

Illinois Water Polo Meeting Minutes for September 9, 2018

Attendance:

Kyle Perry – President
Elizabeth Timmons – Secretary
Sally Stelnicki
Tim Daniel
Rose Wimer
Luis Martinez
Nicole Lum
Tom Musch

1. Opening comments – Kyle Perry
 - a. Moment of Silence for Rob Lindgren

2. Treasurers Report – Ron Biamonte
 - There is no balance sheet at this time to present, but hope to have it for the next meeting.
 - At this time, all banquet checks have been taken care of and scholarship have been checks sent out.
 - We are working on collecting all the checks from the summer league, Rob was the go to person for that league so we are not sure if everyone has paid at this moment. We hope to have that sorted out soon.
 - We are looking in to having promoting November 27th's day of giving help in fundraising efforts for IWP. <https://www.givingtuesday.org/>

3. Midwest Water Polo and Aquatics Association Executive Board Report – Rick Marsh, Garrin Kapecki, Jeff Wimer, Sally Stelnicki, Perry Korbakis
 - Shortly this board will be eliminated as we transition to having a Board of Directors who will meet once a year and provide updates when needed.

4. Reports:
 - a. All State Banquet – Sally Stelnicki & Carol Macola
 - We are currently looking for someone to take over the organization of the banquet for Sally
 - The person in this role is responsible for:
 - o Keeping track of who paid
 - o Handing out tickets through the mail or the day of
 - o Organizing details including venue, menu, publications/advertising about the banquet
 - At this time, Carol would like to help, but not be the main organizer.
 - b. All-State Banquet booklet organizer- **volunteer needed**
 - The biggest part of this job is soliciting donations for the Ad book.
 - The other duty is checking the book (proofreading) for errors with names and etc.
 - c. Player Recognition – Chris Cloy
 - All-Sectional Voting went smooth. % from coaches voting in All-Sectional process from the last 4 years has shown an increase. Overall, Chris and IWP are happy with the improvement that we are seeing, but we are still aiming for 100% participation.
 - o 2018 - % of Coaches who voted:
 - Boys - 85.5% - Girls - 85.9%
 - o 2017 - % of Coaches who voted:

- Boys - 81.3% - Girls - 82.7%
 - 2016 - % of Coaches who voted:
 - Boys - 72.0% - Girls - 79.2%
 - 2015 - % of Coaches who voted:
 - Boys - 67.9% - Girls - 67.6%
 - All-State seemed to have much fewer complaints with the inclusion of Honorable Mention All-Sectional on the voting ballot for All-State. Therefore, Chris would like to keep this change moving forward.
 - Chris would like to have an official set of Player Recognition procedures approved and used for next season and for future years. This will help to standardize and hopefully increase the fairness of the process.
 - For November meeting, Kyle will bring the player recognition requirements for Chris to look over.
 - As always, Chris and IWP are open to suggestions and improvements that will lead to better recognition of the athletes.
 - For sectional hosts next year, don't be afraid to include info about voting in the information you send out about sectionals.
 - Chris would like to continue to do Player Recognition next year.
- d. Photography – Tom Musch
- Picture website is still going strong.
 - Be sure to share the link with as many coaches/parents as possible so we can get photos from the season.
- e. Fundraising – Kyle Perry
- This year IWP worked with Jolyn and Beached Whales.
 - These donations went to the scholarship.
 - Kyle is working on fundraising ideas and welcomes any suggestions.
 - PayPal account is now up and running, and we are hoping to be able to use this in the future for donations instead of requiring that donors will write and mail a check.
- f. Referees – Perry Korbakis
- As always, Perry is looking for more officials for the high school water polo season.
 - Perry would like to continue in the future as the referee liaison.
 - Discussion about how officials are trained and opportunities for them to improve:
 - Opportunities for officials to improve:
 - Two options for classroom clinic (one in January)
 - February water polo tournament
 - There was a suggestion for doing coaches and officials clinics together to get everyone on the same page.
 - A successful clinic would include sessions with coaches and officials together and breakout sessions to address role specific concerns.
 - Situational information sessions with officials and coaches working together.
 - Coaches are always welcome at officiating clinics.
 - Would bringing in an outside speaker help increase attendance?
 - Would it be possible to do some local coaches clinics during the year to fundraise for bringing in speakers?
 - Rose currently has some speakers lined up to do some local coaching clinics.
- g. Website – Jesse Zien
- Here are the website stat updates:

