

Memorandum of Understanding between Chatham University and Mark Rauterkus of Pittsburgh Renegades Water Polo and the International Swim Coaches Association

Overview

This proposal outlines a strategic collaboration for a water polo program from 10-to-noon on Sundays using Chatham's pool.

Short Term Objective

Provide a turnkey, done-for-you, water polo program including coaching, lifeguards, and revenue generation that enhances sporting experiences for Chatham students and community.

Implementation

Water polo practices are OPEN to anyone from Chatham. Chatham ID is shown at the door for free admission. Non-Chatham players pay \$10 admission (collected online with ISCA) and present a ticket at the door which matches an attendance list provided before each session. The generated, pay-as-you-go fees are reinvested into expanding aquatics education / ISCA seminars.

A successful return of water polo to Chatham's campus utilizes available pool time with a tightly focused, aquatic education program.

- Chatham had sponsored a club and varsity water polo team that played against University of Michigan, IU Bloomington and others. The Renegades includes a Chatham graduate who played water polo for the Cougars.
- Water polo, an Olympic sports, is played at other universities including CMU, Pitt, W&J, Grove City, Mercyhurst, West Chester, etc. Water polo is well established in certain locations (Europe, California, central Ohio, eastern PA) and it is expanding at many high schools throughout the nation (Texas, Illinois).
- Chatham's present NCAA DIII swimming programs for men and women are lean in numbers. Water polo practices could be a benefit to the team's existence by offering pre-season, post-season, make-ups, aquatic cross-training. Additional swimmers could be discovered, developed and recruited due to water polo.
- ISCA is releasing online courses and in-person clinics that teach swim coaches how to start water polo programs. Hopefully, ISCA clinics can be co-hosted at Chatham.

Long Term Objectives

- Offer additional enrichment experiences for Chatham students and community (Lifeguard classes, ISCA clinics)
- Increase visibility for Chatham locally and nationally
- Position Chatham as a desirable destination for prospective student-athletes with the I-League (see ISCA.blue).

Benefits

- Increase local and national visibility for Chatham
- Grow Chatham's reputation as an ideal choice for aspiring students

Summary

This strategic collaboration positions Chatham as a premiere hub for education and programming that cultivates respected aquatic leaders.

Thanks for the consideration.

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