

## **Rocky Mountain Division**

**Meeting held February 20, 2019 9:30PM EDT (7:30PM MDT)**

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Colorado Mesa University, Jacob Kernc; Colorado School of Mines, Cameron Webb; Colorado State University, Ben Work; University of Colorado, Nicholas Duer; University of Denver, John Drury; University of New Mexico, Pat Kelly; Utah State University, Riley Herzog; University of Wyoming, Gage Stroman and Joseph Smiley (8 of 10 schools).

*Note: Northern Arizona University's P.J. Ninteman was not present on the call but confirmed via text immediately following the call that the dates selected worked for their team.*

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: Colorado and Colorado State. The Assistant Commissioner will confirm with Utah if they planned to enter a second squad as well.

Potential new schools that were mentioned included: Dixie State. The Assistant Commissioner will reach out and confirm their intentions. Colorado Mesa also confirmed they planned to participate as a full member this upcoming season.

New Mexico expressed concern if they will be able to field a full roster and may have to play exhibition. As the women are now competing in the Spring, New Mexico is concerned they would not meet the "no greater than 50% female participation" rule for coed teams because of a number of male players graduating. They did feel they could participate if the division membership were willing to amend this rule. Teams passed unanimously that for the Rocky Mountain Division a coed team "cannot have more than 75% of their roster comprised of women if that school offers a women's team" in the Spring CWPA Season. Team Leadership sited that they wanted to promote development and the opportunity to play.

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 as 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. Games will be selected at random (other than "A" and "B" squads from the same institution not being scheduled against each other when possible). Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different or if they preferred staying with the current format. Teams agreed they wanted to stay with the above format. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Colorado Mesa, Wyoming, Utah State and Colorado (VMAC) all expressed interest. The Assistant Commissioner will also follow up with Utah to see if they can host.

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. 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 21-22	Regional -Utah or Utah State (backup Sept. 28-29)
September 28-29	Regional – Wyoming (backup Sept. 21-22)
October 11-13	Crossover – Colorado Mesa
October 26-27	Champs – Colorado @ VMAC
November 8-10	Nationals – University of Pittsburgh

Based on participation, regions would be divided as:

Utah Region: Utah (A/B), Utah State, Northern Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado Mesa  
Wyoming Region: Wyoming, Colorado (A/B), Colorado State (A/B), School of Mines, Denver

*Note: Dixie State would join the Utah Region if they participate.*

All dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. The Assistant Commissioner will follow up with Utah if they would like to host.

Potential hosts were asked to update the league office as soon as possible (preferably by March 15<sup>th</sup>) 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. Wyoming stated they were looking for a new coach as their current coach will be completing Law School this year. This would be a volunteer position.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.