

Great Lakes Division

Meeting held February 28, 2019 5:30PM EST (4:30PM CST)

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; University of Cincinnati, Greyson Marks; University of Dayton, Will Cammack; Grand Valley State University, Ian Hewitt; Miami University (Ohio), Patrick Schuler; University of Notre Dame, Mark Hancher, Tate McGlimm and Matt Richer; Xavier University, John Blum; Davenport University, Derek Zokoe (7 of 8 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: Notre Dame.

No new schools were mentioned that might be interested in joining beyond Davenport who was represented on the call.

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 three regional weekends where teams would attend only two based on availability and possible schedule conflicts. The results will determine the championship seeding where all teams would attend. This would only be the case if we have enough hosting sites. The Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different. Teams voted to stay with the above format with the first two weekends being considered regionals, the third weekend a crossover and the final weekend the championship.

All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Notre Dame, Cincinnati, Dayton, Miami and Davenport all expressed interest. No team can give confirmed dates at this time.

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 Assistant Commissioner noted that the University of Pittsburgh is confirmed.

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

September 14-15	Miami (OH) (4 teams + Xavier)
September 21-22	Notre Dame (4 teams + Xavier)
October 5-6	Davenport or Dayton (Crossover not including Xavier)
October 26-27	Champs – Cincinnati (backup date 10/19-20)
November 8-10	Nationals - Pittsburgh

All dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. Davenport and Notre Dame will explore their ability to host October 19-20 or October 26-27 although Notre Dame did not feel it would be possible for them because of their Fall Break.

Teams provided the following conflict dates for weekends:

October 5-6	Xavier
October 12-13	Cincinnati, Dayton, Miami
October 19-20	Grand Valley State, Notre Dame (could play)
October 26-27	Notre Dame (could play)

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. Teams discussed the interest in pushing the National Championship to a later date in November to allow for a more spread out season. All teams were interested but preferred seeing Nationals moved to the weekend before Thanksgiving in November. The Assistant Commissioner noted that a survey would be sent out to the membership for official feedback.

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.