

**Dear Wetskins –**

**Over the summer, the executive board sent out a survey to the team to determine some future policies with regard to tournament selections, tournament team make-up, and other Wetskins related issues in general. The board recently met to analyze the results and create some new policies and guidelines as outlined below. We appreciate the 26 of you that took time to fill out the form and provide some feedback about the future of our team.**

**As many of you may or may not know, the Wetskins is the longest continuously operating water polo team in the U.S. who openly welcomes individuals who identify as gay, straight or bisexual and is one of the original founding members of IGLA (International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics). While our team composition has changed over the years, the executive board continues to recognize and support our mission and common goal of learning, improving and excelling in the sport of water polo, whether gay or not.**

**TEAM SELECTION:**

In the case where the Wetskins are only able to take one team to a tournament and enough players to fill two teams indicate they are interested in attending, the majority of those that responded indicated the team should be capped to a maximum size.

In such cases, as above, where the team size is limited and there is a surplus of interest, the majority of those that responded indicated spots on the team should be allocated first based on the number of practices attended in the past quarter. There was also a strong response that spots should also be allocated based on skill and ability.

Therefore, the first criteria used in selecting players for a team in this scenario will be based on making more than 50% attendance during the quarter (3 months) PRIOR to the decision to attend the tournament is made. If there are more than the capped number of players who have made over 50% of the practices, then team selection will then be based on skill level and ability of those players who qualified with their attendance.

Conversely, if less than the capped number of players who wish to play in the tournament qualify with their attendance, the remaining slots on the team will be allocated based on skill and ability to those with a less-than-50% attendance.

This policy will now require attendance to be taken at every practice. More info on practice attendance will be outlined at practices.

**TOURNAMENT SELECTION:**

With regard to which tournaments should be of focus throughout the season (IGLA vs. non-IGLA), the majority indicated that there should not be a priority but rather continue to let players decide for themselves, via EVITE, which tournaments they are most interested in/least conflict of personal schedule. Basically, tournament selection will continue as it has in the past.

**PLAYING TIME:**

The majority of those that responded indicated the amount of playing time someone should get at tournaments depends on the nature of the tournament. Additionally, the majority answered that playing time should be allocated to ensure we maximize our chances of winning.

Before each tournament, players will be required to commit YES to the EVITE by a set deadline. Once players commit YES to the EVITE, those players attending the tournament will vote

whether they want to have a “**competitive**” (playing time allocated to ensure maximizing chances of winning) or “**recreational**” (equal rotation of playing time for all players) team sent.

If majority votes “competitive”, a competitive team will be sent. If anyone that voted “recreational” doesn’t want to attend anymore due to the competitive nature, they have an opportunity to back out. On the contrary, if the players vote to send a “recreational” team, any players who voted to run a “competitive” team will also have the opportunity to back out.

In cases where two teams are being sent to a tournament (i.e. NYC, Millersville) and a majority of players attending the tournament vote for a competitive team then two even competitive teams will be sent. If it is relatively split, there will be one competitive team and one recreational team sent.

It is important to keep in mind that these rules will not necessarily overhaul how we have always handled tournaments and playing time. If we send “competitive” teams, it does not mean that people will leave without having had any playing time. The nature of our tournaments generally allow for a good balance of playing time throughout the weekend, and coaches will continue to maximize playing time for everyone while still making an effort to win. If you have specific questions, please see Heather or a board member.

#### **TOURNAMENT FEES/COMMITMENT:**

A majority of those surveyed voted it is reasonable to ask people who register for a tournament, yet drop out at the last minute, to nonetheless pay tournament fees. Therefore, by EVITE deadline, if you are a YES, you will be billed for the tournament fee divided by number of players attending.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS:**

Additional practices – We have recognized that many respondents are interested in a third practice and/or skills and drills type practice. To explore this option, the board is looking into possibly a once-a-month skills and drills/scrimmage on a Sunday afternoon. This would allow newer/developing players an opportunity to work with experienced players on a one-on-one basis followed by a scrimmage. More information regarding upcoming Sunday afternoon sessions will come.

It is not possible for us at this time, however, to add a third weekly practice, for many reasons. Pool time is already allocated to other clubs. If we could get pool time, we would need to pay the city more money, and dues would go up. We also do not have a deep enough group of volunteer coaches to staff it. If any of these elements change, we will begin to explore this possibility and readdress it.

More swimming – There will be a separate email list of individuals that want to come to practice at 7 for a swim set or swim outside of practice on their own. Coach Heather will send swim sets to this list.

Fundraisers/Social Events – We found that there was a push for more social/fundraising events, with many listing some ideas in their survey. If you feel strongly about this, the board is more than happy to support and promote individuals who wish to lead these events. Please contact Kris with any ideas moving forward.