

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 13, 2017

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, March 13, 2017, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Pat Moroney (VP Communications), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Angela Corpus (ED Women), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

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

Absent: Sharon Berger (VP Operations), Rosalie MacGowan (VP Finance), Sean Horan (ED Sevens),

Marc Amigone (GoPlay Sports Tours)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 p.m. A quorum was in place.

Prior to start of meeting, Ken Pape noted he was reimbursed a second time (inadvertently) for NDA expenses - \$1,174.05. Ken and JC Whipple discussed how for Ken to return the money to EGU as quickly as possible.

GOPLAY SPORTS TOURS

Ken Pape thanked everyone for joining the meeting. He said a great new partner has been found, they met at the NDS in Baltimore. Ken said Marc Amigone of GoPlay Sports Tours.

Marc Amegone said he and everyone at GoPlay are excited about the opportunity, helping clubs to save money and streamline travel. GoPlay is a part of ACIS Education travel, which works with predominantly high school groups - Central / South America, Caribbean. GoPlay works with a variety of sports, but soccer and rugby are the biggest and they work with teams / clubs at every level (high school, college, senior). As part of a travel package, the group would work with local coaches, professional matches, competition, stadium tours, culture and sightseeing.

As a travel agency, GoPlay help teams fundraise. If a tour has at least 20 people, club can offer one free trip as a fundraiser (raffle, etc.). With the infrastructure, GoPlay is able to offer medical and cancellation insurance - all liability is covered.

Included on every tour: Round-trip Airfare, 3-4 Evenly Matched Games, Training Sessions from Professional Coaches, Full-time Tour Manager, Coaches Travel FREE, Sightseeing Activities, Medical and Cancellation Insurance, Tickets to Professional Match(es), Free Trip to London to Raffle Off for Fundraising.

Ken Pape asked about travel for National Championships - i.e. booking flights for a member club well in advance, provide names when club is identified. A discussion took place on advantages / challenges of booking this way - geography of EGU and primary airports based on club location.

Ken stated that GoPlay agreed to a sponsorship (Official Travel Partner) with EGU in the amount of \$1,000. This is directly allocated to High Performance and will be used for the membership. Marc stated that as part of the agreement, GoPlay will cut an additional stipend to EGU for each club booking international travel through GoPlay. Ken said any money raised in this way will be earmarked for EGU High Performance.

Pat Moroney said he has personal experience with GoPlay through CBA High School for travel to Ireland and had a wonderful experience.

Any questions from the membership on this should be directed to Pat Moroney, who will serve as EGU's local liaison to GoPlay.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Select Side Announcement

Ken Pape presented the structure and directors / coaches / budget for each of the new HP Regions: NJ (Bill Dobbs), NYC (Gary Heavner), CT (David Lyme), Upstate (Lex Maccubbin) and Women's (James English).

James English joined the call and quickly presented on the Women's program and his vision for a pathway and high-level rugby for Women within the Empire GU. The Women's development weekend (selection camp) will be held May 27-28 at Rutgers. This is open to all female athletes within EGU.

Lex Maccubbin shared his discussions with players and coaches in Upstate. He said the response has been very positive. The weekend of May 13 will be the I-90 Tournament - would be a perfect opportunity to evaluate and hold development camp.

Gary Heavner said the 7s would be interested in the same ideas. This is a chance to get more people involved and develop greater talent across the EGU, including more players and more coaches.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan reported she is scheduled to speak with IRS tomorrow. She discussed the HP budget line and the need to review what is included by anyone with oversight on a budget line. There may need to be a review the HP line.

A discussion took place on protocol and need for receipts, invoices, etc. to correlate with expenses.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney said a big issue outstanding is the recent issue in Arizona with a non-rostered player committing a violent act in a game. Pat said EGU should immediately require roster / ID checks prior to every match.

A discussion took place on how to best approach this matter, including referee management and engagement with USA Rugby.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said the weather will not have significant impact on league games this weekend. Old Blue-Village Lions will be at Randall's on Saturday and the fields will be cleared.

Lex said he is working on the Old Boys Tournament (Over 40) - will be held June 10.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Angela Corpus gave an overview of the current standings for the Women's playoffs. Morris stands to host the #2 seed from NERFU on April 29. The final will be in Albany on May 6.

NCR3 REPORT

Angela Corpus said there will be a meeting later this month on the competitive structure, including new teams coming in to EGU / NERFU.

SEVENS REPORT

Sean Horan said all of the tournament directors have been notified and instructed to provide their \$1000 deposit. Working on one more Upstate tournament.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner said the new referees are being brought up to speed and online. Brad will connect with the NYSRRS director at the Four Leafs

DISCIPLINE REPORT

Gary Heavner said there are people suspended (all are listed on the website). Ken Pape said that there is a new feature in CMS to “suspend” a player and they will not be an option for the roster. Ken and JC will work to secure Gary access to CMS.

NEW BUSINESS

June 9-10 Event

USA is playing Ireland on June 10. It is proposed that EGU will hold a sponsored fundraiser (with no outlay) for a jersey presentation, barbecue, Meet the Players / Coaches. Both MNT and WNT will be represented. MNT will be training at Rutgers June 3-14, so there are opportunities to have

Potential AGM in AC

Ken Pape said there has not been an in-person AGM in some time. He is throwing ideas out there for a potential event. Ken will task Sharon Berger with looking at an in-person AGM.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator