

Mid-Atlantic Division

Meeting held October 22, 2019 3:00PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; University of Pennsylvania, Callie Jones; Penn State University, Sofia Viebranz; University of Pittsburgh, Madelyn Todaro; Carnegie Mellon University, Jessica Westheimer; West Chester University, Montgomerie Weitzel; Ohio University, Emily Miske as potential team (6 of 6 schools)

Following roll call, potential new programs were discussed (Rutgers, Lehigh and Albright) as well as if anyone was interested in entering a “B” Squad which receives a reduction in league dues as voted by membership during the summer of 2016. Teams were also informed the league dues for the 2019-20 School Year would be \$2735 when entering one team and \$1940 for a second team from the same institution. This was the third straight year there was a reduction in the league dues while more services have been added. The following schools expressed interest in adding a “B” Squad: Penn State.

Teams were asked if they were willing to allow a school to join as an exhibition team if they weren’t ready to join as a full member due to concerns of roster size. The example given was Ohio University who played previous years but had run into issues with the selected dates, roster sizes and finances. Schools voted unanimously to allow exhibition games if pool time permitted. Carnegie Mellon expressed concern for their roster size and stated they may need to play exhibition as they work to rebuild.

The next item on the agenda focused on the division format, conflict dates and schools that were interested in hosting. The current Mid-Atlantic Division format has teams playing everyone once with additional seeding games drawn at random (schools entering “A” and “B” squads will only play each other once). Teams would play these games over two regional weekends and all teams would attend the championship. Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different or if they preferred staying with the three-weekend format. Teams agreed they wanted to stay with the current format. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. All teams expressed interest.

Conversation transitioned into discussion over the 2020 scheduled dates and locations. Teams were reminded that the Atlantic Division was next in rotation to host the Women's National Collegiate Club Championship on the weekend of May 8-10, 2020. The Assistant Commissioner noted that the University of Virginia was looking into the possibility of hosting and would let the office know by October 31st. Otherwise, it would move to the Southwest Division. Arizona State, San Diego State, UC San Diego and Arizona all expressed interest. Teams were told they will be notified by email if the Atlantic Division declines. *(Please Note: Since the call, UVA has declined to host nationals and Arizona State University was selected to host from the Southwest Division after teams were given to November 30th to declare their intent of hosting).*

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

February 15-16	UPenn (Backup Date Feb. 8-9)
March 21-22	Pittsburgh
April 4-5	Penn State – Champs (Backup West Chester)
April 25-26	DIII Nationals – Site TBD
May 8-10	Nationals – Arizona State University

If Penn State cannot host the championship weekend, West Chester would be asked as teams preferred not playing the championship in UPenn’s pool based on size.

Teams were reminded all dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. The Assistant Commissioner requested teams to provide an update by November 15th. **The following dates have been confirmed as of January 15, 2020:**

February 15-16	Penn State
March 21-22	Pittsburgh
April 4-5	West Chester – Champs
April 25-26	DIII Nationals – Middlebury College
May 8-10	Nationals – Arizona State University

Penn State could not host the championship weekend. In the interest of releasing the schedule, both Penn State and UPenn were asked to confirm the 1st regional weekend with the first team confirming having the right to host and the other team having first right to host with Carnegie Mellon in the 2021 season.

Potential hosts were asked to update the league office by the above date 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. None was discussed.

The Assistant Commissioner then ran through a series of reminders and updates from the league office (not necessarily in the below order):

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 December 15th for the Women's Season. After the form is submitted, teams have until January 15th 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](#) is our Director of Multimedia and [Mike Shannon](#) was recently joined the department as the Broadcast Assistant. While Justin oversees the entire multimedia department,

Mike is responsible for the remote streaming program to ensure kits are delivered and remote announcers are assigned. The regular season remote streaming (which also includes the divisional championship) is free, thanks to our partnership with Kap7, while the national championship broadcasts are pay-per-view since they are a multi-camera operation. Host sites are encouraged to select the option on the pool reservation form to stream their site. There is limited work involved and the staffing is paid.

During the season, teams will also have the chance to work with Ian Thompson from our membership services. Ian will bring a fresh look at how we can better communicate with team leadership as well as create some new online educational content. This content will involve both the [Tip of the Week](#) for player and coach development along with a new series called Level Up that will focus on providing leadership development opportunities.

The Assistant Commissioner finished by explaining the Alumni Initiative Program. 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.

The call concluded with the Assistant Commissioner reminding teams to update their profiles as this was the way our office currently communicates with each program. If your profile is outdated, your team will not be getting the most recent releases of information. Teams that need their login information can request it by sending an email to office@collegiatewaterpolo.org.

All team leaders were thanked for taking the time to be on the call to represent their program.

