

**EMPIRE RFU GU**  
**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**October 6, 2013**

The Executive Board met via conference call on Sunday, October 6, 2013, at 9:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Voting Board Members: Mike Crafton (VP), Oscar Prue (VP), Steve Molnar (ED Men), Ashley Belline (ED Women), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees), John Bradley (ED Colleges)

Non-Voting Members: Gary Heavner (USAR Delegate)

Administrator: J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Membership: Rosalie MacGowan, Dave Cieslik (Buffalo RFC), Andy Buck

Absent: Renee Ovrut (President), Kyle Antoian (VP), Sean Horan (ED 7s), Nike Anzalone (Ad Hoc)

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**MONTAUK FORFEIT v NO. JERSEY**

Brad Kleiner stated that the adoption of the league policy was to prevent forfeits and that, as in this matter, Thursday or Friday forfeits hurt the credibility. Moving forward, the Referee Society will be reluctant to assign referees to Montauk games, as it impact referee resources and could potentially be a waste of an available referee.

Mike Crafton said he spoke with Rich Brierly of Montauk and the club is in a tough situation with numbers. Brad responded that the previous comments were not against any one club. It is simply a matter of practicality. If clubs are not inclined to fulfill their commitments, people should be made aware well in advance.

**AD OPPORTUNITY IN 2014 7s PROGRAM**

Rosalie MacGowan provided an overview of the 2014 7s Program and the opportunity for EGU to advertise in it. There are three ad sizes available and approximately 2,000 units will be produced. Rosalie has provided pricing and additional information – the Board will discuss at its discretion.

**CONGRESS**

Gary Heavner reported on the call for Congress to convene as part of the USA weekend in Philadelphia this November. The meeting would be held on the Saturday of the weekend and would center on a vote on the new bylaws.

One question at hand is how the Gus will vote on its reps. The bigger issue at hand is the Senior Committee, which was already in place. Gary stated it will be important to coordinate with delegates for the vote. It remains that the CR will have two votes and can be divided as seen fit, between EGU and NERFU.

Gary noted that he has been nominated as the Board Rep to Congress (ex officio). He would be a member of the Board of Directors and all associated costs would be covered by USA Rugby.

**FORFEITS**

Mike Crafton noted that he has spoken with clubs which have forfeited so far this season. In most situations, numbers are the reason for the forfeits and clubs are not forfeiting for other reasons.

Brad noted that each club which has forfeited should receive a five-point deduction in the standings, per the adopted Forfeit policy prior to the start of the season. J.C. Whipple ensured that each forfeiting club received a five-point deduction for each occurrence.

Dave Cieslik (Buffalo RFC) asked what other measures were being enacted, other than the five-point deduction. A discussion took place. It was noted that monetary fines have been implemented in cases when costs were incurred by the opponent; the Board also prevents those clubs from advancing to the postseason and in certain cases, look to relegate clubs for the next competitive season.

Mike would like to hold a discussion at the AGM on how restructuring and the effect it has had on clubs.

#### **AGM**

A discussion took place on the structure for the AGM. Mike Crafton suggested the AGM move to an interactive online meeting, while also encouraging physical attendance. Mike said he would inquire to his firm's ability to host the WebEx portion of the meeting, and also welcome membership to the offices. Mike will follow up with J.C. to discuss.

A date was discussed and the second week of December was suggested.

#### **TIEBREAK PROCEDURE**

Brad Kleiner said there is still a question on the Tiebreak policy. J.C. Whipple stated that he had reviewed all of the available minutes from the past year and could not find a vote on Tiebreak (as previously discussed). Mike Crafton and Steve Molnar said there was no formal vote, just discussion via email.

Gary Heavner stated that the Tiebreak procedure listed in the working document of the Policy Handbook is sufficient and covers all of the possible outcomes. Gary has seen this in use with other rugby organizations. A review of the Tiebreak procedure by the Board will take place.

#### **SENIOR MEN**

Steve Molnar said there was nothing additional to report based on what was previously discussed.

#### **SENIOR WOMEN**

No report.

#### **COLLEGES**

John Bradley said the season is almost complete for the NSCRO division. Everything is running smoothly.

#### **BYLAW AMENDMENT**

Mike Crafton said he would like to propose a Bylaw amendment which would eliminate proxy votes for all meetings of the members (AGMs or similar). Mike will work with J.C. Whipple to formalize the language.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple  
Administrator