

Southwest Division

Meeting held April 15, 2020 9:00PM EDT

Attending: Tom Tracey, Assistant Commissioner; California State University-Northridge, Kirsten LeDuc; San Diego State University, Jake Keville; University of Arizona, Ryan Salaz; University of California-Irvine, Matthew Osterhoudt and Pierre Crouzet; University of California-San Diego, Jack Harper; University of San Diego, Harrison Mello (6 of 7 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, UC San Diego expressed interest in adding a "B" Squad. Additionally, Long Beach State was mentioned as rumored interest in switching to the Southwest Division. The league office will reach out to Long Beach State leadership to confirm as they are currently slated to compete in the Pacific Coast Division. The office will also reach out to any other potential schools that have played in the past or expressed interest. The Assistant Commissioner noted that ASU did not RSVP for the call so we are not sure if they plan to participate next season but will find out. Additionally, it was noted that Cal State Northridge is considering switching back to the Pacific Coast Division but it had nothing to do with the teams and the decision has not been finalized.

The next item on the agenda focused on the division format, conflict dates and hosting. The current Southwest Division competitive format is comprised of two regular season tournaments and the championship weekend where all teams attend all three events. Additionally, when a team plays another team twice during the regular season, the first match will be considered exhibition while the second match will count towards their league record. 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. UC Irvine, San Diego State, UC San Diego and Arizona all expressed interest. Teams were reminded that each region (San Diego, LA and Arizona) of the division hosts once time during the season. Teams decided in the order of LA, Arizona and San Diego. As San Diego State hosted in 2019, it would be first right for UC San Diego to host this season with San Diego State as the backup location. Additionally, San Diego State is the backup for the LA Area if UC Irvine cannot host (as determined and approved by the division membership). While Arizona State was scheduled to host this season, Arizona was given first right as ASU did not RSVP or participate on the call and still has an outstanding balance from the previous seasons that must be paid before they can participate further.

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:

Oct. 10-11	UC Irvine (Backup SDSU or Backup Date Oct. 3-4)
Oct. 24-25	Arizona (Backup ASU if they participate or Backup Date Oct. 17-18)
Nov. 7-8	UC San Diego – Champs (Backup SDSU or Backup Date Oct. 31-1)
Nov.13-15	Nationals – Site TBD

When determining dates, teams took in consideration NCAA Football Schedules. Teams voted unanimously in favor of the first regular season weekend on Oct. 10-11 with the backup dates as Oct. 3-4. Teams also voted 5-1 of Oct. 24-25 over the backup date of Oct. 1-18. Based on conflict dates, teams agreed to have the division championship the weekend before nationals (Nov. 7-8). Teams understood this could be challenging for the eventual division champion to book travel for nationals, but teams preferred the weekend of Nov. 7-8. The Assistant Commissioner stated teams could potentially work through Airline's Group Booking to get a better price earlier and hold the tickets. The league office could help explain it better for those teams interested.

The question was asked if nationals will be pushed back later if the season starts later due to the Coronavirus. The Assistant Commissioner stated the league is currently operating that the season will start as normal and therefore the national championship date would fall on the above date. However, this may change as the spring/summer progresses and more information is available regarding the current pandemic.

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 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 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.