

## IWP Meeting Minutes – 9/12/16

### In attendance:

Kyle Perry  
Beto Garcia  
Perry Korbakis  
Tom Musch  
Tim Daniel  
Elizabeth Timmons  
Tim Caldwell  
Rob Lindgren

1. Opening Comments – Kyle Perry
  - Summer season was a great success for the clubs that participated.
  - Fall leagues are up and running for the high school and 14U, 12U and 10U (NEW THIS YEAR!) divisions
2. Treasurer Report – Ron Biamonte (unable to attend)
  - Two clubs are still missing their summer payment.
    - o Kyle will be working on this in the next few weeks.
  - Ron is working on getting the tax exempt status back with the accountant. This should not be a significant problem, but needs to be addressed quickly.
3. Midwest Water Polo and Aquatics Association Executive Board Report
  - Nothing to report at this time
4. Reports:
  - a. Banquet – Sally Stelnicki (unable to attend)
    - Hope to be back at the Diplomat West for banquet next year
      - o Want to commit soon so we can get the date out as early as possible.
      - o Want to confirm possible dates with Sally first.
    - Continue to plug photos for Tom Musch.
      - o Want to have as many pictures of our players as possible for the banquet.
    - Ad book was a better fundraiser this year compared to last year.
      - o Need to ensure that we have sustainable ads in addition to the ads from recipients of awards/hall of fame inductees
      - o Looking for more club ads
    - Want to entice more attendees, both Hall of Famers and All-Sectional players.
      - o Might make changes to format or invitations as we get closer to the date.
  - b. Player Recognition – Chris Cloy (unable to attend)
    - Nothing new to report at this time.
    - Will continue to do voting in the future as far as we know.
  - c. Hall of Fame – Jeff Wimer (unable to attend)
    - Please remember that nominations are always welcome and taken year round.
  - d. Fundraising – Kyle Perry
    - Currently, summer leagues, donations and ad books are the main sources of fundraising.
    - We want the website to showcase what we do with the money. We want to make sure people know their donation goes directly back to the sport and the players.
    - Working on sponsorship levels and prices for All-State Banquet.

- Tim Caldwell and Kyle will work together on this.
- Fundraising for Scholarship
  - Saturday of the MCAC championship tournament, event hosted at O'Sullivan's to fundraise.
  - We are looking into other events to increase scholarship funding and IWP fundraising.
- e. Referees – Perry Korbakis
  - Fall leagues are up and running.
  - We are still in need of more officials.
    - Currently looking for ways to get younger players involved. For example, some clubs have hosted age group tournaments where high school players come and work with trained officials to learn about officiating. This seems to be a good way to keep players involved in the sport and get them interested in coming back as an official.
  - Perry attended the last meeting of the Official Advisory Committee with IHSA.
    - There is still no access for him to evaluations of officials.
    - If something major happens that warrants a call from the school or a discussion with an AD, Perry can request permission but only in the event of a big problem.
    - Metro Catholic Aquatic Conference instituted a conference referee evaluation this past spring.
      - Feedback went directly to Perry and was sent to official.
      - There were about 100 evaluations sent in from MCAC conference games in regards to about 35 officials (of the 125 active officials).
      - Goal of the MCAC's evaluation is to provide valuable feedback to officials in order to help them improve and continue to develop as officials.
  - We need more officials
    - Coaches should be on the lookout for recent college graduates or students attending a school close to the Chicagoland area.
    - Last year was extremely tough for scheduling because of the shortage of officials.
- f. Communications – Lynn Castro (unable to attend)
  - No updates at this time
- g. Website – Jesse Zien (unable to attend)
  - We have added a few more individuals to the Hall of Fame and we are now up to 12 entries. 4 more and we will have 10% of all Hall of Fame Members
  - The "Organizations" section of the website has been redesigned. It now appears under "Find a Team" in the navigation. This should be more intuitive for someone visiting the site hoping to find a local team for them. Individual pages have been built under the tab for Age Group, High School, College, and Master/Open teams. Information for the teams has been updated. I need a typed version of the list Lynn provided recently and I can update the pages further.
    - Beto is working on a list of Age Group clubs for the website.
    - Send all club information to Jesse or Kyle.
  - We are working on a shopping cart to sell programs from the 2016 Banquet and other items in the future. Currently, we are working on fixing our PayPal account so payments can be accepted through the website. Once the PayPal portion is done Jesse can finish the shopping cart.
  - The Events and Calendar Pages have been consolidated into one page. Most of the content was the same and the pages were essentially repeating each other.
  - Lastly, the hosting account through GoDaddy is reaching its limit for monthly use. The Memory is what we are maxing out from a resource perspective. If you've tried to go to the site you may have gotten a message saying the site is "Under Maintenance" or "The Server is not responding". To limit this Jesse have been pushing larger updates and maintenance updates late at night.
    - Can upgrade for a cost.
    - We need to keep the website up to date and running quickly because if people have to wait for the page to load, they might not ever make it to the website.
- h. Photography – Tom Musch

- We need more pictures on the slideshow to keep improving it each year, so get the word out.
  - o Can also link up Tom's website with your team site so parents can visit and see the photos that are up there.
- Hoping to get some of these photos in the USAWP magazine Skip Shot section to get some recognition for our players.

