

Empire GU Meeting Minutes

June 27, 2012

Present: Gary Heavner, Renee Ovrut, Oscar Prue, John Bradley (Plattsburgh State Women), Kyle Antoian, Sarah Litt, Brad Kleiner, Mike Crafton, Adrian Gannon (USAR Congress, Competitions Committee), Sean Horan, Nick Anzalone

Absent: Sean Morgan (Plattsburgh State Men's), Mark Buckley (Paul Smith), Kristen Huber, Ryan Birge (Fairfield College Women), AnneMarie Ferrell (Ithaca)

Competitions: (Adrian Gannon) USAR approved new plan going forward starting next year – fall 2013/2014.

7's National Competition: planned to start next summer. Question (from Sean) regarding extra costs – bringing in more clubs from each region and additional rounds of playoffs and nationals will increase budgets significantly because of the travel. Thought to possibly cut out a week of play to reduce costs, but TBD what week will be cut and how that competition will be organized. Adrian is bringing back to the board.

Large issue with 7s is to try to generate real competitions across the country (not all regions have competitive 7s teams and tournaments).

Women's: Is the WPL folding into D1? This will remain separate for the next 2 years and remain completely separate as to geographic lines (i.e. those presented by the Competitions Committee). There will be an east/west bounds. In the long term, there will be a combination of WPL and D1, but for now, the current structure needs to be seen out, since it was recently implemented. Continue to run as is for 2 years, then will be revisited.

Men's: Men's Club seeding proposal for 2012/2013 – Kyle has this document and wants confirmation that it's the correct one.

How was the decision made for the number of seeds each region gets? Each former union was allocated 2 seeds, but because of the relationship between EmpireGU and New England, the two seeds were divided for this year. (i.e. of the 18 D3 seeds in EmpireGU, there will be only 1 seed) Going forward, EmpireGU can consider a D4, where there are only regional championships.

For 2013/2014, what's the recommendation from Committee for where clubs will go and who decides this? Want to look at "the model" and see what works for each region. Adrian will be the "bad guy" to make the ultimate decisions on who goes in what division (i.e. if teams are forced down divisions).

Missing Clubs in Presentation: There are clubs missing in the area – follow up with Eric Geib at USAR to ensure all clubs are accounted for (Oscar).

Super League: Trying to create access to competitions.

DII Clubs: Still be required to field two sides or will they only be required to field one, when extended season/travel is taken into account. This will be decided upon by local Unions.

Colleges:

Women's: Trying to organize schedules between men/women's clubs so that schedules match. Need to

finalize things with the women's teams.

Men's: For an upstate men's college update - we are set with alignment for D2 and D3. Schedules should be completed shortly and shared with the ref society for coverage. I will send schedules out to women's coordinators as well.

Question: What date do we need an upstate champion determined for GU playoffs?

Congress Updates:

New competitions structure approved.

New GU pilot programs – True South and The Carolinas will be the final pilot programs. No more pilots being accepted. Based on the pilot programs and data collected, there will be a vote as to go forward on further GUs. At the latest, this will be 2014.

Julie McCoy re-elected as Congress rep to Board.

Bylaw change passed: Congress will have its own leaders (Pres., VP, Secretary).

Women's Update: D1 and D2 schedules are out. Need to finalize budget for all star 7s.

Sevens: No comment. Original issue that the tournaments weren't filling up, but that's a non-issue now and the tournaments look good. Solid competition and our area has good representation.

Men's Update: Kyle thinks playoffs (i.e. N/S crossovers) should be in the spring for D2 and D3 - makes the most sense because we have a long fall schedule and there's no crossovers. i.e. going back to the old methodology. Will allow local clubs to prepare for Nationals better by having longer tough competition in the spring (i.e. versus the west, which has their main season in the spring and they go through to Nationals). Going to send out an email to clubs and let them respond.

What about D1? Putting it out to all divisions.

Referee Update: Nothing to report.

Secretary Update: Nothing to report.

VP Update: Nothing to report.

No phone call next Wednesday, but there will be a quick meeting Tuesday night, July 3rd to discuss admin recommendations.