

Colonial Division

Meeting held April 17, 2020 3:00PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Middlebury College, Brian Goodwin; U.S. Coast Guard Academy, Kent Hunt; University of Massachusetts, Jacob Cowley; Wesleyan University, Dominique Monserrat and Zach Lane; Williams College, Galen Cassidy, Lizzie Ferguson, Gabby Mercier and Sophia Sonnenfeldt; Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Isaac Petruzzello and Lizzie Roberts; Tufts University, Aidan Anthony, Josh Stone and Gian Marco Visani (7 of 8 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, no team expressed interest in adding a "B" Squad. Teams were not aware of any new programs, but Tufts is considering switching back to the Colonial Division and was present on the call. Teams were also notified that WPI was appealing their no-contest from the previous year. All leadership was supportive of having WPI receive a waiver to compete as they have not only always been a good host, but they also expressed their concern that it could be an issue making the championship due to their fall break during the division conference call when the date was selected. The Assistant Commissioner will make sure to let the governance council know the division teams support the participation of WPI. Amherst also committed the no-contest the previous year but was not represented on the call to appeal to the division for support.

The next item on the agenda focused on the division format, conflict dates and hosting. The current Colonial Division competitive format is comprised of two regional tournaments and a championship weekend. During the regular season, teams play every opponent once and two opponents twice. The division voted unanimously that the additional two games are determined by like competitiveness where the top four teams from the previous season are used to select their two additional games randomly within that group and the bottom three teams for their additional two games. The Assistant Commissioner asked if teams would like to consider anything different or if they preferred staying with the above format. Teams agreed they wanted to stay with the current format. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Middlebury, Wesleyan, Williams and WPI all expressed interest, but only Williams and Middlebury had potential dates.

Conversation transitioned into discussion over the 2020 scheduled dates and locations. Teams were reminded the North Atlantic Division was next in rotation to host the Men's DIII National Collegiate Club Championship on the weekend of October 31-1, 2020 with the Heartland as the next division if the North Atlantic declines.

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

Sept. 19-20	Middlebury/WPI/Wesleyan (Confirming date)
Oct. 3-4	Middlebury/WPI/Wesleyan (Confirming date)
Oct. 17-18	Champs – Williams (Backup Middlebury)
Oct. 31-1	DIII Nationals – Site TBD
Nov.13-15	Nationals – Site TBD

As Williams did not host during the 2019 season, they had first right to select a weekend and chose Oct. 17-18 to host the championship. While Middlebury is available to host any of the three dates, they agreed to allow WPI and Wesleyan to check on both Sept. 19-20 and Oct. 3-4 for pool availability. Depending on their ability to host on one of the two weekends, Middlebury would be willing to take the other weekend while the school who doesn't host will have first right during the 2021 season. Additionally, the Oct. 17-18 weekend is the start of the WPI Fall Break but team leadership felt they should not have a problem fielding a team as the dorms will remain open that first weekend.

Teams were reminded all dates are considered tentative until confirmed based on pool availability. The Assistant Commissioner requested all potential hosts to provide an update on their ability to reserve the pool by no later than May 1st. Potential hosts agreed to the date. 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 also 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 Assistant Commissioner offered a question that came from previous calls. Regarding 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 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.

As a reminder, the leadership team consists of someone responsible for the administrative paperwork, someone to serve as a player/coach, and someone that handles the social side of the team including recruiting. Additionally, these people should not be in the same class, to avoid a leadership vacuum after they graduate.

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.