

2021 Men's Club Annual Meeting Minutes

North Atlantic and Colonial Divisions

Minutes, April 21, 2021

Attending: Daniel Sharadin, Commissioner; Williams College Galen Cassidy; United States Coast Guard Academy, Alex Hwang; Massachusetts-Amherst, Will Merritt; Middlebury College Brian Goodwin; Amherst College Julia Merrill; Colby College Isaac Marlott; Bowdoin College Teddy Wecker

The conference call was held as the first step in the process to discuss what the next season will look like. Since we may be changing the way we have been structured for years, we felt it was important to take some time for teams to talk about it with their teammates before making a final decision. We have therefore provided a summary of the issue and will have a second conference call to confirm the competitive structure next week.

Next Call

Wednesday, April 28 4:00PM EDT

Dial-in Number: 971-224-6609

Participant Access Code: 426721

During the call we covered the following information:

The Problem

Competitive equity is lacking in every division. This leads to novice teams disbanding, new teams quitting before the season ends, and lots of forfeits.

The Statistics

Teams at the bottom three places in the standings lose their games to the top three teams by an average of over 11 goals per game and commit 95% of the forfeits. They also lose over half their games every year, with some teams failing to win a single game in consecutive seasons.

The Result

Players don't enjoy spending their money to drive several hours and get drilled by the opposing teams each time they play. Likewise, experienced clubs find it a waste of time playing novice teams, trying to keep the games artificially close. Athletes want to feel like the game matters, and they have a chance to compete against other players with similar ability.

The Solution

Create a structure that provides more opportunities to play opponents similar in ability.

Options

The CWPA is driven by the teams involved. We do not dictate to you, we facilitate what you want. Therefore, we want you to decide the direction you will follow. We have created three options to choose from. During our next conference call, you will choose which option you want to follow, so be sure to discuss this information with your teammates.

Option 1 Status Quo

Teams play within their division for all three tournaments, but individual game matchups are determined by won/loss records or program strength from historical data. Teams then attend an “A” or “B” division championship that includes only teams within their division.

Option 2 Hybrid

Teams play within their division during the first two weekends to determine standings. The top half of the teams from one division will play against the top half of the division from the neighboring division at the “A” Championship and the bottom half of the teams from each division will do the same at the “B” Championship.

Option 3 Self -Selection

Teams decide before the season begins whether they want to compete in the “A” bracket or the “B” bracket. The advantage means you would be playing against comparable programs from the beginning of the season as opposed to waiting until the championship, but it could mean longer travel distances.

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The second conference call opened with a brief recap of the competitive format options discussed a week prior. The purpose of this call was to select which competitive option would be used this fall.

Teams voted five in favor of the Hybrid model, one in favor of any option, and one in favor of the status quo. After some discussion, the teams not voting for the Hybrid said they would be fine with that model as well.

Option 2 Hybrid

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Teams voted to have a six-team "A" championship, with the remaining teams moving to the "B" championship. However, if several teams choose not to compete, the conference may decide on a different split. This concern was raised because Maine is not fielding a program any longer and St Michael's participation is tentative.

Middlebury also indicated they can switch to the North Atlantic if needed based on the number of teams participating.

The Commissioner stated he would send an excel form that teams will need to complete, listing what dates they are unavailable to compete, and which dates they can host. The deadline for the form to be returned is May 15, but the office understands teams may not be able to determine if they can host by that point in time. In this instance, teams should just indicate that on their form and notify the office when they get a date confirmed with their school.