

North Atlantic Division
Meeting held April 17, 2020 4:00PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; Bates College, James Calhoun and Rex Hirschhorn; Bowdoin College, Teddy Wecker; Colby College, Isaac Marlott; University of Vermont, Sarah Gotoff (4 of 5 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 the league office will reach out to past teams such as St. Michaels and Univ. of Maine. Additionally, we will reach out to other teams such as Middlebury to see if they have interest in switching to the North Atlantic Division. All teams were willing to allow exhibition teams interested in starting and getting involved. Additionally, they were interested in inviting teams from another division to attend a league weekend for additional non-division competition if they have less than five teams participating.

The next item on the agenda focused on the division format, conflict dates and hosting. The current North Atlantic Division competitive format is comprised of two regional tournaments and a championship weekend. During the regular season, teams play every opponent twice in a five-team format. 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. Teams were asked if they would like to combine with the Colonial Division. Teams voted unanimously to stay with the North Atlantic for at least one more year. All teams were asked if they were interested in hosting. Vermont, Colby and Bowdoin all expressed interest, but no team 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. Both Bowdoin and Colby expressed interest. Bowdoin was willing to be the backup site if Colby was not able to host but everyone thought it was a good opportunity to showcase their brand-new facility. Leadership will follow up with their administrations.

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

Sept. 19-20 Colby (Backup Vermont/Bowdoin)

Oct. 3-4	Vermont (Backup Colby/Bowdoin)
Oct. 24-25	Champs – Bowdoin (Backup Colby)
Oct. 31-1	DIII Nationals – Site TBD (Colby or Bowdoin)

The above schedule is the preferred dates and locations. Teams agreed they would like to have Colby host the Sept. 19-20 weekend due to Rosh Hashanah as Vermont did not think it would be as big of an issue within their team. This also allows teams the split up their travel; specifically Vermont who would travel to Maine, stay home and travel to Maine.

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.