- Last 30 days we had 688 sessions by 589 users with 1,454 page views with 2.11 pages per session on average and a bounce rate of 62.06%.
- Last 90 days we had 2,674 sessions by 2,135 users with 4,993 page views with 1.87 pages per session on average and a bounce rate of 66.90%.
- Numbers are down from during season, but we are up from this time last year.
- Overall we see spikes on Monday and Wednesdays.
- Also on the positive we are never seeing 0 visitors on a day! (I really hope I didn't just jinx us...)
- Jesse and Kyle are working on making the website relevant to make sure that people want to continue checking it out outside of just the high school water polo season.
 - This means IWP wants to put up anything newsworthy about USAWP, AWP and/or IWP on the website so people will keep checking. Please send in articles or interesting events that are not currently included so that the website can be updated to kperry@fenwickfriars.com.
- Upcoming posts will include information about the National States Challenge or Academic Teams from USAWP and AWP
- Upcoming important dates up already (see 5 a/b)
- h. Hall of Fame – Jeff Wimer
 - Nothing to report at this time for the Hall of Fame committee besides nominations are accepted year round.
 - IWP is continuing to update information for the profiles of all inductees into the Hall of Fame.

5. Liaisons Report

a. USWP Liaison – Midwest Board Members Present / Tim Daniel

b. ODP – Tim Daniel

- For USAWP participants in this area, we had a good summer.
 - Kent Emden, West Suburban participated in 2018 UANA JUNIOR PAN AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP Tournament. He was named captain for the event and selected as the tournament's top goalie
 - There were a couple coaches from the area that travelled.
- Upcoming important dates:
 - September 22-23, USAWP Olympic development camp (age group level)
 - Development will be coed for age group level.
 - Miguel is leading both genders.
 - October 5-7, Zone Identification tournament at Stevenson
 - This tournament will include a girls' division
 - This will take place in the afternoon on Saturday and all day Sunday to make sure it doesn't interfere with swimming.
 - November 15-16, ODP tryouts
 - December 1-2, ODP Training
 - 2019 January 12-13, ODP Regional Camp
 - Held in North Carolina
 - A change has been made this year for this tournament as clubs can take a B team in each age group.
 - In addition, the tournament has been moved from state swimming weekend to the first weekend of the water polo season.
 - This is good for Illinois players as there are no games on that weekend.

- 2019 March 2-3, National Championships
- Upcoming Clinics in the area:
 - November 3 & 4 - Tony Azevedo at Lincolnway East clinic
 - Boys' clinic Saturday and girls' clinic Sunday for the high school level.
 - Clinic run by Alumni Water polo on Nov 3 & 4 at Fenwick
 - There is a new date in the works for this one so that it does not interfere with the clinic run by Tony Azevedo.
- In order to participate, cost always comes up as an issue for some families.
 - There are scholarships available but we need to send more feedback about this to USAWP in order to make changes.
 - For example, the September clinic costs \$200.
- Because our biggest struggle in Illinois is just getting players to be in the water, do we need to have such high level (and high cost) options for our youngest players?
- c. College Programs Liaison – volunteer needed
 - 2 leads:
 - McKendree coach – Colleen Lischwe
 - Carthage College – Laura Coffman
- d. Chicago Park District Liaison – Beto Garcia
 - CPD had 6 teams in AWP summer league (3 14u and 3 12u).
 - 3 CPD teams participated in the JO qualifier and 5 teams attended JOs.
 - 16U boys and girls both placed 2nd at Ann Arbor Classic.
 - 10th year of Women's summer league was successful.
 - At the National States Challenge, CPD boys were 1st and 9th and the girls team was 4th.
 - This year, the Midwest open was run for both boys and girls.
 - 8 men's teams with Apostles winning the tournament.
 - 5 women's teams with Wildcats winning the tournament.
- 6. League Updates – Volunteer Needed
 - This position is currently vacant as this was Rob Lindgren's role. Please let Kyle know if you are interested or know of anyone who would be interested in taking this opening.
 - Could we turn all leagues over to AWP?
 - AWP already runs the fall and winter leagues for high schoolers and the fall and summer leagues for age groupers. AWP is willing to run the summer high school league for us. Everything would operate the same way and would still produce a profit for IWP even if AWP ran it.
 - While Jesse is interested in taking this on, he would love to have someone to help him with this.
 - The summer league is our big fundraiser.
 - There are 45 teams that participate in games on Wednesday or Thursday nights from early June through end of July.
 - Scheduling is a big undertaking so it would be much more manageable with two people working together.
 - We would like to have nominations before or at November meeting for this position.
 - Fall schedule is out from AWP for age group league and games start next week.
 - High school games started this past weekend and games for HS boys will continue through November.
 - The league consists of 8 games at the age group level and 12 games for HS level.
 - We like using AWP as the schedule comes out early and everything is organized which we like.
 - There was a small winter league that Rob was running for 14U.

