

IWP Meeting Minutes – 6/6/16

In attendance:

Kyle Perry
Ron Biamonte
Rose Wimer
Jesse Zien
Lynn Castro
Tom Musch
Tim Daniel
Elizabeth Timmons

1. Opening Comments – Kyle Perry

- Big thank you to Carol Macola and Sally Stelnicki for certificates and setting stuff up.
- Big thank you to Tom Musch for all of the photographs
- Banquet was awesome!
 - o Biggest turn out
 - o More ads than last year
 - o Only had to set up one extra table
- We are all ready to run the summer leagues
 - o Schedule is out for 12U, 14U and high school.
- The All-Star game should be a marquee event with the banquet and the Dave Perry Scholarship

2. Treasurer Report – Ron Biamonte

- No profit made on the banquet.
- 220 seats filled and paid for but there are costs that are not recovered from the banquet.
 - o Backpacks might be a difficult expense to continue with in the coming years. They are very expensive.
 - o All but 10% of the ad book was covered. Without that donation, the financial picture of the banquet would have been bleak.
 - Some ads might not have been paid for yet. Kyle will be tracking down those who still need to pay for an ad.
 - Some of the ad money might have gone to Sally also.
 - In the future, have all donations/payments go through Ron so they can be tracked (where they came from and what they are for).
- Scholarship fundraising was awesome this year.
 - o Received 3 times the donations compared to last year.
 - o Great turnout this year for donations but we need to make sure the funding is sustainable.
 - 2014 Scholarship money had to come from another source.
 - o Dave Perry College Scholarship Awareness Week
 - Done by the MCAC this year.
 - Want all conferences to participate next year because any athlete that meets the criteria may apply, regardless of their high school.
 - Need to make sure we send out the information so schools can participate.
 - School can decide how to participate (admissions, ball toss, split the pot, etc).

- Increased participation will allow the monetary amount for each scholarship to increase or increase the number of scholarships handed out. Increased funding must be sustainable though (see graph from treasury report).

3. Midwest Water Polo and Aquatics Association Executive Board Report

- Nothing to report at this time

4. Reports:

a. Banquet

- Numbers are good. Biggest turn out this year at 220.
- Hall of Fame speech was good and a well-deserved honor.
 - Looking for more nominations to add to the running list that the committee votes on each year.
- Please email any ideas you have that would encourage athletes to attend the banquet.
 - For example, could we invite All-Sectional team members (that did not make All-State teams) to the banquet?
 - Could recognize by having them stand at their seats and see a designated person at the end for their certificate. We would provide them with a copy of the ad book (because their names are in it).
 - Could this be done at a less expensive price than the normal ticket?
 - Kyle is going to ensure that the ADs of sectional host sites have the banquet information and post it for parents and players.
 - Volunteers from coaches?
 - Updated coaches list so the flyer can be emailed to coaches and Ads.
 - We have some extra booklets that players may want because they are recognized in them.
 - Hoping to sell them on the website, but we need to send an email to coaches about this.
 - Is there a way to prevent the banquet from falling on graduation or a sports night?
 - Goal is to set the date at the beginning of the season so that coaches might be able to get their school to avoid conflicts.
 - Need to post the date on all social media.
 - The farther away from the season, usually, the lower the attendance.

b. Player Recognition – Chris Cloy (unable to attend – emailed update below)

- Here are my notes from the Player Recognition process for the 2016 season. I have used the numbers from last year for comparison and analysis.
- Boys Teams
- All-Sectional Awards Given: 168
 - 2016: 76/82 (92.7%) teams submitted All-Sectional Nominations
 - 2015: 73/78 (92.6%) teams submitted All-Sectional Nominations
 - Up 0.1% from 2015
 - 2016: 59/76 (77.6%) of teams voted for All-Sectional Awards
 - 2015: 53/73 (72.6%) of teams voted for All-Sectional Awards
 - Up 5.0% from 2015
- All-State Awards Given: 40
 - All 16 coaches voted for All-State Awards

- 2016: 57/112 (50.9%) of athletes had bios written by coaches
- 2015: 61/112 (54.5%) of athletes had bios written by coaches
- Down 3.6% from 2015

- Girls Teams
- All-Sectional Awards Given: 168
 - 2016: 69/77 (89.6%) teams submitted All-Sectional Nominations
 - 2015: 70/71 (98.6%) teams submitted All-Sectional Nominations
 - Down 9.0% from 2015

 - 2016: 61/69 (88.4%) teams voted for All-Sectional Awards
 - 2015: 48/70 (68.6%) teams voted for All-Sectional Awards
 - Up 19.8% from 2015

- All-State Awards Given: 40
 - All 16 coaches voted for All-State Awards
 - 2016: 65/112 (58.0%) of athletes had bios written by coaches
 - 2015: 55/112 (49.1%) of athletes had bios written by coaches
 - Up 8.9% from 2015

- Scholar-Athlete
 - 2016 Scholar-Athlete Nominations: 10 Girls - 6 Boys - 16 Total
 - 2015 Scholar-Athlete Nominations: 5 Girls - 8 Boys - 13 Total

- Phil Stelnicki
 - 2016: 1 Nomination
 - 2015: 2 Nominations
 - *We need a better way of getting nominations for this award.

- Overall, this year went much smoother than last year. The administrative part on my end was much quicker and it was easier to get things organized.
- I am always open to suggestions for improvement and would welcome any feedback from the group. Please let me know if you need anything else from me. I look forward to improving the process again for next year!

Feedback from the presented information about player recognition:

- Voting was much better this year
- Too many spots to fill in for All-Sectional
 - Should we do only 2 teams instead of 3?
 - Some sectionals need more than 2 teams
 - Coaches could use some guidance about whether or not you need to fill in all spots
 - In the past, votes might not have counted because if you don't fill in all the spots, you might upgrade your kids.
 - Could we use end seeds for the sectional voting?
 - Are the All-Sectional teams based on the sectional or the season play for players?
 - Coaches could use some guidance on this.

- Could we go back to an in-person meeting for the All-State team voting?
 - Biographies are helpful but it can be easy to dismiss a player by skipping their biography.
 - Allowing the coach time to speak would minimize this.
- What are the criteria for the Phil Stelnicki Award?
 - Is it a lifetime achievement award or can it be given to someone for outstanding service to the sport for that year?
 - Example: giving it to the people who were instrumental in getting water polo to be IHSA, even though they are not directly related to the sport now.
 - Also looking to get past winners up on the website.
- c. Hall of Fame – Jeff Wimer
 - Looking for more nominations to add to the current running list.
- d. Fundraising
 - Thank you to Rocco and Roxanne Martino for being the 2016 Illinois Water Polo All-State Banquet Printing Sponsor. We greatly appreciate their generosity and wish their son, Thomas Martino (Fenwick '16), good luck as he heads off to the University of Notre Dame this fall.
 - More ads this year compared to last year.
 - This summer, Kyle and Ron are revamping sponsorship levels and costs to make this easier for people.
 - Want the final breakdown up by the fall so it can be promoted early.
- e. Referees – Perry Korbakis
 - MCAC instituted a conference referee evaluation this year.
 - Feedback was very comprehensive.
 - Coaches took time to fill them out with constructive criticism or complements.
 - Goal is that all of Illinois can do this in the coming seasons to provide professional development for officials because they do not receive their evaluations sent to the IHSA.
 - Perry does not see the evaluations sent to IHSA so this would help him provide feedback.
 - Want more professional development for officials.
 - Qualifier is a clinic for USAWP officials and they can join at that time but they need to pre-register for the clinic.
 - Jim Cullingham is coming in 6/11 at Hoffman Estates & 6/12 at Stevenson.
 - We need a good turnout at this to support getting more people from California out here to help with professional development for officials.
 - Cost is \$5 for USAWP member and \$10 for nonmember.

Email from Ron that went out to all regarding this visit:

Greetings,

The Midwest Zone is hosting a USA Water Polo Referee Training in Hoffman Estates, IL on June 11, 2016 and Lincolnshire, IL on June 12, 2016 in conjunction with the zone's Junior Olympics Qualification Tournaments.

Our plan is to offer a comprehensive classroom style training session including video training, discussions on philosophy and interpretations, "local" policies and procedures, "you make the call" exercises, and much more. Time permitting, we may also have the opportunity to observe the tournament play on deck for further discussion and interpretation. The discussion will be presented by the National Director of Referees, Jim Cullingham.

The primary clinic will be at Hoffman Estates High School on June 11, 10am-5pm. A shortened backup session will be available at June 12 at Adlai Stevenson High School, 9am-1pm, to benefit officials at that site and accommodate conflicts with Saturday. Please attend only Saturday OR Sunday.

Costs for the clinic are \$5 for USA Water Polo members and \$10 for non-members. The Midwest Zone will provide morning refreshments and lunch both days. This clinic fulfills the 2-year clinic requirement for USA Water Polo.

