

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
February 24, 2013

The Executive Board met via conference call on Sunday, February 24, 2013, at 9:00 p.m.

Attendance: Renee Ovrut (President), Mike Crafton (VP), Oscar Prue (VP), Ashley Belline (ED Women), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees), Sean Horan (ED 7s), Steve Molnar (ED Men), John Bradley (Colleges), Nick Anzalone (At-Large), J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Absent: Kyle Antonian (VP), Gary Heavner (USAR Delegate)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 p.m.

ALL-UNION MEETING

Renee Ovrut stated the All-Union conference call will be held on March 3. Current topics include a review of the recent Congress and the Men's / Women's competitive structure. Other topics will be solicited via email or Twitter – J.C. will compile and distribute for inclusion, Renee will moderate the call and GU Directors will speak to pertinent issues.

FINANCE CALL

Mike Crafton said the GU / MetNY Finance Call is set for Feb. 26. Topics to be covered will be the NJ land sale and how it relates to finances of MetNY / GU. Also scheduled to be discussed is cash reserves and operating revenue from the CIPP process. Toby Butterfield will be introduced as a resource for field access / development and the potential for financial support in the future – this will give the membership an idea of things the GU is trying to accomplish.

COLLEGIATE STRUCTURE

John Bradley touched on the framework of a timeline established to move the colleges out of the GU. Anne Marie Farrell has made an early proposal for a Finger Lakes Conference, but this does not meet needs of Buffalo / other area clubs.

Tony Brown (Tri State Conference) has a plan in the works for a Conference that ensures complete schedules of 15s are played in the fall and 7s in the Spring. This may go against USAR structure of a Spring Championship, or 7s in the Fall and 15s in the Spring. Renee commented that 15s in the Spring is not feasible, as it would leave a short window for competition in the Northeast.

John stated that moving forward, the infrastructure / overhead of running a separate collegiate conference is a concern. Renee stated that the GU will assist John in getting the physical support he needs to run the college structure; John will make all of the decisions as they pertain to the colleges and then report back to the Board as necessary.

SENIOR MEN

Steve reported the Empire Final Four is still in need of a host location for the D2 / D3 Championships. He has put a bid proposal out to clubs and has not had a good response. The Final Four is May 4-5 and will need two fields for competition. J.C. stated that he will include the solicitation in the upcoming newsletter.

Restructuring for the Fall season remains in questions. What happens at the D1 level will have a trickle-down effect on D2 and D3. USAR rejected the proposal of expanding D1 beyond the eight (8) team allotment. Steve said this means D1 will have eight teams for at least one more year, and they are working on splitting games between the Fall and Spring. He stated there are multiple questions, including club's willingness to compete at certain levels, travel, etc. USAR wants structuring and scheduling completed by April, which does not leave much time to complete the restructure.

SENIOR WOMEN

Ashley stated that USAR is looking to complete a restructure similar to the Senior Men. There is no clear Divisional structure in place as yet, but there is hope that a conference call scheduled in the coming days will help to clear things up.

COACHING CLINIC PROPOSAL

Renee stated she was approached by a group that provides technical training for coaches. This training meets the criteria for USAR CEUs. A proposal has been received and Oscar has taken the task of scouting sites and hosts for the clinic. Renee said it was prudent to host the first clinic Upstate, to show those clubs the GU is committed to providing services across the membership and not just downstate.

REFEREES

Brad stated that teams need to supply the Referees with their Spring schedules ASAP. J.C. will include a note on this in the next newsletter. Brad also touched on the USAR Tournament Sanctioning process. Clubs should be reminded of this and encouraged to comply ASAP. Again, J.C. will include in the newsletter and reach clubs directly is necessary.

There is one outstanding disciplinary matter from the Fall. Brad, et all, are working on the timing of a call to resolve the matter.

RUGBY DEVELOPMENT

Nick touched on some projects he is working on. Currently, there approximately ten (10) PSAL (high school) clubs in the New York City area. He would like to introduce regional Senior clubs to the High School players and show them the opportunities which exist beyond high school. This will be a benefit to both the players and the clubs.

A private group from Sri Lanka is scheduling a friendly 7s event at MetLife Stadium. Rental fees are \$20,000 for the field / section of stands. This may be something the GU looks into in the future.

NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10, 2013.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
Administrator