

Mountain Zone of USA Water Polo
Annual Meeting
Saturday, December 15, 3:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

In person: Brad Percy, Mike Goldhardt, Bill Carter.
On the call: Joe Peila, Robbie Bova, Grier Laughlin

- 1) Brad Percy welcomed everyone for the meeting. Introductions were not necessary since everyone knew each other. Brad then thanked the Executive Board members for their work throughout the year.
- 2) Zone Chair Report.
 - a. Brad presented and discussed the 2007 Summary. The report shows membership statistics. There was a decrease of 4 clubs in the zone from 2006 and total membership is down about 50 from 2006.
 - i. Hoping that there won't be a decrease of numbers next year with the increase of fees from USA Water Polo.
 - b. Zone Teams & National camps from 2007 summarized.
- 3-4) 2007 Finances and 2008 Budget presented.
 - c. Do we want to charge referee's for certification. \$1000 is for referee travel to referee clinics, or to travel to Southern California for games. We can do more than that, but we will have to figure out how to come up with the Revenue to pay that out.
 - i. Idea *(Robbie): Change the cost to the National trip to \$250 to pay for all of the other expenses that are needed for the other payouts. – (All in favor of that.)
 - ii. Step 1 to \$20, step 2 to from 30 to \$40. Would like to see the Step 2 become 24 kids, giving those kids the opportunity to have the step 2 experience.
 - iii. Expenses: Not all of our expenses are solidified nor is our revenue solidified. But by having the budget it gives us a good idea of how we can work to try to break even during the year.
- 5) Head Referee Report – Joe Peila
 - a. Everything on the Summary on the Referee's is correct.
 - i. Don is now on the WWPA list, so he will be going to Colorado State.
 - ii. Will be using Tyson, Madison, and Brenna to do as many of the reffing slots in Salt Lake during the May Zone Tournament.
 - iii. How do we get ref's certified? (Grier-Denver) You have to choose a weekend that works for you. As far as equipment you need a computer and a projector to be used.
 - iv. There will be some sort of Reffing certification steps coming up. More information will be brought up in the convention.
- 6) Zone Team Coaches Reports.
 - a. Women's Youth: Mark St. John/Robert Willis *(Not present). Brad-The Women did great. The event in Kearns went well.
 - b. Women's Cadet: Robbie Bova: The group that she had did an amazing job. The Team Mom (Graham from Boulder, CO) was amazing. The Camp was great this year, they included the fundamentals again, as well as the team play.
 - c. Boys Cadet: Mike Goldhardt

- d. Boys Youth: Lance Bohlman *(Not Present) Brad indicated that many of the zone chairs, himself included, were disappointed on the fact that there was not much feedback or instruction, and that only the top 40 athletes were invited back for Tuesday's activities.
- 7) 2008 Zone Team Selection Process.
- a. The plan is to stick with the same general plan as last year.
 - i. Step 1. Kids don't travel, but have a 4-6 hour tryouts/clinic in their own area, where a Zone Coach will teach the National Team process of play. The coaches of each step 1 clinic will talk to the Head Coach from each division and see who should be sent to Step 2.
 - ii. Step 2. The top 24 from Step 1 for each age group are the Zone Team. They will get together for a weekend of training and have the chance to make the traveling team.
 - iii. Robbie-Would like to take her Zone team to J.O.'s
 - 1. Zone Coaches need to communicate with Club coach on this issue. Suggestion to "Ask for permission" from the club coach to take their athlete to J.O.'s
 - iv. Brad indicated the importance in general of the Zone Coaches communicating as much as possible with the athlete's Club Coaches.
- 8) Calendar of Events.
- a. Brad presented the 2008 Calendar of Events. A new thing, but planning is a good thing.
 - b. April 17-19 – Utah Summer Games, sanctioned with USA Water Polo. Will effect the Utah teams who will be going to that, plus effect those on the zone teams. However it is only for Utah Teams. Exploring the idea of an open division.
 - c. There was much discussion about the new Men's Open League for the Spring of 2008. Robbie asked if it was coed or if there would be something for the women. Brad indicated that hopefully we can put together a Women's Open League for the Fall of 2008.
 - d. High School Championships:
 - i. Grier a huge supporter of some sort of zone championships. This brings our zone together.
 - ii. There were many administrative concerns discussed about the idea of a High School championships regarding the timing and the eligibility of athletes.
 - iii. The consensus of the group was that it would be better to have it an Age Group Championship (i.e., 18/U), and that since Aug. 23-24 is the last weekend before school begins for most areas that this would be a bad time for the event.
- 9) There were no proposals to change the Zone Policies and Procedures.
- 10) USWP Annual Meetings – Brad encouraged everyone to attend the USWP Annual meetings in Ventura, Jan. 25-27.
- 11) Other business.
- a. Coach mentoring program was discussed. The idea, first brought up by Sandy Nitta in August at their summer tournament, is to have a "master" level coach attend a tournament within the zone, expenses paid by the zone, and work with those coaches desiring some input. Those at the meeting felt it is a good idea, but zone funds are limited. Brad mentioned that USWP has discussed a funding option for zones similar to a grant program. If this happens, Brad will put in an application for funds for this idea.

12) Meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.