

**EMPIRE RFU GU**  
**MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
July 23, 2014

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The Executive Board met via conference call on Wednesday, July 23, 2014, at 9:00 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Voting Board Members: Mike Crafton (President), Matthew Winard (VP Finance), Robert Mayers (VP Communications), Steve Lewis (VP Operations), Sarah Rutman (ED Women), Ken Pape (ED Men), Sean Horan (ED Sevens)

Administrator: J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Membership: Lansdowne Men, PAC Men, Hudson Valley Men, Syracuse Men, Monmouth Men, Morris Women, Union Men, Danbury Men

Absent: Steve Lewis (VP Operations),

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**CHANGE OF AGM DATE FROM WINTER TO SUMMER**

Mike Crafton stated that a move of the Empire GU Annual General Meeting, from fall/winter to summer was up for discussion and consideration to change the Bylaws to reflect that. Mike said this was to more align EGU business with the start calendar of the competitive seasons (Fall) and how clubs conducted themselves.

Matt Winard brought up a question on how this would effect elections for Board positions and the current terms. Mike said that if a motion was presented and passed this evening, that membership could still call for an election in the winter; otherwise, elections would be held next summer (2015).

A discussion took place on whether an AGM would be held prior to the start of the league season. Sarah Rutman raised the question on the impact of vacations and attendance with the AGM. Mike said that based on a virtual meeting and the numbers of qualified reps from clubs, all clubs should have the ability to be present.

Mike Crafton affirmed that the current Bylaw (Sec 3.02) reads that an AGM will be held each year in the months of December or January. The change would read that an AGM will be held each year in the months of June, July or August. This would be to give some room to play with dates, based on the start of the competitive season and current issues at hand.

**MOTION**

Sarah Rutman made the following motion for a Bylaw change; seconded by Matthew Winard. "An Annual General Meeting will be held each year during the months of June, July or August."

Motion passed 6-1. Yes – Mike Crafton, Sarah Rutman, Steve Lewis, Robert Mayers, Sean Horan, Matthew Winard; No – Ken Pape.

A Board discussion will take place on the most appropriate time to hold an AGM – either this summer or in 2015.

**MEN'S SELECT SIDE FUNDING**

Ken Pape said that he had presented a budget for Men's Select Side to Mike Crafton and Steve Lewis previously. Ken stated he was asking this evening for approval as over 100 members of EGU were involved, including a player pool of over 75.

A conversation took place on the matter of the budget and its detail. Ken stated that Select Side is a staple of USA Rugby and would help build D2, D3 and D4 clubs, improving skills and exposing players to a greater level of rugby. In addition, Men's Select Side would be following the model of the ODA, welcoming all coaches to take part in practices.

Select Side matches would be against Boston, Life, NYAC and Texas Selects. An additional game against Old Blue is pending.

Mike Crafton said a review of the budget would need to take place, including funding the kit and hosting local games.

A discussion took place on the timeline of the budget review and the need for expediency. Ken stressed that this should have been done previously as the budget was submitted and tryouts were being held July 27, with matches quickly approaching. Mike said that a more detailed budget needed to be submitted.

Ken concluded that the kit would cost approximately \$4,000 with an additional \$2,500-\$3,100 for matches. This does not include travel to Texas for the match against the TX Selects.

Mike assured that a review of the budget and available funds would take place in short order.

#### **EMPIRE 7s FUNDING**

Sean Horan mentioned that Old Blue and NYRC Women had qualified for Nationals in Washington State, which is approaching quickly. A loan was potentially being sought to help pay for flights, which were about \$700 per player.

Mike Crafton said based on the current funds available, it did not look like a loan or any funding would be possible at this time.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple  
Administrator