

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
December 1, 2014

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, December 1, 2014, at 9:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Michael Crafton (President), Steve Lewis (VP Operations), Matthew Winard (VP Finance), Sarah Rutman (ED Women), Ken Pape (ED Men), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees).

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator), Gary Heavner (Ad-Hoc)

Clubs: Buffalo, Danbury, Hudson Valley, Monmouth, Montclair, Morris, NYRC, Old Blue, Princeton, Rochester Aardvarks, Union, White Plains

Absent: Sean Horan (ED Sevens), Robert Mayers (VP Communications),

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:34 p.m.

Michael Crafton opened the meeting by congratulating the clubs on a fine fall season and special commendation to the clubs who won their respective divisions. He said it was a longer season that what EGU is used to and there are some positives and negatives to that. He encouraged feedback on what clubs thought of the longer fall campaign.

USA RUGBY CMS

Ken Pape gave an overview of the Competition Management System and the EGUs participation in it this season. He said EGU did a poor job as a union overall, with 24% accuracy to date - though some clubs did a good job. He said USA Rugby did a poor job of rollout, giving a brief overview. Ken indicated that EGU might consider putting a policy in place to ensure compliance, resulting in discipline to clubs failing to populate the system. Additionally, this could impact the number of available playoff slots allocated by USA Rugby.

A discussion took place on USAR policy. It was determined for any game leading to a USAR Championship, CMS must be used.

Mike Crafton said that while in Chicago, he and Ken would meet with union reps from around the country to get guidance and input on CMS. Ken stated that this is a good tool and it was a shame clubs are not utilizing more effectively.

A discussion ensued on penalties and sanctions to EGU clubs for non-compliance. Paul Silverman (Princeton) raised the point of substitutions and last-minute scratches to the roster. Mike Crafton said the EGU Board would have to consider best practices as part of the game and create policy accordingly.

Ken Pape referenced a collegiate playoff game involving Rutgers. He said the Referee handled the ID check at the start of the game, which expedited the process and insured accuracy. He asked Brad Kleiner if this would be possible to enact with EGU matches. Brad responded that the referees would not be involved in such administrative duties.

Mike Crafton said that prior to EGU playoffs, a policy would be designed to all for clubs to check rosters / IDs.

MEN'S PLAYOFFS

Mike Crafton described that the playoff timeline was built off the May 16 crossover match against NERFU. The intent was to help EGU clubs be as competitive as possible in the crossover and potential National Round of 8 on May 30. Consideration was given to rest and travel. A shared site in Albany or Saratoga is being considered for the crossover game.

The EGU conference playoffs are scheduled to begin on April 4, which is Easter weekend. A poll of participating clubs will be taken to gauge their interest in moving the opening round of EGU playoffs to March 28. A simple majority will rule the decision.

All EGU playoff games will be played at the Higher Seed throughout.

Division 2

April 4 (Easter Weekend): Conference Round of 4

April 11: Top 2 from each conference play for guaranteed Empire-wide playoff spots

April 18: Top 2 from previous week play in "round of 8" along with 2 wild cards (determined by total points earned in REGULAR SEASON play by weighted average of games played)

April 25: "Round of 4"

May 2: Empire Championship

May 16: Northeast/North Atlantic CR Championship (@ Albany/Saratoga)

Division 3

April 4 (Easter Weekend): Conference round of 4

April 11: Top 2 from each conference play for guaranteed Empire-wide playoff spots

April 18: Top 2 from previous week play in "round of 8" (re-seeding of 1-4 determined by total points earned in REGULAR SEASON play by weighted average of games played, separately then determined for teams who lost the prior week)

April 25: "Round of 4"

May 2: Empire Championship

May 16: Northeast/North Atlantic CR Championship (@ Albany/Saratoga)

Gary Heavner confirmed that in order to be eligible for CR championship (crossover), all players must be CIPPed and physically in the US by April 1, 2015, and CMS was completed in full for all league qualifying matches.

Per current USAR policy, White Plains' second side would not be eligible to advance past EGU playoffs due to the side being divisionally close to its parent club. A discussion took place and EGU will help support White Plains with an appeal, should one be necessary.

WOMEN'S PLAYOFFS

Sarah Rutman said that dates for the Women's playoffs are still being considered. She will report back when available.

RANDALL'S ISLAND

Member clubs raised questions about the procurement, invoicing and reconciliation of Randall's Island. Mike Crafton said that a review was already underway between himself, J.C. Whipple and Matthew Winard. J.C. said that an accounting of Randall's Island would be available within two (2) weeks.

SELECT SIDE

A discussion took place regarding Men's Select Side budget and camp. Being that the season recently finished, the budget will be formulated in the coming weeks. The British Royal Police is slated to compete against Select Side – that match will be determined following further discussion and budgeting.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator