

Illinois Water Polo Board Meeting  
22 February 2016 7:00P.M.  
Fenwick High School

In attendance: Rick Marsh, Lynn Castro, Rob Lindgren, Kyle Perry, Jesse Zien, Sally Stelnecki, Carol Macola, Chris Cloy, Tim Daniel and Elizabeth Timmons

Leadership Team: Kyle Perry

- Discussed with Rick what president's role is
- Looking to have concrete description for the next meeting

Treasurer Update: Ron Biamonte (emailed information presented by Kyle Perry)

- No new donations at this time
- Working with Rich at Tax Control to fill out appropriate forms for 2015 taxes
- If we receive more donations to the scholarship fund, we could give out more scholarships or give out more money to each recipient
  - o Carol suggested that profits made from the leagues could be put directly into the scholarship fund.
  - o Currently, fundraiser for scholarship fund planned for May 7, 2016 at O'Sullivan's around 6pm.
  - o Looking for more fundraising opportunities to ensure the scholarship can continue beyond the next few years.

Executive Board (Midwest Aquatics)

- No updates/changes at this time

Banquet:

- Location of the event:
  - o Diplomat West = very affordable (\$18/person)
    - After discussing our concerns with them, Rick Marsh said they will not book another group on the same day we book with them to help minimize the distracting noise
    - Good location and has the best price!
    - Plus they have been very accommodating for us in the last few years as the number of people to show up without having sent in an RSVP has increased dramatically.
  - o Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale
    - \$26.50/person so more expensive than the Diplomat West
    - If we can really have the Diplomat West to ourselves, we don't need to pursue this option.
  - o Seven Bridges in Woodridge
    - Only holds 180 ppl so we are not pursuing this option anymore.
  - o Drury Lane in Oak Brook
    - They were the least cooperative and they are not interested so we are not pursuing this option anymore.
- Date of the Event:
  - o Originally looking at June 1 or 2 (Wednesday or Thursday)

- Now checking on May 31 (Tuesday), because Sally can use that day to make sure certificates are complete and look good.
  - Did not finalize a date yet, but we will get the information out as soon as we have confirmed.
  - Even if we can't get the Diplomat West to ourselves this year (because we are reserving somewhat late), can we get that promise of no other events on the day of the banquet for future years?
- Sally and Carol will man the desk at the banquet just like they have in the past.
  - Need to get them the list of who bought ads so they can get those people their tickets.
- RSVP Concerns
  - Too many people are not responding and just showing up. This gets overwhelming for the venue, especially when more show up than we planned for and there isn't enough food.
  - Currently, Sally and Carol hand out flyers at state games to get parents the information about the banquet and ad book
  - Get this info to coaches and refs.
    - Perry can email officials.
    - Send out info to the coaches' directory list.
  - Need to emphasize that emailing or mailing in an RSVP is NECESSARY to put together a successful banquet.

#### Player Recognition: Chris Cloy

- Chris plans to get the all sectional voting information out earlier this year so the process will be less rushed.
- This should be simple because the procedure is the same as last year, so having that as a guide should help streamline the process.
  - Request was made that player year and school be included on the ballot sent out.
- Do we want online voting for All-State or go back to meeting in person?
  - Could we include a survey with the all-sectional ballot to get an idea of each coach's preference?
  - Want to allow interested/dedicated coaches to participate, but should every coach be a part of voting or only those who have players on the list?

#### Hall of Fame:

- Committee news:
  - Nancy O'Brien-Kane has been added to the HoF committee.
  - Bill Walztoni has stepped down from the HoF committee.
    - We would all like to thank Bill for his time and efforts.
- Nominations:
  - The deadline for nominations for the 2016 Hall of Fame selection was February 14th.
  - No new nominations were received so the nominees for this year will be selected from the current running list of candidates.
  - Current running list:
    - Eric Fischer
    - Ron Koehler
    - John Murphy
    - Dan Nystrom (deceased)

- Jeff Plackett
  - Steve Vongluekiat
  - Ray Zeason
- Website Updates for Hall of Fame Section:
  - Jesse Zien and I received some information from Chris Cloy for gathering present Hall of Fame information for the website. Jesse will be working on this as more information comes in.
  - Currently 2 bios up on the website.
    - Goal is 10 by the end of the water polo season
    - No set format for bios as of yet. Can make changes to this as needed in the future.
  - Kyle has been emailing 1 hall of fame member/day.
    - Response has been very positive. Some members forgot they were in the hall of fame and many have asked for the banquet date so they can stay connected and attend.

#### Fundraising:

- Anyone interested in filling this position. Could be a 1 or 2 year commitment.
  - Could do similar things with other volunteers/positions to increase interest.
- Currently actively looking for donations
  - Putting the information out there about the fundraiser for the Perry Scholarship
    - At O'Sullivans after Varsity MCAC Championship in May (5/7/16)
  - Also looking for people to put ads in the end of the season ad book.
  - Need to get all of this information out to coaches so they can share with their teams.

#### Officials: Perry Korbakis (presented by Kyle Perry and Rick Marsh)

- Training tournament was a big success (2/12/16-2/14/16)
  - 21 new officials
  - Have a lot of game film to show new refs
    - Want to make a site where refs can go to watch film, especially in regards to advantage calls.
    - Wondering what kind of site we could use and would there be a cost associated with the storage of files?
  - Looking to have Rick Marsh and Perry Korbakis just evaluate in the future and not ref any high school games.
    - Not enough officials to do that right now.
- Need more officials – have anyone interested contact Perry (pkorbakis@aol.com)

#### Communications: Lynn Castro

- Reported about a recent tournament in Florida that had 4 Illinois teams participating this year
  - Good competition for us because usually the top 3 teams in Florida are there and all Illinois teams were competitive
- JO Qualifier procedures are changing
  - Looking to get all the teams in a central location with all age groups competing on the same weekend.
    - JOs starts a week earlier so the qualifier would be a week earlier too (June 10-12<sup>th</sup>)
  - Looking for pools to host and not much has been updated yet.

- West Suburban, NWC and NIPC are going to participate
- 4 year rotating host site between Chicago, Ohio, Michigan and St. Louis

Website: Jesse Zien

- Please send anything that you want to go up on the website to Kyle. Must be approved by Kyle first, so it makes sense to go to him first and then be forwarded to Jesse.
- Updates:
  - News (recent/present information) and Events (future opportunities) are two separate pages
  - New Navigation:
    - All-State banquet information is on top and not hidden away
      - Can be accessed from Coach, Player or Official section of the website
      - Also a part of the calendar and news pages
    - Connected the club pages
    - Doubled the hall of fame bios (looking to get 10 by the end of the water polo season)
    - When entering an event on the calendar, you can add a location so people can use the maps on their phone/iPad to get directions
      - Can also add in admission cost
      - Be sure to provide as much information as possible when asking to have an event put in the calendar
    - Meeting minutes are posted on website
    - Updated the Executive Board
    - Updated the fundraising page
    - 2015 ad book posted
    - Waiting on the final scholarship updates and then that form will be posted so people can access the latest information
- Needed:
  - Coaching Directory
  - Bi-Laws
- THANK YOU JESSE FOR ALL OF YOUR HARD WORK!

Photography: Tom Musch (updates from Jesse about website)

- Website will include link to get to his pictures
- Banner on IWP website is running through photos of current players that came from Tom's website

Parks: Beto Garcia

- No updates at this meeting

ODP & USAWP: Tim Daniel

- USAWP has opened up a new level of membership
  - Looking to up numbers of members, especially here in the midwest
  - Bronze membership with the option to upgrade later if you join ODP travel team or want to compete at elite tournaments
  - USAWP interest in fall leagues membership for identifying ODP athletes.
    - Kyle discussed the bronze membership option and says he likes the idea.

- Reminded everyone that AWP provides a lot support for us with the leagues. Even if commissioner left in the middle, we would still have a league and the organization would not be in jeopardy.
  - Tim Daniel said he liked the bronze membership option also, but that some members of his club are struggling to pay both membership fees.
    - Also said he is working on getting national staff coaches out to look at our kids here.
- Christie Medigovich = new membership improvement liaison.
  - Will be here March 18-20<sup>th</sup>
  - Wants to meet with coaches at tournaments and is looking to discuss what USAWP can do to meet the needs of clubs in the Midwest.
    - Please spread the word about her attendance at tournaments and encourage coaches to talk to her. More information about where she will be going that weekend will come out shortly.
- ODP is going in a new direction also
  - Scheduling and travel is easier now that the zone has been restructured and some other states have been moved to other zones
  - Numbers are much lower this year compared to last year (100 kids last year compared to 30 kids this year)
  - Tim Daniel will be in California this weekend with about 20 high school boys from IL
    - About 50 total boys from our zone
    - On girls side, most girls from IL with less from the rest of the zone
  - Please see the attached sheet regarding ideas to increase USAWP involvement in our zone
    - Right now only in the talking phase
    - Tim Daniel is meeting with Jon Abdu to discuss options this weekend
    - IF YOU HAVE ANY FEEDBACK ON THE OPTIONS ATTACHED, PLEASE RESPOND TO TIM DANIEL BEFORE THIS WEEKEND!

#### College Program Liaison:

- Looking for someone to fill this position. Want someone who can update us on what is going on collegiately in IL and beyond.
  - Looking for information about what we can do to help coaches here and farther away.
  - Want to get college coaches to come here and share information with us.
- Pat Bower was suggested as a resource for this position.

#### Leagues: Rob Lindgren

- Leagues are the best way to build our network
  - Get players in more games
  - Get coaches together to collaborate
  - Advertise options to clubs
- Survey about summer participation being previewed by IWP members at this time.
  - Looking for feedback (proofreading) and if we need to include anything else.
  - Goal is to determine coaches' desire to participate and at what level (Emerging, Premier and Championship brackets to the league).
  - Right now just need feedback about form so only sent to IWP coaches. Will be sent to everyone once we have finalized the format.

