

Great Lakes Division
Meeting held April 13, 2020 6:00PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Davenport University, Derek Zokoe; Grand Valley State University, Caleb Moles; Miami University (Ohio), Justin McDaniel; University of Cincinnati, Aaron Plvan and Samuel Moulton; University of Dayton, Michael Battista; University of Notre Dame, Brock Gorman and Ryan Guinn; Xavier University, Brycen Gwyn, Illinois State University, Michael Laughlin (8 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. Additionally, Illinois State University expressed their intent of returning after a year off. The league office will reach out to any other potential schools that have played in the past or expressed interest.

The next item on the agenda focused on the division format, conflict dates and hosting. The current Great Lakes Division competitive format is comprised of three regional weekends where teams attend two of the three and all teams attend the championship weekend. During the regular season, teams play every opponent once and one opponent twice that is randomly selected based on each team's weekend availability. 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 if the division consisted of nine or more teams. Otherwise, teams agreed to drop down to two regular season weekends if eight teams or less and would eliminate the first weekend of competition. That host would have first right to host in 2021 if the weekend is eliminated from the schedule. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Cincinnati, Dayton, Davenport, Notre Dame and Miami 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:

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| Sept. 19-20 | Cincinnati |
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| Sept. 26-27 | Notre Dame |
| Oct. 17-18 | Dayton or Miami (Backup Date Oct. 3-4) |
| Oct. 24-25 | Davenport – Champs (Backup Date Oct. 31-1) |
| November 13-15 | Nationals – Site TBD |

Illinois State expressed concern with Oct. 24-25 as they have a potential conflict on campus, but they will see if they can be excused. The Assistant Commissioner offered to reach out to their club supervisor to explain the process of selecting weekends and offer support in allowing ISU to compete that weekend. Teams voted 5-3 in favor of Oct. 17-18 with Oct. 3-4 as the backup in order to avoid potentially three weekends in a row.

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 30th. 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 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 question was asked if teams would receive a refund if the season competition was reduced due to changes related to the Coronavirus. The Assistant Commissioner said “yes” using the example of what happened with refunds during this past women's season. The Assistant Commissioner also offered two questions that came from a previous call. 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 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.

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.