

Southeast Division
Meeting held March 5, 2019 4:00PM EST

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; University of Alabama, Chris Popiolek; Auburn University, Kevin Roughgarden; Clemson University, Jason White; Georgia Institute of Technology, Dylan Steinfeld; University of Georgia, Evan Kellams; Vanderbilt University, Tommy Kis (6 of 8 schools)

Note: Kailee Wright, University of Mississippi, reached out prior to the call that they were not able to find a student-athlete to be on the call due to conflicts.

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 schools expressed interest in adding a “B” Squad at this time. The following three schools were mentioned as having possible interest in joining: Mississippi State University, Georgia Southern University and Kennesaw State University. The league office will continue to reach out to these schools. Additionally, current division members agreed to play exhibition games against these teams if they are unable to become full members during the Fall of 2019. Clemson and Vanderbilt prefer playing the exhibition in conjunction with a league weekend if time permits. Alabama and Auburn prefer playing exhibition on a non-league weekend. Georgia Tech and Georgia have no preference due to their proximity to some of the schools.

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 a single round-robin with additional seeding games drawn at random over the course of two regional weekends and a championship where all teams attend. Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different, but teams preferred staying with the current format.

All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Auburn and Georgia expressed interest. The Assistant Commissioner will follow up with Tennessee and Ole Miss to see if they can host. Additionally, the Assistant Commissioner will reach out to Huntsville Aquatics Center to see if they would have interest in hosting if a third location is not available at a member school’s facility. Teams enjoyed their experience at Huntsville the previous year and were grateful to Huntsville for making themselves available. Teams were all willing to share the rental cost of the facility to have three weekends of competition but would prefer knowing sooner than later for budget reasons. Teams agreed the league office would explore this option after April 15th if all three sites weren’t confirmed by that point.

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. The Men’s Division III National Collegiate Club Championship is currently being explored by the independent schools with the Mid Atlantic Division next followed by the North Atlantic. This event will take place the weekend of October 26-27.

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

September 21-22	Tennessee (Backup Auburn or Huntsville)
October 5-6	Georgia (Backup Auburn or Huntsville)
October 19-20	Champs – Auburn (Backup Huntsville)
November 8-10	Nationals - Pittsburgh

All dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. Teams voted 5 to 1 in favor of Sept. 21-22 over Sept. 14-15 and that if no site is available Sept. 21-22 then the backup date would be Sept. 14-15 at Huntsville (if available). Teams also voted 5 to 1 in favor of Oct. 19-20 as the championship date over Oct. 26-27 and if no site is available Oct. 19-20 then the backup date would be Oct. 26-27 at Auburn, Georgia, Ole Miss or Huntsville. The above dates and potential hosts were selected based on away football games in a hope that the pool would be available. The Assistant Commissioner will have to follow up with both Tennessee and Ole Miss regarding their interest in hosting and potential dates.

Potential hosts were asked to update the league office as soon as possible (preferably by March 22nd) 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 no later than the weekend before Thanksgiving as any later is a concern for potential academic conflicts. 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.