

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
April 21, 2013

The Executive Board met via conference call on Sunday, April 21, 2013, at 9:00 p.m.

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

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 p.m.

MEN'S PLAYOFF ISSUES / SANCTIONS

Renee Ovrut stated there were two playoff issues surrounding the previous weekend:

1. Old Blue did not submit a Match Roster for the Crossover Playoff weekend. Boston RC sent an email before the start of play on Saturday attesting to this.

Gary Heavner, as a rep for Old Blue, disputed this and said that Old Blue submitted a complete roster on Monday, April 21, within the 24-hour deadline upon completion of play. Steve Molnar confirmed he received the email and Old Blue roster and would distribute to the Board. As of the time of this meeting, there were no other outstanding issues surrounding the roster.

2. Buffalo's D2 side forfeited its Playoff match with Princeton Athletic Club (PAC) on Saturday, April 20. This was not an eligibility issue, as Buffalo had a sufficient number of players CIPPd. A question at hand was whether the forfeit would create eligibility issues for PAC players moving forward. Renee spoke with the PAC President and he confirmed that that would not be the case. Renee asked that if any eligibility issues present themselves for PAC, to please contact the Board immediately.

A discussion took place surrounding the larger issue of Buffalo D2 forfeiting a Playoff match and the over-arching ramifications. Gary stated that upon their admittance to Empire GU, Buffalo Rugby Club stated it would have two complete sides and ensured all commitments would be fulfilled.

Questions were raised regarding Buffalo's standing within Empire GU and what types of sanctions should be levied – monetary, eligibility, etc.

It was agreed that a separate Board meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28, to discuss the issues surrounding Buffalo's forfeit.

INTERACTIONS WITH NON-BOARD MEMBERS OF GU CLUBS

Renee brought up a issue that has been of increasing regularity. Non-Board members of Empire GU clubs are presenting themselves to take part in discussions of matters at hand, even taking things as far to discuss with USA Rugby staff. Four separate sequences were detailed and showed a communication and representation issue.

It was agreed that Mike Crafton and Gary Heavner will work in the coming weeks to craft a Club / Player Conduct Policy which will cover situations such as this, and provide Empire GU with disciplinary functionality should it be warranted.

SENIOR WOMEN

Ashley Belline reported there were no changes or updates.

SENIOR MEN

Steve Molnar said the D1 schedule will be completed within the next two weeks. This will allow work to begin with structure and scheduling for D2 and D3.

COLLEGES

John Bradley reported there will be no Downstate Women's D3 this year, Manhattanville will look to join the NSCRO Men, and Upstate D2/D3 is looking at replicating the Ivy League model.

John said a question at hand is how our D1 / D2 competitive structure stacks up against the rest of the nation. John has been in touch with staff at USA Rugby regarding this and will continue to monitor.

SANCTIONING

J.C. Whipple reported back on the Sanctioning of the Coaching Clinic and whether it was necessary. This was a follow-up to a discussion a few weeks back. J.C. spoke with James Wilber at USA Rugby who said that sanctioning was not necessary – this was only for tournaments or events where there was a winner crowned.

J.C. also relayed to James concerns of member clubs regarding the timeliness and efficiency of the Sanctioning process and website. James said he would work with staff to improve the timeliness and also pass along concerns on how “Sanctioning” is being perceived (aka Preventing clubs from registering for tournaments).

OTHER BUSINESS

Sean Horan asked where the development of a new Empire GU logo stood. J.C. reported he had reached out to Pat Maroney of Monmouth to no response. He would follow up this week. Also, he asked if anyone had recommendations of graphic designers to please forward along.

Gary Heavner reported on the handling of the D1 Crossover Playoffs, hosted by Middlesex Rugby Club. Middlesex ensured that the following would be in place for the matches:

- Regulation Field (Middlesex provided misinformation on the condition of the surface)
- Proper restraints, flags, posts and set-up in place (Boston RC had to secure pieces)
- On-Site Trainer (Boston RC had to supply)
- Referees notified of event, schedule, etc. (Referees were not properly informed)

Empire GU consented to let NERFU host the weekend as long as all the specific details were presented by 10/1/12. NERFU missed the deadline but were allowed to host regardless.

NEXT MEETING

A special session of the Executive Board will take place on Sunday, April 28, to discuss the Buffalo forfeit situation. The next regularly-scheduled Executive Board meeting will be held on Sunday, May 5, 2013.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
Administrator