

Illinois Water Polo Agenda for October 24, 2016

In attendance:

Kyle Perry

Tom Musch

Sally Stelnicki

Tim Daniel

Tim Caldwell

Elizabeth Timmons

1. Opening comments – Kyle Perry
 - a. Date has almost been set for banquet in May 2017
2. Treasurers Report – Ron Biamonte (emailed)
 - a. Checks have been cashed.
 - b. Closed out the fiscal year.
 - c. All missing club fees from the summer have been put in but Ron has not confirmed this yet.
3. Midwest Water Polo and Aquatics Association Executive Board Report – Rick Marsh, Garrin Kapecki, Jeff Wimer, Sally Stelnicki, Perry Korbakis
 - a. Website upgrade decision
 - Need approval from the board because of the financial cost to update the website but Jesse says we should do this soon.
 - Jesse rebuilt the home page due to some backend coding issues following a recent WordPress update (wordpress is the underlying framework the site is built it). The result is that the home page is wider on most desktop screens. You may notice on some computers the header doesn't perfectly align with the rest of the page in that the yellow water polo ball image is noticeably thinner than the rest of the header. I have some methods to fix this, but due to the hosting restrictions, the site keeps going down when I try to upload new code (the code is larger than is typical for a page update).
 - IWP received a question on how to add a team to the site. We have since added a note on each team page with a link to send Kyle an email.
 - We have club information and masters. IHSA stuff will be left to illpolo.
 - Jesse is working on the Paypal account and upgrading the hosting plan. The hosting is hitting its limits more and more. Making changes on the site it taking a bit longer due to this. Another reason why we should be looking to upgrade.
4. Reports:
 - a. All State Banquet – Sally Stelnicki
 - Tuesday, May 30th or Wednesday, May 31st
 - One week after championships
 - Need to check and make sure the ad book can be published by then.
 - b. Player Recognition – Chris Cloy (emailed)
 - Nothing new to report at this time
 - Chris is interested in working on this again next year so we are excited for that to continue.
 - c. Hall of Fame – Jeff Wimer (emailed)
 - I am always looking for more nominees to add to our HoF list.
 - There are currently sixteen biographies up on the website (about 10% of bios)
 - d. Fundraising – Kyle Perry & Tim Caldwell
 - Currently still working on the sponsorship information for the banquet.
 - Want the requirements and costs set by January so the information can go out many times before the end of the water polo season.
 - In the future, want to send to schools at the beginning of the school year.

- Good idea to talk to vendors now as well because they are ending their financial year so they might have extra funds they can put toward an ad in the book. In May, they may be more cautious because the fiscal year is still early.
 - Jolyn suits
 - The company will donate 10% of the profits of what is sold at a show to the host school/club/etc.
 - Can be set up with individual teams or clubs and/or at tournaments/swim meet.
 - Could this be done at conference tournaments? At the state tournament?
 - Any regulations with the IHSA at the sectional/state level?
 - Tread 365
 - Local company that makes customized suits, caps and balls.
 - Run by Chris Przekota – email is przekota@hotmail.com
 - Remember that we need more sustainable fundraising. Anyone with ideas for fundraising should contact Kyle or attend our next meeting with ideas.
- e. Referees – Perry Korbakis
- Please have anyone interested in being an official contact Perry
 - New officials were a part of the October tournament hosted at Stevenson, and they did a great job.
 - Keep encouraging your players to ref!
- f. Communications – Lynn Castro
- Nothing to report at this time.
- g. Website – Jesse Zien
- See #3
- h. Photography – Tom Musch
- Currently, we have linked the IWP website to Tom’s site.
 - Please remind players and parents to send in photos so we can get the info out early and often.
 - Want to put information about sending in photos on the sponsorship form (see #4 part d)
5. Liaisons Report
- a. & b. USWP Liaison – Midwest Board Members Present / Tim Daniel & ODP – Tim Daniel
- Tournament was a success in October.
 - 4 Illinois teams and 2 Missouri teams
 - In the future want to:
 - Have 2 sites: 14U at Mundelein and 18U at Stevenson
 - Include a college talk to make more useful for athletes who can’t continue on with ODP.
 - Combine with Champions Cup Qualifier (on Columbus day weekend)
 - Include more signage and t-shirts to make it more professional
 - Make changes to the free agent registration process to minimize last minute issues
 - IHSA Exempt letter
 - Biggest obstacle with this tournament is that as high school coaches, we are unable to coach our own teams.
 - USAWP is planning to write a letter to the IHSA to ask for an exemption for this tournament because this is great for players but also good professional development for coaches.
 - Our pool of coaches is so minimal compared to other sports like football and basketball.
 - Girls option in the winter for this tournament?
 - Doug Eichstaedt is the ODP head for the girls so he would be responsible for arranging it.
 - ODP Camp Dates:
 - November 19-20, December 3-4, and January 14-15 @ Conant High School
 - February 24-26 = championship weekend in northern CA
- c. College Programs Liaison – Gregg Emde

- Water Polo Recruit Day on November 19 (9-11am). A flyer is attached with the minutes so please send it out to prospective student athletes.
- Following is an update of our program
 - We had our first "home games" in Edwardsville at the Craig Fruit Aquatic Center hosting Salem International and Monmouth University. We played a double header losing to Salem (12-17) and beating Monmouth (11-5).
 - We finished the men's season losing to Lindenwood in the Championship of Midwest Conference. The week prior, we took the whole team out for the Pomona Gary Troyer Tournament.
 - The women begin in February heading to the Bruno Classic at Brown University. They will also compete at the Hoosier Invite and also plan on traveling to Pomona for the Convergent Tournament in April. We will be hosting games, April 8 for sure will see Mercyhurst and Gannon. We are also looking to host another tournament for our conference play.
 - We are deciding on the varsity conference for both men and women. Currently they are playing on the college club level to get in more games. The facility should be open in December and the Chuck Fruit Aquatic center is going to equip itself to host water polo at the 50 meter facility. (I am also talking to them about starting a youth and high school programs).
 - Be sure to let him know if there are tournaments or camps that he can attend to recruit. He is very excited to see more Chicago kids on both teams.
- d. Chicago Park District Liaison – Beto Garcia
 - In his role of Vice President, he has been working on getting together an age-group and high school list to go with the college list on the website.
- 6. League Updates – Rob Lindgren
 - Leagues are going well for the boys so far. Winter league for the girls looks good.
 - Rob is talking with Perry about some ideas on growing the officials' pool, training and the coach's clinic that could tie into summer.
 - This will be addressed at the next meeting.
- 7. Old Business
 - a. Nothing discussed at this meeting.
- 8. New Business
 - a. The potential for IWP to provide financial support to players and teams who are interested in attending tournaments outside of Illinois.
 - Currently, IWP does not have anything in place in regards to providing funding although all on the board and in attendance believe that any funds must be used to promote the mission of IWP. (Advance water polo in Illinois)
 - Concerns:
 - IWP's current lack of sustainable funding.
 - There is no process to determine what requirements would need to be met in order to ensure that the mission of IWP is followed and that the funding is used appropriately (no one could manipulate funding).
 - i. Questions that could help IWP create a process in which IWP could help promote an activity which would advance water polo in Illinois. Who is selected as coach? Who are selected as players? How were these chosen? Open tryout? When? Multiple dates? When? How to ensure that all athletes in Illinois are able to participate in the initial tryout? Opportunities for both genders? What tournament? How and why was the specific tournament chosen? IWP's involvement? IWP's assistance? IWP's liability?
 - A focus on developing coaches (who will then have direct impact on the development of their athletes) or officials may fit into the mission better than a travel tournament without a process in place.
 - b. Making the organization more public in order to attract more volunteers

- While meeting minutes and dates are now up on the website.
 - Whenever the next election will be, the date and information should be sent out to coaches, officials and any others that want to be involved.
 - Publicize both elections and meetings with a mass email to coaches.
 - Who would be responsible for this?
 - Also looking into term of office limits Board of Directors and Officers. There are currently five executive board positions (Board of Directors) and the president, vice president, treasurer and secretary (Officers).
 - Want to put these into the by-laws.
 - Elections would stagger so not all positions at once. Suggestion: Half the board would be up every year so terms would be two years.
 - While there would be a vote every two years, a person would be allowed to win the office as many times as they are willing to accept.
 - Currently there is no term of office or term limits for the executive board or the officers.
 - Committee Members would remain in their positions until they no longer want to be on said committees.
- c. Dave Perry College Scholarship Fundraiser
- At O’Sullivan’s on May 6th around 6:30pm (after the MCAC championship game at Fenwick)
 - The fundraiser will continue to be held close to the tournament site. Currently Fenwick hosts the MCAC tournament, but in the near future, UIC might be able to host, and the fundraiser will move to a location closer to UIC.
 - This event is for a good cause, and this is good socializing for coaches and officials towards the end of the season.
 - Anyone can host a Dave Perry Scholarship event, and IWP can be associated with it. All are encouraged to help support this great cause.
 - IWP is working on keeping in touch with players and coaches from the schools that received scholarships.
 - Flyer will go out with the information about the scholarship with the sponsor information.
 - MCAC runs a Dave Perry College Scholarship Awareness Week
 - Other conferences could do this too. Maybe a game/day instead of a week, but can still fundraise some money for the scholarship. Schools could also post the flyer to help promote.
 - In the future, Kyle is hoping to organize fundraising opportunities for the scholarship and IWP as a whole. He is looking into possibly opening a position for fundraising. Anyone interested should attend our next meeting.
9. Next meeting
- a. Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:30pm in the Fenwick Library.
10. Closing Comments & Adjournment