

Meeting Minutes - 2/12/26

Attendance:

Joe Kamper - President
Jesse Zien - Treasurer
Elizabeth Timmons - Secretary
Brian Drumm
Colleen Lyons
Dave Rafferty
Gerrit Adams
Joe Linehan
Joe Trickey
Mac Varilla
Megan Brownley
Tim Daniel
Tracy Balla
Zach Van Swol
Andy Mattson
Kelly Reif

The main topics include:

1. Barrington with state. Super Sectional games on Tuesday, semi Friday and champs Saturday
2. IWP elections and ways you can help
3. Coaching clinic (Raf)
4. 2+ more officials clinic. 120 officials already registered!!
5. AWP no longer part of Illinois Water Polo. Working on collections
6. June 3rd all state banquet
7. August 4th golf outing

Joe Kamper

- State series will be at Barrington
- They need a 2 day state series instead of 3
- Super sectional on tuesday and then state will be semifinals on friday and championships on saturday
- 3 year contract

Officials

- We have a lot of officials and are working to keep them
 - Growing officials
- Biggest gaps is onboarding and retaining coaches
- Coaches that stick around means players stick around
- American water polo is no longer a part of IWP.
 - Lack of participation in their leagues
 - Some teams may have dropped their clubs entirely or are maybe doing something else, just practices or diverted players to other teams?

- Stagg and Andrew are now a co-op team
- New IHSA rules about co-op teams
- Off-season availability for participation is shrinking

Joe - has been travelling a ton, working swimming season and gearing up for water polo season

- Has run officials clinics already and 2 more are coming up
- Needs help steering what is happening
- Looking for people to jump in and take on more responsibilities

Dates to mark down:

- June 3rd is the All-State banquet
- Golf outing is 8/4
 - We raised about \$6000 at the one in 2025

Joe Linehan - grew water polo to be a state sport in TX

- Looking to learn about what is happening in IL and how he can help us overcome the roadblocks ahead of us now to increase participation
- Director of sports growth is his title

Tim Daniel - barrington is a sub par pool for state

- Do we have points of action to get in front of the changes IHSA is making?
 - Joe - I don't know what we need to do administratively using Beth.
- Can we do something about legislation IHSA is looking to pass?
- Joe's response about state - he did a lot of work that the IHSA did not care to look at so they did this on their own. Only schools that submit bids were able to be looked at
- Can we use the weekly email to get this information out consistently?
- Can we use social media to help blast information or be another outlet for contacts? - from Joe
- Promote sport and growth of the sport so there should be IWP presence
 - Could this be a role of a officer or board of directors member?
 - VP role is open as of last October
 - Need to replicate emails that Megan sends out into updates that can go out on social media
 - Need to prevent this from being just a weekly email that goes into trash
 - Can we use the money we have to make an internship for someone?
- Jesse - we are discussing isolated problems, but we are not unified and working toward common goals
 - Overall goal is to keep water polo as an IHSA sport? Is this the goal?
 - Communication is key - can we utilize the masters programs, people who had attended the All-State banquet and maybe even all USA WP members in IL with spam info about what is going on to get people more involved
 - Immediate action item over the next week or two is to make sure that we have the contact information correct and we are reaching out to the right people to get positions filled

- Each person's job - 4-5 people's names, emails and phone numbers for movers and shakers in your area
 - Engaged people in masters programs
 - Coaches that are not on your rosters
 - Coaches reaching out to the seniors to get them to come back
 - Use the USA WP list to contact people
 - 4-5 per person on the call means 100 people to start to fill in the gaps
 - Tim Daniel - we need a lot of social media presence
 - Gerrit Adams - can we pay Aaron Brown \$1000/year to post job openings
 - He has all of this set up so we could utilize that without having to start all over
 - Raf or Gerrit reach out to him
 - Are we looking to fill these coaching positions in the next 3 weeks - short term goal
 - Bigger goal would be to prevent having this coaching shortage/issues next year
 - Spend 15 minutes calling people you know are looking for jobs
 - Can we get contact information for people running social media
 - We have an instagram and a twitter that we need passwords for
 - Megan will reach out to Kyle to get the login information
 - Kelly Reif - pay someone to run social media
 - Joe Linehan is a great resource for us and we should learn about how they grew the sport in TX and look at how we can utilize his blueprint here?
 - Joe Linehan - USA WP will go to the IHSA on our behalf

There are certain instances with the IHSA that we can't navigate.

David Rafferty - advisory board has brought up seating and the IHSA has said they look for regional representation over seating

- FMC said they aren't interested in talking to him if he is not Speedo or
- Trying to talk to Loyola
- Hoping schools that host super sectionals might find this is not that bad and maybe they will be willing to put a bid in to host in 3 years
 - We need to tap these schools

Tim Daniel - 1. Connect coaches to job

1. Support coaches learning on the job

1. Explore legislative options to create water polo friendly by laws

Anyone not on the IWP list- email your contact info and I'll add you or anyone else:

Megan.brownley@d214.org

Meeting again in 2-3 weeks to check in about what we have accomplished.

- Get schedule out so we have set dates
- Thursday, March 5th @ 8:30pm