Please register for the clinic at the following link:

<https://webpoint.usawaterpolo.com/wp15/Events2/ViewEvt.wp?EventID=16215>

The event is open to USA Water Polo Members and Non Members alike, please spread the word so that we can reach just as many folks as possible with this education and training opportunity. Coaches are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Thanks in advance and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Nick Cargola, MWZ Zone Head Referee

Jim Cullingham, Director of Referees

- No Mike Murphy Award this year at the banquet.
 - o Difficult to get officials to attend the banquet so the award is not always handed out.
 - o Goal is to honor an official and minimize the coach vs. official mindset.
 - Want officials to know how important they are to the sport.
 - Want to thank officials for their dedication to the sport.
 - Want athletes and coaches to see them as people too!
 - o Need to find a way to encourage officials to come and hang out in this social setting.
- f. Communications – Lynn Castro
 - Spreadsheet attached has the masters information that Lynn has compiled until now.
 - Upcoming masters tournaments:
 - o CPD now runs the IWP senior men’s summer championship at Portage Park.
 - o Garrin Kapecki wants to create a tournament that includes high level masters teams like NYAC and the Olympic club to replace the tournament that is now run by CPD.
 - The tournament would occur in October as a bigger version of the Dan O’Connell Tournament and will be hosted at UIC.
 - Picked this time because there is not much high level water polo happening at that time.
 - Will get contact information on the website (Jesse).
 - o Could we host a tournament every couple of years to get people to the Midwest?
 - Could we host viewing parties for big water polo games as fundraisers?
 - o At a bar or restaurant?
- g. Website – Jesse Zien
 - By-laws are on the website now.
 - Hall of Fame biographies section is growing well.
 - News page is working to attract people.
 - The IWP twitter was so great so fast it got shut down. Was quickly re-instated and is now linked on website.
 - Right now Jesse backs up the website on his own server daily.
 - Working on knowing the traffic to the site.
 - o Need to register with Google:
 - 90 days to recognize as registered.
 - 90 days to provide analysis on traffic.

- Aaron Brown is happy with our website additions/updates too which is good because he has a great site also.
 - h. Photography – Tom Musch
 - We need more pictures on the slideshow to keep improving it each year.
 - We can let people know that all of the pictures don't have to come from the high school season. Can have some from club season as well.
5. Liaisons Report:
- a. USWP Liaison – Tim Daniel
 - Busy summer coming up with the Olympics.
 - o 16U Qualifier at Hoffman Estates.
 - o 18U Qualifier at Stevenson.
 - o Chicago Showcase Clinic (6/18 & 6/19)
 - Free for coaches.
 - Looking for more participants.
 - o Taste of Chicago (7/10 & 7/11)
 - Liberty Mutual and NWC volunteers to showcase caps and suits.
 - o Road to Rio Event
 - Really promoting less expensive memberships to attract more members.
 - b. ODP – Tim Daniel
 - Coaches clinic and 18U clinic
 - o October date to be determined by Stevenson
 - o Bronze membership required only
 - Try Water Polo clinic on website (6/25)
 - Similar event at Deerfield later in the season.
 - c. College Programs Liaison – Gregg Emdee
 - McKendree University is building a beautiful natatorium which should help to attract our players.
 - We are looking for insight from him on the college and club levels.
 - d. Chicago Park District Liaison – Beto Garcia
 - Schedules are on the website for upcoming tournaments/events.
6. League Updates – Rob Lindgren
- Schedules are out for the summer league.
 - o There are:
 - 6 Champions League Boy
 - 15 Premier League Boys
 - 6 Champions League Girls teams
 - 14 Premier League Girls teams.
 - Looking ahead:
 - o Do weekends need to be included in the high school game schedule?
 - o Are there any other thoughts on ways to improve the league, be more inclusive and promote strong competitive experiences for our coaches, teams and players?
 - The Proposed Coaching Clinic is running into challenges with busy summer schedules in July and if it goes it would need to be June 30, 31.
 - o Looking for new dates for this one because that weekend did not work out.

7. Old Business

- Nothing discussed at this time

8. New Business

a. Water bottles – Gary Radville

- Can design your own on the website with uploaded photos.
 - o Looking into ways to customize them so that they could be a replacement for the backpacks at the All-State Banquet.
 - Less expensive and potentially more likely to be used by players after they leave high school.
- Discounts to individuals and teams that would purchase and the company would provide a rebate to IWP.
 - o We could take orders and deal with payments for him for individuals or teams that want to purchase.
 - o This would bring more people to our website.

b. Next meeting will be Monday, September 12th at 7pm in the Fenwick Library.

9. Closing Comments and Adjournment