- <https://docs.google.com/a/d214.org/forms/d/10n65sunCIEQud8Le3J60GRQ9ZrM5WfbKTJ03OypHXi4/viewform>
- Summer clinic
  - Would like to run a clinic in the summer for coaches and players.
    - Have different topics/discussions included
    - For coaches in the championship league, might be asked to present something
    - Designed to help new coaches get some drills and ideas
  - Could eventually expand and include something for officials too.
- Looking for suggestions for the best time to host the end of the season tournament for the leagues
  - Right now looking for hosts at all levels because finding host sites are the biggest challenge to the league.
  - All costs associated with the league go to compensating refs and extra is given to IWP

#### New Business:

- Jeff Wimer:
  - The collaborative meeting/workshop for coaches and officials with John Abdu on March 5th will not be taking place. Unfortunately John was not available on that date. It was decided we would work on a later date when John is available, possibly in the beginning of the summer or before next season.
  - Could we have another coach come in at that time?
- Tim Daniel is willing to work with the person selected to be College Liaison to provide any help.
- Lynn and Garrett are interested in adding information to the website about masters programs in the area.
  - Website is in the process of updating club/team links and including more information about masters clubs
- Jesse asked about a budget for the website.
  - Do we need to send out email blasts? Do we have funds to do this?
    - Right now we have group distribution lists for coaches, hall of fame and IWP emails
  - Eventually can have a sign up page on the website so we can update emails and people can add their emails
  - Working on an IWP twitter account.
    - Easy to re-tweet information to all clubs.
    - Hopefully will be up by the end of the week.
- Do we want/need a coaches or officials organization overseen by IWP?
  - Rob said it might give people more ownership over what they are running.
    - If I have to pay to participate, I might be more concerned with what is going on.
  - Carol is concerned it might drop donations because people have to pay to join.

Next meeting: Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00P.M. at Fenwick.

Ideal proposed format.

Cadet and Youth:

Option 1:

Create fall leagues in Illinois and Missouri that clubs can register for and play in local tournaments. A tournament in late October/early November would convene where National Team coaches would attend to evaluate athletes and make selections.

- All athletes would only need a Bronze membership, but would upgrade if selected to move forward to ODP travel squad
- ODP coaches would attend tournaments to evaluate
- More coaches would be encouraged to create clubs for their high school teams.
- The ODP system of play would be shared amongst coaches and coaches would be encouraged to implement the skills into their coaching.
- Coaching clinic would be included for the selection tournament.
- Athletes would be guaranteed at least 3 tournaments
- After selections to Travel Squad athletes would attend trainings in November, December, and January (existing dates) before traveling to California in February
- Midwest Head Official will do the assigning for officials.

Option 2:

Host a tournament in St. Louis and/or Chicago where clubs will participate in and selections will be made for travel squad. A National Team coach will attend to assist in selections.

Developmental:

ODP could “piggyback” off of the TYR Cup leagues/qualifiers to make selections and offer the ODP program to the best athletes from this tournament/league

- ODP could “piggy back” off of existing league/games
- after TYR cup athletes would attend training in November, December and January

Needs/Challenges:

1. There will need to be an option created for “free agent” athletes who might not be on a club team and might not have a local club team to participate with. We will want to have an option for an athlete like this.
2. IHSA rule where coaches can not coach their own athletes in the off season
3. Will have to spell out time commitments for ZAG coaches.

# Illinois Water Polo Summer League Survey

To help plan and better serve the needs of your team let us know your preference for the IWP Summer League. This survey does not commit you to play it only helps gauge interest. A follow up registration form for summer will be sent to coaches in April.

\* Required

**1. Team Name \***

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**2. Name \***

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**3. Our team would be interested in \***

Games would begin the week of June 13 and end July 24  
*Mark only one oval.*

- Emerging Teams Scrimmages: Playing casually a few times in the summer at a predetermined facility. 2-4 evenings approx.
- Premier League: Playing regularly to gain competitive experience 8-12 games, end of season tournament, discount for hosting
- Champions League: IWP Summer State Champion Named, records kept, end of season championship tournament, be willing to host and travel

**4. Any comments on Emerging, Premier, Champions League structure?**

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**5. Any comments on game nights or length of season?**

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**6. Our team would \***

Check all that apply games would be played on Thursday nights (Wed. as needed).

*Check all that apply.*

- Host games only
- Host games and travel
- Not be able to host games
- Travel locally just looking for games
- Travel longer distances to get high competition

**7. Our team could host a tournament on the weekend of July 23 Sat. , July 24 Sun. \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- Yes
- No

**8. Our team could host a mid summer tournament on the following weekend(s)**

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**9. Any comments on hosting or traveling?**

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**10. I would be interested in participating in an IWP summer clinic as a \***

*Mark only one oval.*

- Presenter
- Attendee
- Not interested in a clinic in the summer

**11. Any comments on a potential IWP summer coaches clinic?**

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