

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
March 10, 2013

The Executive Board met via conference call on Sunday, March 10, 2013, at 9:00 p.m.

Attendance: Renee Ovrut (President), Mike Crafton (VP), Oscar Prue (VP), Kyle Antonian (VP), Ashley Belline (ED Women), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees), Steve Molnar (ED Men), Gary Heavner (USAR Delegate), J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Absent: Sean Horan (ED 7s), John Bradley (Colleges)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 p.m.

D1 SEEDING MATCH

Renee Ovrut provided an overview of the Buffalo v Old Blue qualifying match, scheduled for March 17 in New York City. The rationale for this match was to give each club three (3) qualifying matches to get players eligible for the USA Rugby playoffs.

The question was raised if this game is necessary, but there are issues for Old Blue. Old Blue's D3 entry has a bye in the first round of playoffs, thereby eliminating one qualifying match. Buffalo would have one game at the D2 level and then two crossover games with MARFU.

There was much discussion in how to get a third qualifying match for Old Blue. Steve Molnar stated that the match must count, it could not be a friendly or scrimmage.

Renee stated that the options are to play the game on March 17 as scheduled; look at an alternative weekend; or adjust the Old Blue v. NYAC (Elite Cup) game on March 23 to a league match, thereby making it a qualifying match. NYAC would be presented this option as an incoming member of the Empire GU at the D1 level. The thinking was that both clubs would field their top lineups for this match.

Issues surrounding Buffalo playing on March 17 or alternate weekends stemmed from a lack of training and a scheduled tour for late March / early April.

Gary Heavner stated that Old Blue wants to play the match as scheduled, but would be willing to look at alternative dates.

It was finally agreed that Renee would contact USA Rugby and present the option of the Old Blue-NYAC Elite Cup match counting as a qualifying match. If that was not approved, Option 2 would be for Buffalo to travel to Old Blue on March 24. Gary would seek a field for the match. Option 3 would be to play the match as scheduled.

Renee will update the board following discussion with USA Rugby.

UPDATE TO GU BYLAWS - DISCIPLINE

Gary discussed the proposed bylaws changes (located on page 2 of these minutes), which were introduced previously but vote delayed until notice provision satisfied. Gary stated that the GU adopted progressive disciplinary bylaw based upon USAR recommendation (based upon where USAR wants to be in the future. New bylaw allows Empire to use least restrictive set of rules (either the rules in GU bylaws, or the rules posted on USAR website) until new USAR disciplinary rules are adopted nationwide.

Gary read through the proposed bylaws. Mike Crafton made a motion to adopt; the motion was seconded by Oscar Prue. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Oscar Prue stated that he was seeking new members for the Disciplinary Committee. Gary advised that Oscar put more seasoned volunteers in place, ensuring that DC members had a more temperate outlook.

NEXT MEETING

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Sunday, March 24, 2013.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
Administrator

ADOPTED BYLAW CHANGE - DISCIPLINE (adding what is in bold below)

Section 5.02. DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE.

(A) PURPOSE.

The Disciplinary Committee shall have jurisdiction over member clubs (including players, coaches, and others affiliated with the member clubs) in matters of conduct on, or associated with, the field-of-play.

In addition, the Disciplinary Committee shall have jurisdiction over member clubs (including players, coaches, and others affiliated with the member clubs) in matters of conduct off the field-of-play that reflect upon the game of Rugby Union Football and jeopardize the interests of the game.

With the goal of safeguarding that its members are not disproportionately penalized beyond the requirements of the USA Rugby Disciplinary Guidelines as applied elsewhere, if any portion of Section 5.02 Paragraph B is in conflict with the current USA Rugby Disciplinary Guidelines in regards to any disciplinary matter processes, including all policies, procedures, appeals and penalty guidelines, then the rule which allows the member the greatest due process and least penalty shall govern.