

Illinois Water Polo Meeting Minutes for April 30, 2017

In Attendance:

Kyle Perry – President

Elizabeth Timmons - Secretary

Tim Daniel

Chris Cloy

Carlos Ceja

Cynthia Bedolla

Sigfredo Cruz

Lynn Castro

1. Opening comments – Kyle Perry
 - Welcome to everyone! Not a ton is new because the high school season is underway and the banquet is taken care of already.
 - By-laws discussion will happen later. Guiding question for the by-laws should be “What should IWP be doing to improve the sport of water polo?”
2. Treasurers Report – Ron Biamonte (not in attendance)
 - Nothing to report at this time.
3. Midwest Water Polo and Aquatics Association Executive Board Report – Rick Marsh, Garrin Kapecki, Jeff Wimer, Sally Stelnicki, Perry Korbakis
 - Nothing to report at this time.
4. Reports:
 - a. All State Banquet – Sally Stelnicki (not in attendance)
 - Date has been set as Tuesday, May 30th at the Diplomat West.
 - Ad book and sponsorship information has been emailed to coaches and posted on the IWP website.
 - b. Player Recognition – Chris Cloy
 - Looking for lists from coaches to make the sectional ballots and wants to have ballots finalized by next weekend for each sectional.
 - Looking into penalties for a coach that does not vote.
 - o Is there a way to do this that will not penalize the players? No penalties for this year.
 - o Usually 85% of the coaches participate so we are talking about only a few coaches at each sectional.
 - o Most coaches of teams who participate in semifinal games participate in voting.
 - This is the third year of this system, so hopefully after this year, there will be data that can be used to help identify what is stopping coaches from participating.
 - More information is out there which will also help minimize coaches not participating.
 - o Sectional hosts should also encourage voting from all teams that participate. Coaches need to collaborate with each other and form a community to encourage each other.
 - c. Hall of Fame – Jeff Wimer (not in attendance)
 - Jane Caliendo, Ron Koehler & Andrew Schneider will be inducted into the Hall of Fame this year.
 - Jeff Wimer has spoken with Jim Caliendo and Drew Schneider, they will both be at the Banquet. Rich Norman is trying to make contact with Ron Koehler.
 - d. Fundraising – Kyle Perry
 - Lively Bottle website

- IWP has partnered with Lively Bottle until 2020. Lively Bottle offers customizable water bottles with 10% discount to IWP and 20% of the sales will be donated back to IWP.
- Information has been put on the website and a press release will be sent out to coaches.
- This is the first substantial and continuing fundraiser for IWP.
- India Hicks Trunk Show
 - Fundraiser for the Dave Perry College Scholarship at the Varsity MCAC tournament. 20% of the proceeds went to the scholarship.
- MCAC Dave Perry College Scholarship Awareness Week went well this year. Hopefully this can expand to all conferences in the future because the scholarship is available to any boy or girl playing at an NCAA program next year.
- Don't forget to promote ads for the ad book to parents for player recognition or business advertisement.
- e. Referees – Perry Korbakis (not in attendance)
 - Nothing to report at this time, except that we are always looking for new referees. Don't forget to recruit players who have graduated!
- f. Communications – Lynn Castro
 - Currently Lynn is helping with getting Hall of Fame bios up on the website.
 - 15 bios up today but there are 80 members for the Hall of Fame. There is such an incredible history with each player.
 - She is working on contacting people and re-contacting some that Kyle has spoken with during the last 18 months.
- g. Website – Jesse Zien
 - Jesse has been amazing at updating the website with information
- h. Photography – Tom Musch
 - Send in photographs from the season. These photos are used on the IWP website and in the program/slide show for the All-State banquet.
 - Coaches should make sure to send his information out to their parents. His email is: tommusch@gmail.com

5. Liaisons Report

- a. & b. USWP Liaison & ODP - Tim Daniel
 - ODP is in the process of moving the final tournament so that it won't be the same as state weekend. Looking at having other regional tournaments so that players could participate there and then a regional team could be put together to participate in the final tournament.
 - Junior Olympic Qualifier is June 10th in Rockford Michigan.
 - Tony Azevedo
 - Will have a booth at state for the second half of Saturday.
 - Lots of opportunities to meet him. Want to get more coaches to come to the state tournament so hoping that having him there will bring in more coaches.
 - May 21st clinic will be hosted at Conant High School from 9am-1pm. This clinic is free for coaches to encourage coach participation.
 - Columbus day weekend tournament is happening again.
 - They are looking to improve the free agent process and open to suggestions.
 - They have added in a college recruiting talk.
- c. College Programs Liaison – position is available
 - Looking at the options to fill this position, we are considering having 2 representatives, one from NCAA side and one from the local area.
 - Pat Bauer works at Harper College and Ryan Hall is the new McKendree coach.

