

**EMPIRE RFU GU**  
**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**September 22, 2013**

The Executive Board met via conference call on Sunday, September 22, 2013, at 9:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Voting Board Members: Renee Ovrut (President), Kyle Antoian (VP), Oscar Prue (VP Operations), Steve Molnar (ED Men), Ashley Belline (ED Women), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees), John Bradley (Colleges)

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

Administrator: J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Absent: Mike Crafton (VP), Sean Horan (ED 7s)

Membership: Tim Walsh (Cortland-Homer)

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**SENIOR MEN**

Steve Molnar reported that, after a review of D4 North clubs, all but Utica were in compliance with the requirement of 15 players CIPP registered. Steve will reach out to Utica to discuss intentions and ways to achieve the 15-player minimum. One possibility is to work with Barracks and have players transfer their CIPP to Utica.

The D4 schedule will be posted to the website and Brad Kleiner will discuss referee assignments with NYSRRS.

**FORFEITS**

Steve Molnar addressed forfeits to have taken place so far this season. To date, there are four games which have been forfeited (underlined team committed forfeit):

- Long Island v Buffalo
- Suffolk v Danbury
- Lion Kings v NYRC
- Montauk v CT Yankees

Renee Ovrut asked J.C. Whipple to reach out to the clubs affected by the forfeit and inquire as to any financial burdens incurred due to the actions of the opposing team. Once the Board has a sense of what took place surrounding the forfeit, why it happened and the financial considerations, it can make decisions on fines, etc.

It will also be asked of the forfeiting clubs intentions and outlook is for the rest of the season.

**POLICY HANDBOOK**

J.C. Whipple will distribute the latest version to the Board for review and comment.

**SENIOR WOMEN**

Ashley Belline reported that there have been many issues with D2. Brooklyn is the only EGU club in D2, the rest are from NERFU. Conflicting schedules were presented and clubs were not inclined to travel to Brooklyn. A half-way point was originally agreed to, but that has now been changed to full travel to Brooklyn. NERFU has agreed to these changes and presented them to the clubs (in writing).

### **SOCIAL SIDES**

Ashley Belline presented an issue that arose over the weekend with two Senior Women's Social Sides – Uticuse and Ithaca. Neither is fully integrated into Empire GU. A Utica Senior Men's player was refereeing the match, not assigned by NYSRRS or Empire GU. During the match the referee drank whiskey while play was going on.

Ashley will be contacting both clubs to detail Social Side registration / CIPP policy and aligning with Empire GU, as per EGU and USA Rugby policy.

### **COLLEGES**

John Bradley reported that there has been one (1) forfeit and one (1) uncovered match.

Host sites are being sought for the NSCRO championship weekend (11/2-3) in the Syracuse / Albany area, and also on 11/10 for an NSCRO crossover match.

### **BYLAW AMENDMENT**

A discussion took place regarding the proposed bylaw amendment on Executive Board meetings being open to EGU membership. Gary Heavner stated that the meetings should be open and available to the membership, citing Not-For Profit policies on member participation.

Renee Ovrut stated the Board should have the ability to meet in Executive Session, when necessary, to handle sensitive matters. It was discussed that the Board has the ability to make that happen.

A meeting schedule with login information will be posted to the website, with that distributed to the membership. Meeting notices will no longer be included in communications distributed.

### **REFEREES**

Brad Kleiner reported that Mike Klotz of the NYSRRS has indicated a referee shortage. Coverage in the Albany area is extremely difficult because the Senior Clubs are not EGU members and allocate referees to a different union. In addition, there is a division of college club alignments and make staggering kickoff times or dates difficult as every club wants to play Saturday at 1p.

John Bradley stated that an effort has been made to stagger kickoff times and moving games to Sundays, when available.

Brad said that if clubs are not willing to work on rescheduling dates or times, games in the region will go uncovered.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple  
Administrator