

Illinois Water Polo Meeting Minutes – April 9, 2024, Tuesday, at 7:30pm

Attendance:

Joe Kamper
Chris Mulchrone
Megan Brownley
Kristine Donegan
Colleen Lyons
Tiffany Urbanski
Mac Varilla
Everardo Leon
Jesse Zien
Andy Mattson
Mark Rosenblum
Elizabeth Timmons
Jeff Wimer
Brian Ruiz
Rose Schiavone
Carlos Ceja
Ed Prystalski

1. Opening comments – Joe Kamper

- Notes from the president
 - Official and Coaches Trainings underway
 - Season underway
 - Thank you for being here because there is so much going on with the season right now.
 - Ongoing training of officials
 - Everyday officials are getting training and evaluations continually throughout the season
 - Officials don't see the evaluations from IHSA
 - MCAC official evaluation form
 - Decorum between officials and coaches
 - This season the communication has been better than in the past and people are talking and working through things instead of yelling at each other which is nice.
 - CPD liaison
 - Brian Ruiz - not on the call
 - College-level liaison
 - Seth - not on the call
 - Subcommittees – **ONLY PARTICIPATE IN 2 MAX**
 - Training (Officials and Coaches) – Eddie, Joe, Josh, Everado, Jim Caliendo, Mac Varilla, Chris Mulchrone
 - good systems of bringing people on, but need to work on continued training

- Chris Mulchrone - looking to make training videos to show various scenarios (ex. ordinary foul, penalty foul, etc) that could be used by coaches and officials
 - would help get officials from other sports up to speed
 - goal would be to keep us all on the same page
 - Fundraising – Jim Caliendo, Eddie, Joe, Sean
 - Be specific on where money is going
 - be clear in where the money is going which can help people be more willing to donate
 - 2x Golf
 - 15 schools could fill all spots
 - thinking that we should host 2 of them for North and South
 - Private Events (replicating MCAC)
 - 5K Run -
 - Need to raise money for the banquet, awards, renting pool spaces for clinics
 - All State Banquet – Liz Perry, Keith Yavitt, Jeff Weimer, Colleen Lyons
 - Looking to get some help for Elizabeth
 - Need to get the invitation finalized so it can be sent out by Sectionals time
 - Need to determine sponsorship and if we want to do this
 - Will have another meeting about this to make sure everything is covered
 - Need to discuss about ad book
 - Online Marketing – Megan Brownly, Mac Varilla, Brian Ruiz
 - Website
 - Jesse will put information up on the website
 - Social media, ILL POLO, Off season programs, etc.
 - need people to take this on
 - Reaching out to our masters programs
 - Joe has been reaching out to these groups to see how to get them engaged on some level
 - Reaching out to the dude that runs ILLPOLO.COM
 - Joe believes we need to make a connection with him
- Taking the next step in IWP
 - New Mission Statement: IWP is here to grow the sport of water polo in Illinois through training, engagement, and encouragement.
 - Next steps with sales pitch
 - “Illinois Water Polo exists for the development of student athletes from child-age to adult and beyond. We are here to grow the

sport of water polo in Illinois through training, engagement, and encouragement. To support our student-athletes, coaches, and officials, we put together regular clinics and trainings to elevate everyone's understanding and implementation to the next level."

- Our mission is to work on IL first and then deal with nearby areas as well
 - We want to be the powerhouse so that we can make the framework but other areas can join in as we grow and they grow
 - Goals 2024
 - Bridge gap between USA and AWP
 - Next steps brining all groups together
 - Build out fundraising programs
 - Onboarding: Officials, Coaches and Teams
 - Tell others how water polo has impacted us and our families. Personalize the message
 - 2024 Coach and Official Clinics
 - For the first time, Joe has more officials than games.
 - What else?
 - Update Social Media
 - Website – Megan
 - LinkedIn – Joe
 - Other used platforms
0. Treasurer's Report – Jesse Zien
- Emailed by Jesse
 - expenses are higher in Q1 because of registration and insurance and website hosting fees
 - we usually pull in more money in Q3 from leagues
 - Since we only get \$0.84 in interest, we are going to put the money into a 6 month CD and make over \$400 instead
0. All State Banquet – Elizabeth Timmons
- Banquet locked down
 - Wednesday, May 29, 2024
 - Jesse met with him so we locked in at \$30/person including gratuity
 - family style instead of a buffet
 - Next steps
 - Awards, certificates and ad book
 - xxx
0. Fundraising - Need team
1. Dave Perry College Scholarship
 1. Next steps
 - Could we have a scholarship awareness week to raise money?
 - soft fundraiser set for 4/20 for people hosting tournaments. officials will reach out to these schools.