- We hope to continue to run this for more opportunities for 14U to participate during the winter.
 - girls HS league will begin in Dec (through Jan and Feb)
- 7. Old Business
 - a. Springfield YMCA is very interested in starting water polo as part of their aquatic programing. How can IWP help?
 - This is not far from Peoria. IWP is hoping to help here so that we can get more water polo programs going outside of the city of Chicago.
 - Please bring any ideas to the November meeting.
 - b. American Water Polo National State Challenge hosted by Windy City Water Polo (at Fenwick) and Lyons (at Lyons Township) was again a great success. Chicago Park District won the boys' tournament over Windy City, and Windy City won the girls' tournament over Greenwich Aquatics.
 - For the summer of 2018, all games were hosted at indoor facilities to avoid any weather issues.
 - This might be the first time that an Illinois team has won on both sides which is exciting for Illinois players.
 - This year there were 6 states represented with 12 boys' teams and 11 girls' teams
 - IWP is working on posting the All-Tournament teams to the website.
 - For the summer of 2019, the National States Challenge tournament will be back in PA or a different venue.
 - Illinois clubs would be interested in hosting again in the future, but understands that AWP does not want to host in the same place every year.
- 8. New Business
 - a. IWP purchasing an insurance policy in order to help teams run camps or clinics.
 - In the past, not having insurance has been a problem for some schools interested in hosting a camp or clinic.
 - Could IWP extend our policy to help people run clinics at their pool and decrease the cost of added insurance?
 - Could also have IWP purchase and then people pay IWP for running a clinic.
 - This means IWP could also collect a little extra for the scholarship or fundraising.
 - Frank Mulcrone can help us put out information about getting insurance for people looking to do this.
 - This insurance would be outside of AWP or USAWP insurance.
 - IWP could create a resource for people to go to if they have questions about how to get extra insurance to cover a clinic or camp.
 - The goal here is just to make sure that anyone who wants to run a camp or clinic can do so and would be covered if their location requires an extra insurance policy.
 - Would AWP be able to help out for something like this?
 - b. Officers and Directors shall be nominated at the September meeting with elections held at the November meeting.
 - Positions up for election:
 1. President –duties include: calling and presiding over meetings; organizes the IWP calendar; appointing committee chairpersons; approving submitted bills; overseeing the Dave Perry Scholarship program; and breaking any ties in voting.
 - Nominees: Kyle Perry
 2. Secretary – duties include: recording the minutes at every meeting; providing a written report for every meeting; submitting his/her report for posting on the IWP website; sending

