

Atlantic Division
Meeting held April 8, 2020 6:00PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; James Madison University, Carl “CJ” Reed; North Carolina State University, Richard “Ricky” Cates; United States Naval Academy, Gregory Cameron; University of Maryland, Maxim Kapelina; University of North Carolina, Robert Bennett and Jake Wylie; University of Virginia, Joseph Rilling; Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Matt Lionetti; Georgetown University, Gustav “Gus” Gulmert and Will Houston; University of North Carolina Wilmington, William “Will” Basden (9 of 10 schools)

Following roll call, teams were reminded they should have already taken the time to watch the [four-minute Video](#) covering important league information as well as taking the time to submit the [RSVP Form](#). If they have not completed either task, team leaders should do so following the conference call.

Before getting into the schedule, the Assistant Commissioner inquired how everyone was doing under current national circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus and gave a quick recap of how things were handled with the cancellation of the remainder of the women’s season. The league office has high hopes the Fall season will take place as normal but is prepared to adjust as needed depending on conditions at that time.

Teams were asked if anyone knew of any new programs interested in joining or if any team had interest in entering a “B” Squad. Teams were reminded the dues from the 2019-20 school year were \$2735 for any school entering one team and \$1940 for a second team entered from the same institution. While the office hopes to continue the trend of the past three years of reducing fees while still offering more services, we cannot give a definitive dollar amount for the 2020-21 school year until the budget is approved by the board of directors.

Currently, there were no schools who expressed interest in adding a “B” Squad. Additionally, no team leader was aware of any new programs, but the league office will reach out to schools who have participated in the past or have shown interest such as VMI and VCU.

The next item on the agenda focused on the division format, conflict dates and hosting. The current Atlantic Division competitive format is comprised of three regional weekends where teams attend two of the three and all teams attend the championship weekend. Once host sites and dates are confirmed, teams will have the opportunity to select the two dates and location they prefer to compete during the regular season. Teams may also choose to use the following exceptions:

While the members and league office encourage schools to have full participation, a program may decide to participate in only one regional weekend and still attend the championship. This decision must be based on a program’s financial constraints, roster constraints or a major date conflict but should not be used by a program as a convenience or competitive advantage.

The 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 current format. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. JMU, NC State, Navy, Maryland and Virginia all expressed interest.

Conversation transitioned into discussion over the 2020 scheduled dates and locations. Teams were reminded the Southeast Division was next in rotation to host the Men’s National Collegiate Club Championship on the weekend of November 13-15, 2020 with the Northwest as the next division if the Southeast declines.

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

September 19-20	NC State (backup location JMU)
September 26-27	Virginia (backup location JMU)
October 10-11	Maryland (backup date Oct. 17-18; backup location JMU)
October 24-25	Navy – Champs (backup location Maryland)
November 13-15	Nationals – Site TBD

For the championship weekend, teams voted 5-3 in favor of Navy over Maryland as the host site since both sites have home football games. JMU expressed concern about the championship date as they have a potential conflict with Fall Break but will do their best to participate. Teams understood their situation and are willing to allow them not to attend without penalty if needed. Additionally, JMU would be the backup location if any of the three regular season sites were unable to host. Once dates and locations are confirmed, teams will have an opportunity to select the dates they are available to compete.

Teams were reminded all dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. The Assistant Commissioner requested teams to provide an update regarding hosting by no later than April 24th. Potential hosts agreed to the date and to “reply all” so every team is aware of hosting updates. Once a site is confirmed, hosts were reminded to complete the [Pool Confirmation Form](#) found under the Forms section on the website. The Assistant Commissioner will release to the division schedule once these forms are completed.

The team leaders were reminded that all necessary 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.

The Assistant Commissioner also reminded 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.

Finally, teams were asked if they had any questions or new business to discuss. The first question related to the new playing rules. Teams were reminded that the CWPA follows NCAA rules and that they will be publishing a new rules book this summer for the 2020-21 and 2021-22 seasons. The league office will also be releasing the new adopted rules in several formats once released by the NCAA.

The second question related to keeping a team motivated during the current national situation. The league office will be releasing ways to keep your team engaged but also suggested reviewing the Tips of the Week (especially the dryland series) and for teams to do fun activities through social media while keeping a social distance. If teams aren’t already, they should follow the CWPA social media platforms and the website as this will be the way the office will be putting out some good information as well as following the fun videos teams do within their program. The Assistant Commissioner also recommended everyone should be taking time for themselves; to stay mentally and physically fresh as the current situation is challenging for everyone.

The call concluded with all team leaders being thanked for taking the time and that they should all feel free to contact our office with any questions as we are here for them.