

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD
July 14, 2013

The Executive Board met via conference call on Sunday, July 14, 2013, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Renee Ovrut (President), Mike Crafton (VP), Kyle Antoian (VP), Ashley Belline (ED Women), Sean Horan (ED 7s), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees), John Bradley (Colleges), John Bradley serving as a proxy for Oscar Prue

Ad-Hoc Members: Gary Heavner (USAR Delegate), Nike Anzalone

Administrator: J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Absent: Steve Molnar (ED Men), Oscar Prue (VP Operations)

GU Membership (Identified): Montclair, PAC, Monmouth, Union, Danbury, Brooklyn Women

CALL TO ORDER

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

This Executive Meeting, per Empire GU bylaws, was made available to GU membership. Those who called in were able to listen to the meeting, and then invited to raise questions or comments during an Open Forum at the end of the call.

ALL-UNION CALL

After a discussion, it was decided that the All-Union Call would be held on July 28. J.C. Whipple informed the group that the 2013 Fall schedules would be posted to the website early this week, and would be ready for the call.

NYC 7s FUNDING

Following a discussion at the most recent meeting on June 30, Sean Horan outlined the request for the GU to provide funding for the NYC 7s trip to Twickenham, August 17-18. Three and possibly four players will be on the club, in addition to the entire coaching staff. The request is for a total of \$5,000.

Renee Ovrut made a motion to support the request of \$5,000. Mike Crafton seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed, In Favor (8) / Opposed (0)

In Favor – Renee Ovrut, Mike Crafton, Kyle Antoian, Brad Kleiner, John Bradley, Oscar Prue (via proxy), Ashley Belline, Sean Horan,

Opposed: None

SUFFOLK / BROOKLYN DISCIPLINE

Mike Crafton reported that both clubs have been sent a notice for discipline procedures and given a deadline of Monday (July 15) at 8pm to respond. Matters will proceed from there.

FORFEIT POLICY

Brad Kleiner quickly reviewed a draft policy on forfeits, which he had sent to the group earlier in June. Brad said this should be a serious policy that would have some stiff penalties. J.C. Whipple said this could be included in the new Policy Manual / Handbook that is being drafted. In addition to other sanctions, a monetary penalty of \$1,000 per forfeit should be issued. John Bradley questioned whether \$1,000 would be too much for Colleges.

WEBSITE

Renee Ovrut asked if it was possible to have an archive of previous seasons results on the website. J.C. Whipple said he would discuss with developers and work with them to archive.

SENIOR WOMEN

Ashley Belline reported the schedules have been distributed and a group from Western New York is looking to join the GU. One of the clubs is from the Pittsburgh area. Brad Kleiner recommended that confirmation take place with the Pittsburgh-area Referee Society, ensuring they would cover local games.

SENIOR MEN

Renee Ovrut reported that ongoing discussions are taking place regarding movement of clubs between D2 and D3. As it stands now, Rockaway will move down to D3 and Montclair will move up to D2. There is a possibility that Danbury and Montauk will also be moving down and Union moving up.

COLLEGES

John Bradley reported that ACRA (Tony Brown) is looking to host a Fall Championships, and ACRA has also been approached by USA Rugby to run and coordinate the D2 (only) Championships. There is concern of making sure Colleges stay aligned with Senior Clubs. For at least one (1) more year the College Championships will be held in Spring.

John also reported that a College Board is taking shape. This will be the start of Colleges moving away from the GU. College schedules will be out in a week or two.

WOMEN'S NRU SELECT FUNDING

Sean Horan detailed the Women's NRU Select Side, being coached by Joanne Kos. The side will be comprised by players from Empire GU and New England. Renee Ovrut stated she would like to see any financial support come on a per-player basis, with a cap put in place. Mike Crafton confirmed the GU supported last year for a total of \$4,000. It was also discussed whether the GU should support the coaches at any level.

Renee Ovrut made a motion to support the Women's NRU Select Side for a total of \$4,000, with determination on how to allocate funds coming at a later date. Mike Crafton seconded the motion.

Vote: Passed, In Favor (8) / Opposed (0)

In Favor – Renee Ovrut, Mike Crafton, Kyle Antoian, Brad Kleiner, John Bradley, Oscar Prue (via proxy), Ashley Belline, Sean Horan,

Opposed: None

OLD BLUE LETTER TO USA RUGBY

Gary Heavner stated that this matter would be tabled until the next Board meeting.

BYLAW REVIEW / AMENDMENT

Mike Crafton stated the proposed Bylaw amendment needs wording to be finalized, matched with the current Bylaws entry and then sent out to the Membership. The 60-day review period will begin when

J.C. Whipple said he would send to Mike for review, and then include in the upcoming Newsletter.

LOGO DEVELOPMENT

J.C. Whipple stated that the GU owes a final payment for the Logo development. Once issued, the GU will receive access to all usable files and version of the new logo. It will be announced thereafter and shared with appropriate parties for use in uniforms, etc. In addition, the website and newsletter will be updated to reflect the new mark.

OPEN FORUM

Rob from Monmouth asked that the movement of clubs between D2 and D3 be a one-for-one swap and those moving be inserted directly into the current schedule. This is based on planning and scheduling of all the clubs affected.

Renee Ovrut said that was a fair request and all possible consideration would be given to the matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
Administrator