

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 10, 2017

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, July 10, 2017, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Pat Moroney (VP Communications), Rosalie MacGowan (VP Finance), Sharon Berger (VP Operations), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Angela Corpus (ED Women), Sean Horan (ED Sevens), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator), Gary Heavner (DC Chair)

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 p.m. A quorum was in place.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape thanked everyone for joining the call as this is the last meeting for the Board prior to the AGM and the election. Rosalie MacGowan announced she is officially withdrawing her nomination as VP Finance, she will continue with her nomination as ED Sevens.

Ken shared a situation that took place at Hell Gate (New Haven - Luke Hume), which applies directly to referee abuse. The situation was excessive and the player in question followed the referee and others back to the administrative tent. Brad Kleiner thanked Ken for bringing this to everyone's attention and mentioned the VL Tournament Director was supportive of action being taken. He noted there were a few other incidents, but this was by far one of the worst he has witnessed. Brad noted that something needs to be done. Gary Heavner said he is reviewing reports as they come in and the ability for the due process is necessary.

Ken said he also wants to address reverse abuse from referee towards players. Brad Kleiner detailed a situation which took place which will be reviewed and passed to the DC.

Rosalie MacGowan asked if, per EGU policy, the 7s tournaments should be required to enact a sideline monitor. Brad said the Field Monitor should and could take on this role. Rosalie also asked if the power is there for someone on-site to remove a player involved in an incident like this in the future (next 7s cycle).

A discussion took place for how to set a policy moving forward and the best practices to enact for the next 7s cycle.

SEVENS REPORT

Sean Horan said he is stepping down from his Sevens duties after many years. He added that Rosalie MacGowan has been instrumental with the 7s Series for many years and will be fantastic as the new ED. Sean also thanked Gary Heavner for his guidance over the years.

Sean said that the 7s competition and the Series is the best in the country and the competition is heated. The Series only gets stronger each year. Sean said he hopes that plans and policies can be put in place to prevent further incidents like which took place this past weekend from happening again.

63 teams took part in Hell Gate last weekend - it is one of the largest events in the country. New Haven is hosting a big event this weekend and have to make sure nothing serious happens.

Sean thanked everyone and said he appreciated working with everyone. Sean also said he conducted J.C. Whipple's review for his role as Administrator and submitted to Ken.

Ken Pape said in recognition for all of Sean's hard work and dedication to the Board and EGU. Ken said he

has asked that the EGU Championship trophy for Sevens will be named the “Sean Horan EGU 7s Championship Trophy.”

MEN’S & WOMEN’S SCHEDULES / PLAYOFFS

The Men’s and Women’s schedules have been distributed to the Board for review. Ken asked that Lex Mac-cubbin and Angela Corpus contact him this week to discuss a few points. Sharon Berger made a point that the D3 Women may not be able to handle 10 games in a condensed season.

Lex Maccubbin said the Playoff schedule has been distributed to the Board. Ken said he is in full support of the new format.

Once approved by the Board, the schedules and playoff format will be presented to the membership for a review period.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney reported there have been no additional nominations for Board seats. He asked J.C. Whipple to repeat the AGM notices (including call to members for agenda items) the next three days.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner said there is nothing more to report, in addition to the previous matters discussed.

NCR3 REPORT

Angela Corpus said there will need to be a vote for a Women’s rep for NCR3. Ken Pape said notification to members will take place following AGM and a vote will take place.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan opened with presenting on the stipends for WNT members

Rosalie said she is looking for a discussion and motion to amend the Board’s motion from April 2017. Based on the lack of clarity and overall funding from the fundraising effort, something needs to be done.

Rosalie MacGowan made a motion is for Empire GU providing WNT players invited to the the training camp (Alicia Washington, Tess Fuery and Tiffany Faaee) with a one-time stipend of \$1000. Should those players be selected to the WC squad, they will receive an addition one-time stipend of \$2500. These numbers involve any aforementioned funds or funds raised through YouCaring site. Motioned by Pat Moroney. Vote: Yes 8 (Rosalie, Pat, Sharon, Lex, Angela, Sean, Brad, Ken), No 0. Motion passes, 8-0.

Rosalie said there is unused money available from back when the bank account was opened. She said we have a fair amount of liquidity and we continue to roll money forward. Rosalie MacGowan motioned the Women’s WC stipend, up to \$10,500, will be funded by reserve funds rolled forward. Vote: Yes 8 (Rosalie, Pat, Sharon, Lex, Angela, Sean, Brad, Ken), No 0. Motion passes, 8-0.

Rosalie said in 2014-15 we agreed to split costs for NCR3 playoffs with NERFU, at the time to be about \$400. This year’s playoff costs from NERFU (as stated a hosting fee) amount to \$4000. Ken Pape said Michael Crafton, the previous EGU President, agreed to the equitable \$400 split and this hosting fee is egregious. NERFU has been asked to produce documentation for the invoice, which has yet to be received. The situation will be monitored.

Rosalie brought up the current account balance and what to do with excess funds at the end of each year - whether to roll over or put into reserve. A discussion took place on the right policies to put in place and the fact that each Board would be responsible to make decisions accordingly each year. It will be left to the next Board to make the appropriate decisions with the funds on an annual basis.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken Pape closed by thanking outgoing Board members including Sharon Berger (VP Operations), Angela Corpus (ED Women) and Sean Horan (ED Sevens).

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator