

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

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

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Michael Crafton (VP Operations), Pat Moroney (VP Communications), Jennifer Salomon (VP Finance), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Rosalie MacGowan (ED Sevens), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Clubs: Kevin Holt (Union), Gary Heavner

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 p.m. A quorum was in place.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape said he is working with Erik Geib from USA Rugby on seasonality. This is an item which will continue being worked on. The consideration is moving the start of the season to start in the middle of August and wrap up everything (playoffs included) in mid-November. The spring would be for All-Stars and Sevens - the idea being to open up to more athletes to play more rugby. With this move, All-Stars would be given greater focus with specific teams for D1, D2 and D3. Ken asked Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Jen Jones (ED Women) and Rosalie MacGowan (ED Sevens) to start formulating thoughts.

Lex Maccubbin asked if the crossover match with NERFU would be held in Fall or Spring. Ken said that USA Rugby is looking at moving to seasonality. Lex said there was some pushback from clubs to start even a week earlier in August.

Ken reported the Congress Rep vote did not occur last evening due to a quorum not being in place. Ken has spoken with reps at USA Rugby to look at next steps.

Ken congratulated Jenn Salomon for winning the National Championship.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jenn Salomon reported there is approximately \$97K in the bank account, with an influx of \$76K coming from CIPP registrations. \$66K rolled forward from 2016-17. Ken Pape asked JC Whipple and

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney congratulated Jenn Salomon for winning the National Championship and scoring two tries. Pat said he will be sending an email to the Board regarding the implementation of Slack to improve communication and efficiency..

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said all of the league matches are complete except for one (which does not have an impact on the Spring playoff schedule). Lex distributed the D2 playoff / Challenge Cup schedules and will be sending the D3 and Challenge Cup.

Lex addressed the delay in clubs in score reporting and would like to see a policy implemented to penalize clubs for lack of timely reporting. Ken asked that Lex put together language for a policy to be considered by the Board. Ken also asked Lex to assemble language for teams fielding two sides, that the higher-division game may not be forfeited.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Jen Jones said the Women's playoff weekend went well. Monmouth beat Village Lions in D1, Danbury beat Brooklyn D2, Suffolk beat Ithaca for D3.

SEVENS REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan said the revised tournament bid form will be in place by the end of the month. She said she will be in touch with Ken Pape and Michael Crafton regarding USA Rugby and any developments that would impact establishing one or two series. Rosalie said she is considering surveying coaches on the summer series and input / insights.

Rosalie said the Village Lions were notified their deposit would be returned, less \$250. Rich Gallina (VL President) contested the deduction. There is a series of emails in place to detail the expectations. Pat Moroney said he has received an email from the Village Lions with their appeal. Ken Pape asked Pat to forward the email and steps will be taken to hear the appeal.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner said the Women's playoff weekend went well. He asked for thoughts on payment of referees for the Men's spring playoffs and Challenge Cup.

NCR3 REPORT

No report

NEW BUSINESS

Transfer of \$25K to All-Star Program to Cover NEA

Ken Pape said he is asking the Board to consider moving \$25K from the reserves to cover the payment to Northeast Academy. Michael Crafton said the group still hasn't seen line-items / projections on the All-Star / High Performance (what we are doing how get there, etc). Ken said he would like to have an EGU 7s All-Star team competing for Nationals (Men & Women) - funding would be \$8K Ken asked Michael Crafton to work with Jenn Salomon on putting clear numbers together.

Congress Rep Vote

Ken Pape said USA Rugby is advising him that an electronic vote cannot be held. Michael Crafton said he has talked to other GUs which have held votes via email, as long as a quorum of voters is in place. Gary Heavner said when the bylaws were written, it was stressed that the Members (clubs) vote for the Congress Reps, not specifically the manner in which the vote takes place. Michael said there is nothing he sees in writing which would preclude EGU from holding an electronic vote. Ken and Michael will discuss next steps.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator