-Team Format

Saturday

<i>GM #1</i>	<i>8th Seed vs 9th Seed</i>
<i>GM#2</i>	<i>5th Seed vs 12th Seed</i>
<i>GM#3</i>	<i>7th Seed vs 10th Seed</i>
<i>GM#4</i>	<i>6th Seed vs 11th Seed</i>
<i>GM#5</i>	<i>1st Seed vs Winner GM1</i>
<i>GM#6</i>	<i>4th Seed vs Winner GM2</i>
<i>GM#7</i>	<i>2nd Seed vs Winner GM3</i>
<i>GM#8</i>	<i>3rd Seed vs Winner GM4</i>
<i>GM#9</i>	<i>Loser GM1 vs Loser GM2</i>
<i>GM#10</i>	<i>Loser GM3 vs Loser GM4</i>

GM#11 Winner GM5 vs Winner GM6 (semi#1)
GM#12 Winner GM7 vs Winner GM8 (semi#2)

Sunday

GM#13 Loser GM6 vs Loser GM5
GM#14 Loser GM8 vs Loser GM7
GM#15 Loser GM10 vs Loser GM9 (11th place)
GM#16 Winner GM9 vs Winner GM10 (9th place)
GM#17 Loser GM12 vs Loser GM11 (3rd place)
GM#18 Winner GM11 vs Winner GM12 (1st place)
GM#19 Winner GM13 vs Winner GM14 (5th place)
GM#20 Loser GM14 vs Loser GM13 (7th place)

11-Team Format

Saturday

GM #1 8th Seed vs 9th Seed
GM#2 7th Seed vs 10th Seed
GM#3 6th Seed vs 11th Seed
GM#4 4th Seed vs 5th Seed
GM#5 1st Seed vs Winner GM1
GM#6 2nd Seed vs Winner GM2
GM#7 3rd Seed vs Winner GM3
GM#8 Loser GM1 vs Loser GM2
GM#9 Loser GM4 vs Loser GM5
GM#10 Winner GM5 vs Winner GM4 (semi#1)
GM#11 Winner GM6 vs Winner GM7 (semi#2)
GM#12 Loser GM7 vs Loser GM6

Sunday

GM#13 Loser GM1 vs Loser GM3
GM#14 Loser GM12 vs Loser GM9 (7th place)
GM#15 Winner GM9 vs Winner GM11 (5th place)
GM#16 Loser GM11 vs Loser GM10 (3rd place)
GM#17 Winner GM10 vs Winner GM11 (1st place)
GM#18 Loser GM2 vs Loser GM3 1

All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Army, Hamilton, Buffalo and Cornell expressed interest. The Assistant Commissioner will follow up with RPI to determine their interest and ability to host the East West Region.

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. The Commissioner noted that the University of Pittsburgh has already expressed interest. The Men's Division III National Collegiate Club Championship is currently being explored by the independent schools with the Mid Atlantic Division next. This event will take place the weekend of October 26-27.

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

September 14-15	Crossover – Army (backup date 9/28-29)
October 5-6	West Regional – Hamilton (Backup Cornell)
October 5-6	East Regional – RPI (Backup 9/28-29)
October 19-20	Champs – Buffalo (Backup Cornell & Hamilton)
October 26-27	DIII Nationals – TBD
November 8-10	Nationals - Pittsburgh

All dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. Hamilton expressed concern on the championship weekend date due to break but will do their best to field a team. Teams voted 5 to 1 with 2 teams abstaining in favor of Sept. 14-15 over Sept.28-29 for the crossover; 2 to 0 with 3 teams abstaining in favor of October 5-6 over Sept. 28-29 for the West Regional; unanimously in favor of October 5-6 for the East Regional; 7 to 1 in favor of Oct. 19-20 over Oct. 12-13 for the championship. Cornell agreed to be a backup site to host the championship if Buffalo cannot instead of changing the date. Hamilton will ask about hosting on their break weekend of Oct. 19-20 but didn't feel it would be possible so will also check on Oct. 12-13.

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 (See above related to the championship seeding and format). No additional new business 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.