- Want this person to help answer the question: What can IWP do to help on a collegiate level?
 - d. Chicago Park District Liaison – Beto Garcia (not in attendance)
 - No current updates
6. League Updates – Rob Lindgren
- Too late to put together a big clinic now, but looking into organizing something for next summer that would be a clinic and social event, paid for by the high school leagues.
 - High School league info is out for the summer season.
 - It will be sent again to make sure that teams register.
 - Early Bird registration ends on May 26th and saves a team \$100.
 - We are always looking for ways to expand to new teams.
 - Registration information is already on the IWP website.
7. Old Business
- a. Question – What should Illinois Water Polo be doing?
 - Lynn: We currently have a much more defined mission statement than in the past, however, we need better defined segments such as information about the available positions.
 - Tim: We need more information included about where I can play or coach in each area of Illinois. We should have a better way of connecting coaches.
 - Kyle: We are working on a better network for coaches, but we are not there yet. We need information from people to be able to spread the word and promote.
 - All in agreement that IWP should be to connect people, not financially support any one group, club or team.
 - All in agreement that there needs to be a way to get the viewer to look at the website more. Kyle said we need more quality content to attract those searching.
 - Sigfredo: Currently there are more 14U clubs in the area and this is a great thing for Chicago water polo.
 - Tim: Currently there is more transparency in the organization which will help bring more people into participating.
 - b. Committee to investigate the by-laws to be formed
 - The by-laws need to be re-written to ensure transparency and match our current goals for the organization which are different from the goals of the past.
 - The committee will mostly participate through online correspondence and is made up of Marianne Perry, Carol Macola, Kyle Perry and Jesse Zien. Anyone else interested in participating should email Kyle as soon as possible.
8. New Business
- a. Master’s League (Sigfredo Cruz)
 - Would starting a master’s league help keep more kids involved in the sport, especially those who might not play in college?
 - Want to keep these players in the loop and draw them for coaching or ref positions.
 - Could you invite other clubs to your master’s scrimmage to help improve competition and participation at that level?
 - Kyle said there used to be something similar that tried to incorporate the Midwest Zone, and there wasn’t enough interest or commitment from teams.

- Concerns about where this would best fit in terms of the time of year. Don't want to disrupt current tournaments but want more participation. Officials could be players as well.
- Portage in August might be an option.
- Garrin was looking to host a big event in the fall, but there was not enough interest so it will not happen this year.
- b. Could we set a meeting day and time?
 - Bi-monthly (6 meetings a year) on the same day and time.
 - New by-laws created should include this information if it works for the group.
 - Have smaller meetings throughout the year, and have an annual big meeting once year that could team up with the clinic from the summer leagues.
 - o Invite high school coaches and club coaches to the annual Sunday so we could share with everyone what IWP has been doing , what we need to do, what we need help with, etc. This would be like an annual review with an assembly to present the data and a social after.
 - o Would the first weekend in March be a good time for this? Only one big event/year.
 - o Ref clinic included too? This year there was something offered at Prosser High School.
- c. Sunday, June 4th – Age Group Clinic and All-Star game
 - An age group clinic will take place on Sunday, June 4th from 9:30am-12pm at Stevenson.
 - All-Star Games will be at 12:30pm (girls) and 1:45pm (boys) with a reception after for food.
 - Could we have someone to sit with teams that brought their players to watch the game with the team and answer questions the team has about the game?
- d. Awards
 - Backpacks will be the award for All-State Honorees at the Banquet again this year.
 - Next year we are planning to hand out balls from Tread 360 with IWP logo and All-State, but no year so they could be re-used if not handed out.
 - o Free advertising for IWP if the player uses the ball.
 - We are looking into changing the awards handed out at the banquet for the All-State players. We have considered doing 4 different gifts based on how many years you are awarded as an All-State player. Gifts could also rotate by year, regardless of how many times you received the All-State honor.
- e. Upcoming Clinics to share with your parents and players
 - Chicago Showcase Water Polo Clinic – requires USAWP Bronze membership.
 - Tony Azevedo clinic – no registration with USAWP needed for clinic on May 21st.
 - Lyons Clinic – June 4th from 12-3pm at Lyons Township High School.
 - Age group – June 4th from 9:30am-12pm at Stevenson.
- 9. Next meeting
 - Monday, September 18th @ 7pm in the Fenwick library

10. Closing Comments & Adjournment