#### 5. Liaisons Report:

##### a. & b. USWP Liaison & ODP – Tim Daniel

- October 7-9, 2016 - **Information has been added to the IWP website and promoted via IWP's twitter account.**
  - o ODP Club Tournament - Chicago, IL (Bronze level membership needed)
  - o 1 Division - Boys 18 and under (12 teams including "free agent" team if necessary)
  - o Identifying 2000 and under athletes.
  - o Coaches Clinic Integrated into the weekend w/ National Team Coaches in attendance
  - o Location: Stevenson High School
    - Teams: Lyons, NIPC, West Sub, Windy City, NWC, Mad Dogg, SLAP, Chicago Parks, North Beach, LAW, Free Agent Team
    - Cost: \$550 per team.
    - Free Agents: \$100 each.
    - Liberty Mutual and NWC volunteers to showcase caps and suits.
  - o Want teams to participate, so if there is an issue that is stopping you from signing up, let him know right away so he can work with you to solve any problems.
  - o They are looking to make this a big tournament that reaches a lot of players in our zone.
  - o In the future, the goal is to hold this tournament and the Champions Cup qualifier in the same location so people can attend both. This year the Champions Cup is in Hawaii.

##### c. College Programs Liaison – Gregg Emde

- McKendree University is looking for more players, especially Illinois players.
  - o They will host a tournament on September 30<sup>th</sup> so coaches should encourage players to go and check out the school.
  - o They have a few dates for perspective students to come and check out the school also.
- We need to get all Illinois colleges with a club water polo team to get their information on the website so our players can see it.

##### d. Chicago Park District Liaison – Beto Garcia

- This summer the numbers were up for the CPD teams.
- They were able to schedule practice to break up into smaller groups so practice could be more effective.
- 9<sup>th</sup> year for the Senior Women's tournament and TOPS was added as a new team.
- Portage Open for Senior Men was also successful and ISU joined for the first year.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Senior Women's Open
  - o Difficult to get teams to commit to the tournament.
  - o Want this to be a premier tournament hosted in the Midwest.
  - o Looking for more contacts to get more teams involved.
  - o Currently the only out of state team is from Washington DC.
- CPD competed with one team in the AWP States Challenge in Philadelphia and took a 14u and 16u team to JOs.
- AWP is interested in moving the States Challenge to Illinois.
  - o Need two sites to host.
    - Currently looking at Portage, Ridgeland and Fenwick.
  - o Would be 12U, 14U, 18U for boys and girls.
  - o This is the year they are ready to make a move with the tournament.

- AWP films every game and coaches are given a DVD. Players can purchase their DVDs as well.
- Dates would be July 13-17, 2017 (Thurs-Mon). May not use all of those days depending on the schedule.
- Cap the event at 12 teams still.
- Would be a good national event to bring to the Midwest.
- e. League Updates – Rob Lindgren
  - Winter contact will be Pete Lamar.
  - About \$5000 made from the summer league fees.
  - Premier League and Champions League feedback was good.
  - Coaches Clinic/Officials Clinic
    - Need to get the date out early.
      - Looking at early June so logistics (like contact info) can be taken care of for the summer leagues.
    - Format would have different topics discussed in different rooms and an opening, middle and closing speaker.
    - Want to add in a social event to attract people. Looking at the race track, casino, baseball game, etc.
      - This gets coaches and refs together to hang out because the clinic part will be different for each group.
      - Lindgren has price options for each of the activities.
    - For the next meeting coaches and officials should decide:
      - What are they interested in learning about?
      - What dates would work for you?
      - Do you have any ideas for a fun activity?
  - Leagues are up and running.
    - 12U, 14U and high school divisions.
    - First EVER 10U game will be played on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>.
    - New clubs have joined the league which is great to help improve our players.
- f. Old Business
  - Nothing discussed at this time
- g. New Business
  - Possible clinic at Fenwick on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> (2016).
    - High school boys' clinic involving some Illinois players who have continued their careers in college (Fenwick and UCLA's Chris Wendt and Br. Rice and Pacific's Joey Franz, along with other high profile college players that compete with the Alumni Water Polo club based out of Granite Bay, CA).
    - This year, this will be a good opportunity for coaches to come and hang out.
  - Concussions
    - Concerns were raised about protective head gear.
      - Currently nothing is allowed under IHSA, NCAA and NFHS rules because there is no proof that they help to prevent concussions.
      - Coaches should encourage players to wear mouth guards.
  - WOWPAC
    - All female coaches, officials and volunteers for water polo should consider attending the next national summit for WOWPAC.
    - August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> (2017) at San Diego State University.
    - Elizabeth Timmons and 3 other Illinois representatives went this year. The conference was informative and fun. Rose Wimer has also participated in the past.
  - All-Star Game

- How can we encourage greater participation?
  - Would incorporating games like the fastest shot, most goals in 1 min, best accuracy, help improve participation?
  - Could also have All-Stars play the current state champion team.
  - All-Sectional team members are already invited, but many don't know this so we need to spread the word better.
    - How will we handle having too many people if all of the All-Sectional teams showed up?
  - Difficulties for the game currently include that the kids are not announced and parents don't get any sort of handout of who is playing.
    - This is mainly due to the fact that we don't know who will show up until that day.
  - Would giving out water bottles, t-shirts or having food increase participation?
  - What about separating the boys and girls but keeping the sites close together?
- h. Closing Comments and Adjournment
- Next meeting will be Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Fenwick Library.