- out meeting reminders; keeping a record of officer and director terms/limits; and other correspondence related to IWP.
 - Nominees: Elizabeth Timmons
- 3. Board of Directors (2 positions for 3 years and 2 positions for 6 years. President will make up the 5th member.) - The Board of Directors shall have five members. The Board shall be elected by voting members at the November IWP election meeting. Board of Director members must have participated with IWP, USAWP, or American Water Polo (AWP) for a minimum of five years. Candidates for Board of Directors shall be nominated by officers or committee chairpersons of IWP. Members on the Board of Directors will serve for six-year terms, eligible for re-election. The President will be an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors. Terms will be staggered to insure that no more than two of the board members change in any year. The Board is responsible for ensuring the IWP mission/purpose is followed; that IWP's relationship with USAWP and AWP is maintained; for fiduciary oversight of IWP/MWPAA monies; and for organizing/assisting with special events at the zone or higher level. The Board will meet, either in person, in a conference call, or in an on-line/email format, at the first IWP meeting of the year. The Board will select a chairperson from the five members to assist in communications and discussions between the Board of Directors and IWP officers and to be a liaison for the Board with the committees. This chairperson will supply Board meeting minutes to the officers of IWP and serve as the communications liaison between the Board of Directors and the Officers of IWP. Resignations from the board must be in writing and given to the IWP president. A board member may be removed by voting members for failure to do an assigned task or for activities that are counterproductive to IWP.
 - Nominees: Jeff Wimer, Perry Korbakis, Rose Wimer, Carlos Ceja, Jeff Plackett
 - For the board of directors, we are looking for people who are willing to participate in fundraising efforts and helping to forge relationships with AWP and USAWP.
- NOMINATIONS FOR OPEN POSITIONS SHOULD BE EMAILED TO KYLE (kperry@fenwickfriars.com) OR ELIZABETH (etimmons@fenwickfriars.com) BY OCTOBER 31ST.
- c. IWP Coaching clinic, organization awareness, and fundraiser 2019
 - Rob Lindgren organized a great clinic for the summer of 2018.
 - Rob used the profits from the summer leagues to organize and offset some of the cost of the clinic.
 - Olympian Bret Bonanni was there and talked about how much work he put in because he was not the best player but worked to get to the Olympic level.
 - Sean Wimer (Stevenson / NIPC) discussed 6 on 5.
 - Laslo Hruza (NT Aquatics) discussed practice planning.
 - Socializing after was really nice. Fostered relationships which led to good conversations throughout the summer season about improving and what was done well.
 - Overall there were 25 coaches and officials in attendance.
 - IWP would still like to get the numbers up for both coaches and officials.
 - IWP would like to run something similar again, but we still need a venue and ideas.
 - Nicole and Rose would be interested in taking this over.
 - We still think that an early June date would be the best time.
 - One big challenge to address is how can we get people that don't want to attend to be there?
 - Some ideas brought up included prizes for first 100 registrants or a buy one get one half off for registrants.
 - Attendees at the IWP meeting are hoping that future clinics could include situational discussions between officials and coaches to make sure everyone is on the same page.

- Discussion occurred about trying to make the summer more of a development/learning time for officials and include more evaluations to help improve Illinois officials.
 - o The big drawback of this is the cost effectiveness for clubs.

- d. High School Summer League and American Water Polo discussion
 - Jesse is interested in taking this on so we will hopefully have this position filled.
 - See the discussion from #6.
- e. 2020 Meeting schedule: Sunday, January 13 7pm, Sunday, March 10 7pm, Sunday, April 14 7pm, Sunday, September 15 7pm, and Sunday, November 17 7pm.
- f. USA Water Polo and the Chicago Bulls
 - Sunday, March 3rd game is an option because it's the last weekend before IHSA games start.
 - Concern about mid-October/ early November games because this might be too late for age group players.
 - USAWP has done this before with other sports and states with successful turnouts.
 - Once a choice is made, updates will be blasted out to all water polo people regardless of the fact that it is organized by USAWP.
- g. Aquatics Night at the Chicago Wolves
 - This event would include all aquatics teams: swimming, water polo, diving, synchro.
 - Currently no date has been chosen.
 - This would be a family friendly event.
 - If a date is chosen before the next meeting, it will be communicated through the following ways:
 - o Email through Chris Cloy
 - o Posted on the website
 - o Email through Perry Korbakis
- 9. Next meeting will be at the Fenwick Library: Sunday, November 11 7pm. Meeting will include elections for President and Secretary for two year terms as well as 2 members to the board of directors for 3 years and 2 members to the board of directors for six years.
 - **BE SURE TO SUBMIT NOMINATIONS FOR OPEN POSITIONS THROUGH EMAIL TO KYLE (kperry@fenwickfriars.com) OR ELIZABETH (etimmons@fenwickfriars.com) BY OCTOBER 31ST.**
- 10. Closing Comments & Adjournment