

# 2021 Men's Club Annual Meeting Minutes

## Pacific Coast/Southwest Divisions

Minutes, April 22, 2021

### Attending:

Tom Tracey, CWPA

Southern California, University of - Payton Alanzo - maybe host

UCLA - Jackson Lawrence, Luke Peterson and Doug Merkel (coach) - maybe host

Cal Poly - Dustin Asalone - maybe host

San Diego, University of - Luke Prendiville - cannot host

Southwest California-San Diego - Jack Harper - Not Sure

Southwest California-Irvine, University of Pierre Brouzec - maybe host

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. Teams need to discuss the material with their squads and be prepared to make a decision during the next call.

### Next Call

Tuesday, May 4, 2021 7:00PM EDT (4:00PM PDT)

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.

### **National Championship**

We will establish an additional National Championship for the top two teams from each of the Division Championships involving the bottom half clubs. The event will be termed the National Invite.

After discussing the options, teams liked the idea of the Hybrid where everyone plays everyone but split into A/B Championship. They also liked the idea of the National Invite.

Teams asked what would happen to national positions if the Self-Selection option was selected. It would not affect the seeding since teams would still be qualifying. Since both divisions would

still be represented, the highest placing team of the Southwest and Pacific Coast “A” championship would automatically assume the higher of the two seeds from the prior year’s championship.

No one had any dates they could confirm to host, but several indicated interest. Teams were asked to find out from the Aquatics Director specific dates and email [office@collegiatewaterpolo.org](mailto:office@collegiatewaterpolo.org) within the next few weeks.

Teams reminded about the participation contact being due June 1<sup>st</sup>,. Even if you are not 100% confirmed by your school, but your intent is to compete, you should complete it by that date.

Several teams asked about requesting an invoice and pay towards the fall season as their schools are providing the option to receive some money this spring that will disappear. Those wishing to do so should contact the office ASAP.

Call ended with letting the leadership know there have been several changes in office staff but the CWPA continues to be there to serve them and create the best experience possible. They were asked to reach out to the office with questions or concerns and were thanked for their participation.

## **Pacific Coast/Southwest Divisions**

Minutes, May 12, 2021

Attending: Dan Sharadin, CWPA; Southern California, Payton Alanzo; UCLA - Jackson Lawrence, Luke Peterson; Cal Poly – Justin Schaner; San Diego State – Erik Vaughan; California-San Diego - Jack Harper and Sachin Okuma; Arizona – David Miller

The second conference call was scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>, but not enough schools attended. The third call opened with a brief recap of the competitive format options discussed previously. The purpose of this call was to select which competitive option would be used this fall.

Teams voted unanimously in favor of the Hybrid model:

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.

Regarding the format of the championship, it would be based on the number of teams participating. If an even number of teams compete, they would be split equally between the

“A” and “B” championships. If an odd number compete, the “A” championship would receive the extra team.

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.