

Texas Division

Meeting held March 7, 2019 5:30PM EST

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Baylor University, Preston Sperry and Garrett McCullum; Louisiana State University, Payton Silburn; Rice University, Chris Watkins; Texas A&M University, Kinley Foster; Texas State University, Brynn McCurley; Texas Tech University, William Sklenka (6 of 10 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: Texas A&M. The Assistant Commissioner will follow up with Texas as they were not presented on the call. Potential new schools mentioned included: University of Texas – Dallas and University of Texas - Arlington. The league office will reach out to determine their interest level. The Assistant Commissioner reminded the teams that Southern Methodist University committed a “No Contest” in the fall after the division gave them a second chance. Based on this, the team was suspended for the season as well as the 2019 season. However, SMU has the right to appeal to the Governance Council and prove they have restricted their program and have the commitment of roster numbers to avoid any future “No Contest” in the Fall of 2019. At the current time, SMU has not expressed any interest in appealing the league rule of suspension.

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 competitive format as two regional weekends, followed by a crossover weekend and the championship. Every team attends the championship. The Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different. Teams preferred staying with the current format.

All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Rice, Texas Tech and Texas A&M expressed interest. Both Texas A&M and Rice were willing to host twice if needed. As Rice has done it the last few years, Texas A&M would have first opportunity this season based on the dates selected.

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, as well as football schedules, teams decided to create the following tentative schedule depending on pool availability:

September 28-29	Crossover – Texas A&M (two course format)
October 5-6	East Regional – Rice (Backup Date Sept. 14-15)
October 12-13	West Regional – Texas Tech (Backup Date Sept. 21-22)
October 26-27	Champs – Texas A&M (Backup Sept. 19-20 TX A&M or Rice)
November 8-10	Nationals - Pittsburgh

All dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. Teams voted 3 to 2 in favor of Oct. 26-27 as the championship date over Oct. 19-20. This would be the current list of teams attending a weekend:

Sept. 28-29	Crossover – All Teams
Oct. 5-6	East Regional – Rice, Houston, LSU, Baylor, TX-Austin “A”&”B”, TX-Dallas
Oct. 12-13	West Regional – Texas Tech, Texas State, TX A&M “A”&”B”; TX-Arlington
Oct. 26-27	Champs – All Teams

The above is based on Texas-Austin entering two teams as well as Texas-Arlington and Texas-Dallas joining. Locations will adjust accordingly dependent upon team participation. Additionally, the Assistant Commissioner will have a separate call with Texas A&M and Texas-Austin regarding the idea of splitting their “A” & “B” Squads to different regional locations as both events are potentially on separate weekends. This could eliminate the need for either team to play an intersquad game as part of the schedule.

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 move no later than the weekend before Thanksgiving. 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.