

EMPIRE RFU GU
ALL-UNION CONFERENCE CALL
March 3, 2013

The Board of Directors of the Empire GU held an All-Union Conference Call, presenting topical subjects as related to business of the GU, via conference call on Sunday, March 3, 2013, at 9:00 p.m. Empire GU member clubs were invited to take part.

The call was moderated by J.C. Whipple, Empire GU Administrator. Board members in attendance were Renee Ovrut (President), Mike Crafton (VP Finance), Gary Heavner (USAR Delegate), Steve Molnar (ED Men), Ashley Belline (ED Women).

In advance of the call, GU membership was invited to submit questions via Email or Twitter for review and answer by the Board during the call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 p.m.

REVIEW OF USA RUGBY CONGRESS

Mike Crafton reported that the USAR Congress went very well and was a good meeting. The USAR staff presented themselves well and has a more professional structure. Marketing efforts are moving forward with new staff being hired and efforts executed in compiling TV spots and securing sponsorship (ie AIG).

The restructuring of Senior Men and Women are moving at different paces. The Men's restructure will take place in the Fall of 2013, with D1 enveloping former RSL clubs – this plan was approved by Congress and the Competition Committee.

Gary Heavner said reports were given by various segments of USA Rugby. Nigel Melville (CEO) stated a new purpose and strategic plan for USAR, following the mantra of Leadership, Development, Performance, Marketing and Revenue Generation. The pilot program for the GU structure was ratified and is here to stay. Five new GUs are being added and a few more areas need to catch up with this modeling.

Senior Clubs now have a dedicated staff member, Jim Snyder, to handle matters surrounding club rugby. This is the first time this has happened at USAR.

SENIOR MEN

Steve Molnar stated that what happens at the D1 level will have a trickle-down effect on D2 and D3. USAR rejected a proposal of expanding D1 beyond the eight (8) team allotment. Steve said this means D1 will have eight teams and they are working on bridging games between the Fall and Spring – there will be no movement to a higher Division. A D1 draft schedule is expected to be presented by the end of March.

Steve 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. A promotion / relegation plan is sought to be in place in Year 1 of the new structure. Specifics are not finalized, but the plan will be implemented across all divisions of play.

A review of the B-side policy is being conducted by Steve through a recap and survey of clubs. Each club has different wants and needs in this area.

SENIOR WOMEN

Ashley Belline reported a conference call was held to discuss the restructuring of the Women's format. It will follow the pattern of the Men's restructure, but is not following the same timeline. The season is proposed to start in September and conclude with playoffs in the Spring.

D1 will have a minimum of 8-10 matches, D2 approximately eight (8) and D3 around six (6). Keystone is moving to D1 and Atlanta is moving to WPL.

COACHING CERTIFICATION / EDUCATION

Renee Ovrut reported there has been a change in the USA Rugby Coaching Certification process. Level 100 (baseline) is all online, Level 200 is the former Introducing Rugby and Level 300 is the former Developing Rugby. Previous certification for Introducing and Developing was transferred and coaches should have received notification late Summer / early Fall 2012.

Coaches will now be required to acquire ten (10) CEUs each year to keep their certification current. CEUs can be obtained through online courses or in-person clinics. The number of CEUs awarded per course or clinic will be dependent on the intensity of the course.

Empire GU is planning to host at least four (4) clinics in 2013, with the first slated to be held in the Upstate region of the GU. Oscar Prue is currently working with clubs to determine hosts and sites. Sites need access to classrooms and fields for implementation of the clinics.

QUESTIONS

Various questions related to topics presented were asked by individual clubs via email or during the open period on the call.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
Empire GU Administrator