

EMPIRE RFU GU
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
April 28, 2013

The Executive Board met in a Special Session via conference call on Sunday, April 28, 2013, at 9:00 p.m.

Attendance of Voting Board Members: Renee Ovrut (President), Mike Crafton (VP), Oscar Prue (VP), Kyle Antonian (VP), Ashley Belline (ED Women), Sean Horan (ED 7s), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees), J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Absent: Steve Molnar (ED Men), John Bradley (Colleges)

Attendance of Ad-Hoc Member: Gary Heavner (USAR Delegate)

Ashley Belline joined call at 10:03 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 p.m.

It was established that a quorum of the Executive Board was five (5) voting members. Six members were present at that start of the meeting, putting a quorum in effect. The first three votes included six (6) voting members; the final vote included seven (7) voting members.

This Special Meeting of the Executive Board was called to discuss matters surrounding Buffalo Rugby Club's D2 side forfeit of its playoff match with Princeton Athletic Club (PAC) on Saturday, April 20, 2013.

As discussed on the Executive Board call on April 21, 2013, a question at hand was whether the forfeit would create eligibility issues for PAC players moving forward. Renee Ovrut 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.

Renee Ovrut stated that this discussion and the matters at hand were a D2 issue only. She received an apology from the President of Buffalo Rugby Club (BRC) stating that the club understood there would be a monetary sanction, but BRC was looking to avoid being forced to have only one side compete in Empire GU.

Sean Horan stated he was in favor of the D2 side receiving at least a two (2)-year suspension.

J.C. Whipple recommended to the Board that whatever sanctions be taken against BRC, they be swift and meaningful. This was a chance to set a precedent for Club actions, especially regarding a Playoff match.

Brad Kleiner stated he supported a two (2) year playoff ban and a ban against a D2 entry for Buffalo Rugby Club. He said BRC has proven the can't participate with two full sides within Empire GU.

Gary Heavner reminded the Board that next year's schedule was a fourteen (14) game slate and that clubs could potentially be mathematically eliminated from the postseason by Game #8. He advised this is something to keep on the radar, especially when levying sanctions against BRC.

SANCTIONS AGAINST BUFFALO RUGBY CLUB

1. Brad Kleiner made a motion for Buffalo Rugby Club to pay a monetary penalty of \$500 for its forfeit against Princeton Athletic Club. Approved PAC match fees will be deducted from this total. Mike Crafton seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed, In Favor (6) / Opposed (0)

In Favor – Renee Ovrut, Mike Crafton, Oscar Prue, Kyle Antonian, Sean Horan, Brad Kleiner

Opposed – None

2. Brad Kleiner made a motion for Buffalo Rugby Club's D2 side to be ineligible for the next two years for any and all Postseason competition, including any Empire GU, Championship or USA Rugby events. Renee Ovrut seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed, In Favor (6) / Opposed (0)

In Favor – Renee Ovrut, Mike Crafton, Oscar Prue, Kyle Antonian, Sean Horan, Brad Kleiner

Opposed – None

3. Brad Kleiner made a motion for Buffalo Rugby Club to be prevented from entering two (2) sides into Empire GU competition for the next two (2) years. Renee Ovrut seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed, In Favor (4) / Opposed (2)

In Favor – Renee Ovrut, Mike Crafton, Sean Horan, Brad Kleiner

Opposed – Oscar Prue, Kyle Antonian

Ashley Belline joined the meeting at 10:03 p.m. J.C. Whipple recapped meeting's previous discussion, motions and votes.

4. Mike Crafton made a motion, based on Buffalo Rugby Club being allowed just one side, for Empire GU to dictate that BRC compete at the D2 level for two (2) years. In Year Two, BRC would be eligible for all Postseason competition and subsequently be eligible for rights and privileges of promotion to D1, based on on-field success. Sean Horan seconded the motion.

Vote: Failed, Opposed (5) / In Favor (2)

In Favor – Mike Crafton, Sean Horan

Opposed – Renee Ovrut, Oscar Prue, Ashley Belline, Kyle Antonian, Brad Kleiner

A formal notice will be distributed to Buffalo Rugby Club, outlining the details on the sanctions enacted.

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss matters surrounding Board personnel, including duties and bylaws.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
Administrator