

## **Heartland Division Meeting held April 8, 2020 7:00PM EDT**

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Augustana College, Jason Palmer; Carleton College, Jez Bigornia and Lucy Newman; Knox College, Fred Lehman; Macalester College, Jay West and Ben Blomquist; St. John's University, Melissa Moy and Izzy Sunday; St. Olaf College, Danny Barry and Yi Wynn Chan (6 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, 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 potential schools such as Southern Illinois University.

The next item on the agenda focused on the division format, conflict dates and hosting. The current Heartland 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. 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 and were OK with exhibition teams participating. Teams also agreed to allow any St. Mary's student-athletes to help fill out another team's roster if they decided not to participate. Knox noted they may have a smaller roster this upcoming season and everyone agreed they could combine with St. Mary's if their school allowed. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Augustana, Carleton, St. John's and Macalester all expressed interest (Grinnell was not represented on the call but is in the rotation to host championship).

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. If North Atlantic does host, the Heartland Division would be next to host the 2021 Fall Season and teams should begin thinking about it. Macalester expressed their interest in hosting this season if the opportunity became available.

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

September 19-20	St. John's (Backup Macalester)
September 26-27	Augustana (Backup Carleton)
October 3-4	Carleton (Backup Macalester)
October 10-11	Grinnell – Champs (Backup Macalester; Backup Date Oct. 17-18)
October 31-1	DIII Nationals – Site TBD

St. Olaf expressed concern of fielding a team the weekend of Oct. 10-11 due to Fall Break. After discussion, teams voted 4 to 2 in favor of Oct. 10-11 over Oct. 17-18. Teams voted for the earlier weekend as there seemed to have been less conflicts as opposed to the later weekend. While Grinnell was not represented on the call, teams agreed they should have first right to host the championship with Macalester as the backup location. The league office will reach out to Grinnell to confirm their interest and ability to host. If the DIII NCCC do come to the Heartland Division, Macalester would like to host and doesn't currently show any pool conflicts that weekend. The league office should have an answer by April 25<sup>th</sup> regarding the North Atlantic Division hosting nationals or not.

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 24<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup> for the Men's/Coed Season. After the form is submitted, teams have until September 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:office@collegiatewaterpolo.org).

Finally, teams were asked if they had any questions or new business to discuss. The Assistant Commissioner 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.

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.