- Can also use conference tournaments and can reach out to ADs to discuss anything about that.
- Something to do before the end of the season.
- Donations are checks or cash currently and not digital. Digital payment would be something to look into when there is a need.
- Use conference tournaments to collect money. Coaches hosting can discuss fundraising with AD before they go through with the plan.
 - Send a form with information so everyone has the same information to share.
 - If this doesn't work out for every conference this year, could someone go to the post season conference meetings to discuss this for next year with the AD.
- Again, everyone needs to be a salesperson of IWP and getting people interested in donating money to scholarship or to IWP as a whole
- To make sure student-athletes know that it is not just given to Fenwick or MCAC athletes
- AWP has been sending in \$25/team that participates and then matching it during every league.

0. Liaisons Report

1. USWP Liaison – Midwest Board Members Present & ODP - Tim Daniel

- ODP National Champs were a success in the Chicago area. Games were at the Hinsdale Schools, Munster, Lyons, and the FMC. The Midwest Youth team placed the highest of the non California teams.
- On the girls side, the competitions were held in Riverside California and the Midwest held their own.
- [Girls ODP selections](#)
- [Boys ODP selections](#)
- Junior Olympic Qualifier in Michigan June 7-9, Pool Locations, Hudsonville, East Kentwood, West Ottawa H.S.
- Great Lakes Classic will take place in East Kentwood Michigan July 12-14
- [Congrats to our Local Award Winners](#): - Nicole Lum & Lazslo Hruza
- Tim Daniel will be hiring ODP Coaches over the summer for the 2024/25 ODP cycle so contact Tim if you are interested.

2. Chicago Park District – Brian Ruiz

- - wrapping up the winter leagues
- - spring everyone is coaching
- - late spring/summer details are still being worked out for CPD
- - Usually do JOs but might decide to do the NSC. Looking into options
- - Would the park district be open to having their leagues open to other park districts? This would need to be run through Andy Walsh to see if this would be something that the Parks could do.

2. College Programs Liaison – Augustana and Carthage opportunities

Old business:

a. Dave Perry College Scholarship Fundraiser

1. Any other updates needed here
2. Other things that need to be brought back to life?

6. New Business:

- New VP Vote
 - Everardo put his name on the list and there were no others contesting him.
 - Everardo Leon is the new vice president.
- Officials already dropping out of sectionals because of pay inconsistencies
 - Other sports do not pay officials at Sectionals less than they make for varsity games the way this takes place for water polo.
 - \$67 is a varsity game and IHSA is \$35
 - IHSA won't pay for anything unless you travel more than 60 miles
 - Is anyone opposed to drafting a letter about this discrepancy?
 - Not looking to ask for more money, but just want to get paid the same as a regular season game.
 - What are the repercussions if IHSA says no to help with payment? All officials signing can say they will walk away and not officiate unless this is fixed. Will this matter to the IHSA?
 - Other points brought up:
 - The IHSA won't address this until their next meeting which is after the season. Should we focus more on working on something for next year?
 - If we rush this to do something right now, we will be doing a disservice to the kids. Are we ok with that?
 - We need to look at what is best overall and the parity with other sports. Why is water polo the only one being treated this way?
 - We need to make this important and bring awareness but maybe not the focus for this year so we don't draw a line in the sand that might make this contentious or hurt the sport.
 - We should have data about all sports (including newer sports like lacrosse and field hockey) to take to the IHSA and not just baseball and basketball because we are not on the same level of sports.
 - We need to be careful because IHSA can really dig in their heels as they did with Covid.
 - Sectionals are set so we can't make demands for this year. This was addressed with Beth in the pre-season meeting so it should be on the agenda for the postseason advisory committee meeting. At that time, we can say this has happened, not this will happen because we have seen this already.
 - If we end with an ultimatum, we assume hostilities so why are we even bothering. Don't end with an ultimatum.
- Add a poll to the player recognition information so we could get data to share with the advisory committee – Chris Cloy

- New Sectional Schedule – Any updates. I don't think the schedule has come out.
 - April 19th will be when schedules are sent out.

7. Next meeting will be: Monday, May 6th at 7:30

8. Closing Comments & Adjournment

- Between today and the next meeting, Joe will be reaching out to the committees to work on the various tasks that need to be addressed with the banquet as the most pressing at this time.