

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 21, 2019

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, January 19, 2019, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Rich Gallina (VP Operations), Jennifer Salomon (VP Finance), Melanie Pastuck (VP Communications), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Jennifer Jones (ED Women), Rosalie MacGowan (ED Sevens), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

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

Absent: Gary Heavner (VP Governance)

Clubs: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 p.m. A quorum was in place. The meeting is being recorded.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape said there is a lot of exciting things. At the NDS, all the Presidents from the Gus met. There were questions on where GU dues are being used. The Club Rugby department (Erik Geib) has been eliminated. Ken raised the question on where the \$50 dues per players is going. The answer was that it was for insurance and running the national office.

USA Rugby provided a plan, which included a complete restructure of the National Office (the third in five years). Input was requested from the GUs, including what the league structures should be. Ken stated that if a Club department was not in place by the next EGU AGM, the question would go to the membership if EGU would continue to be a part of USA Rugby. Scheduled Presidents calls are scheduled once per month for the next several months, and then would move to once per quarter.

USA Rugby Congress has voted to move to one meeting per year in the interest of cost savings. A restructure of Congress is also in the works.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jenn Salomon said there is nothing new to report. A review of the financials and follow-up discussion took place. Ken Pape asked Jenn to work with JC Whipple to track trending on membership and incoming dues.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said the Challenge Cup schedule is set and JC Whipple will be posting on the website and promoting. Lex said the structure of the D2 / D3 Challenge Cup will be lend to sorting clubs 9-20 for the competitive structure. Lex will work to provide trophies for the Challenge Cup winners.

A discussion took place on future of USA Rugby and the impact on EGU, NCR3, etc.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Jen Jones said the standings could be changed with the 7th and 8th seeds (if Monmouth receives a Bonus Point in its next game, it would flip the standings). The game was agreed to be played in the Spring since nobody thought the result would impact the standings.

Jen said she was contacted by the Binghamton Women and they are looking to play a friendly in the Spring. Jen is following up to see what their club standing is and whether they would be interested in joining EGU.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Melanie Pastuck said the NDS Scholarship was a success. 14 people applied and wrote robust applications,

ultimately four were selected. She thanked Jenn Salomon for her help in processing reimbursements. Jenn Salomon said EGU reimbursed three of the four awardees.

Melanie said she would conduct a survey of everyone who attended NDS and would encourage EGU to continue in the future. Ken Pape asked Mel to request a short video of each attendee and what it meant to them. Mel said she would work on that and at the very least obtain a written quote.

Jen Jones said she felt it important for EGU members to be given a priority over just those who coach Youth. A discussion took place and it was noted that applicants and awardees were wearing multiple hats - i.e. current EGU player, HS coach, referee etc.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Rich Gallina said there will be a meeting on January 30 with the teams utilizing Randalls Island and where they stand in their responsibility to find alternative field space for Fall 2019 and forward.

Rich is also working on the High Performance program and having discussions with a wide range of stakeholders. He is looking to gather feedback on how a HP league would look and work. This structure would be identical for the Men and Women. The priority is to make sure the calendar is set and spaced so players can maximize their potential. He is also having conversations with Rooney.

He said the Board will need to monitor how the GU Presidents calls go and gather feedback from Ken. There are significant decisions to be made should EGU look to move from under the umbrella of USA Rugby, including risk insurance, player insurance, etc.

A discussion took place on scheduling and HP. Lex Maccubbin said that there is potential that NCR3 will require schedules even earlier for Fall 2019.

SEVENS REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan said everything is quiet in the offseason and going fine. 2019 application is being refined and Rosalie will disseminate this week. The Men will have four tournaments, the Women will have three (at most four). At the local level, there will be three tournaments (moving from four).

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner said referee courses will be upcoming. Xavier HS is hosting this Saturday (Jan 26) with 18 people registered. West Point hosted a course recently on their own. NYS ran a course in early December and had a handful of people certified.

Ken Pape asked on the NCAA Rugby Referee Society being formed. Brad said the NCAA currently only sanctions Women's Rugby and he has not heard of any formalization of a referee structure.

NCR3 REPORT

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

USA Rugby 7s Nationals

Ken Pape said he is concerned that to date there is no reporting or payments from USA Rugby for USA 7s, which was hosted in August (six months prior). Six months to close out a hosted event is not acceptable.

Premiership Rugby Scholarship

Ken Pape said there have been several people from EGU who have attended the Premiership Rugby Conference. The Premiership would like to offer EGU more scholarships in exchange for \$4000. This would allow for 6-8 slots for EGU members to attend.

Jen Jones said she went to the inaugural conference with (32) in attendance in total. The group visited three Premiership clubs, including sessions with each club, a live match, tours of stadiums, etc. It is a great opportunity to be exposed to high-level coaching (Level 300 equivalent).

Melanie Pastuck asked how many people from EGU applied for scholarship annually. Ken Pape asked the

same of Premiership and it was stated that this would be over and above the annual slots allocated to EGU. Annually, EGU has two slots allocated. With this program, it would guarantee EGU members between 6-8 slots. Ken will request the data on applications to support the offer from Premiership to ensure EGU is not paying something it already has access to. Ken will follow with a formal proposal to the Board via email.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator