

**EMPIRE RFU GU**  
**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**October 20, 2013**

The Executive Board met via conference call on Sunday, October 20, 2013, at 9:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Voting Board Members: Renee Ovrut (President), Kyle Antoian (VP), Oscar Prue (VP Operations), Mike Crafton (VP), Sean Horan (ED 7s), Steve Molnar (ED Men), Ashley Belline (ED Women), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees), John Bradley (Colleges)

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

Administrator: J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Membership: Lansdowne RFC

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**SEREVI 7s**

Sean Horan reported a successful summer for the Serevi 7s. Old Blue placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Championship. There will be a restructuring of the women's format – less value on points, more on qualifiers.

Four players and four staff represented EGU at Twickenham, with the club earning the Plate. EGU was well represented with logos, etc. Club has been invited back for next summer.

Team made a big impression at Sirets 7s, going undefeated on first day. Great way to end the 7s season.

**ODA**

Sean Horan stated that the first ODA Camp / Clinic will be held on Nov. 24. Looking at subsequent camps in Syracuse (February), Rochester / Buffalo (April) and NYC area (May/June).

**TIE-BREAKERS**

John Bradley raised question on where things stand with Tie-Breaker policy as Board had discussed at previous meeting. Gary Heavner stated the policy in proposed GU handbook was sufficient. Brad Kleiner said a written policy should be included on website. J.C. Whipple will review sort-order on website and see that it mirrors the policy in proposed handbook.

**PROMOTION / RELEGATION**

Kyle Antoian stated EGU should have a stated policy on Promotion / Relegation. Asked is Board had autonomy or control over what happens, especially as relates to USA Rugby. Gary Heavner said plan was for a National rollout by USA Rugby by next Fall.

Kyle said EGU should enact policy ASAP. He will work with Gary, Steve Molnar and others to tighten up policy and present to Board via email for review. Policy will then be distributed to membership.

### **DISCIPLINARY APPEALS**

Mike Crafton reviewed two appeals to the Board via sanctions enacted by the Disciplinary Committee:

Cortland-Homer: Player as red-carded as he touched the referee (chest-to-chest and threw a shoulder into referee's chest). DC enacted one-year suspension. Board will not hear appeal, per vote 8-0 (Mike Crafton abstained). Player is eligible to appeal to USAR.

St. John Fisher: Player directed continued abusive language to referee and threw a punch toward a player. DC enacted four-week suspension. Board will not hear appeal, per vote 8-0 (Mike Crafton abstained). Player is eligible to appeal to USAR.

### **SURVEY TO MEMBERSHIP**

Renee Ovrut stated she would like to survey membership on various working topics: website effectiveness, allocation of EGU funds, player / coach / admin development. Feels more club input will help EGU grow.

Ashley Belline said she supported this. Kyle Antoian said Google Forums provided free surveying.

### **AGM**

Discussion took place on AGM – specifically format of meeting and where to hold. It was decided that a webinar will be added to promote increased attendance, but a physical location would also be available for membership to attend. Meeting tentatively planned for Dec. 14 or 15, depending on site availability.

### **SENIOR MEN**

Steve Molnar said there was nothing to report, in addition to topics previously discussed.

### **SENIOR WOMEN**

Ashley Belline reported that the D3 women will have a round-robin.

### **COLLEGES**

John Bradley stated playoffs start for most divisions next weekend. The D2 North will conclude with next weekend's games.

### **MEMBERSHIP FORUM**

Dave from Lansdowne asked if Montauk would affect the assignment of a referee. A discussion took place and Brad Kleiner stated that, per unforeseen circumstances, a referee would be assigned.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple  
Administrator