

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 14, 2017

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, August 14, 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), Jennifer Jones (ED Women), Rosalie MacGowan (ED Sevens), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

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

Clubs: Kevin Holt (Union)

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 p.m. A quorum was in place.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape welcomed everyone to the first Board meeting of the new league year, and welcomed all the new Board members.

Ken asked Jennifer Salomon and Rosalie MacGowan about the transition of the financial documents and bank account. Rosalie said a transition meeting has taken place, Jen has access to everything she needs and the bank account will be switched over in the coming days.

Ken asked new Board members to schedule a time to meet / have a call with him to run through EGU items, answer any questions and facilitate getting to know each other.

There was a player when the WNT stipends were discussed (Kayla) that was not currently CIPPed with Old Blue (she had intentions, but received a call-up to the WNT). Kayla and Old Blue are asking for consideration of financial report (\$1000), even though she has not been a member of the GU.

Rosalie said any money would be from funds rolling forward. Pat Moroney said this is nothing against the player, but having not been a member of EGU, she should not be eligible for funding. Ken said she is currently CIPPed with Penn State (where she returns in the Fall).

Ken Pape motioned the EGU grant a \$1000 stipend to Kayla for participation in the Women's World Cup with the US Women's National Team. Rosalie MacGowan seconded.

Voting Board Members: Michael Crafton (No), Pat Moroney (No), Jennifer Salomon (Yes), Lex Maccubbin (Abstain), Jennifer Jones (Abstain), Brad Kleiner (No), Rosalie MacGowan (Yes), Ken Pape (Yes). The final vote: Yes: 3; No: 3; Abstain: 2. The motion does not pass.

CONGRESS REPORT

Michael Crafton reported on new members to the Congress. A committee of four of five people reviews everyone and makes a nomination of a select few. Many in Congress are not in agreement with this - it will likely be the last time this happens.

Dan Payne gave a report on the status of the National Office. There has been a lot of turnover and a new CFO came on in May. With all the financial issues USAR has had, things are looking up. Dues are going up by \$5 per individual. Most of those funds are going to back to club, youth and coaching programming. Ken Pape and Michael were both against the dues increase - Capital and EGU were the only two no votes. There needs to be a clear demonstration of member benefits. Obviously the vote went the other way and Dan had the support of the room.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney said he is working on Google for Work platform. It will be a quick transition. Pat said he is looking at a social media calendar to improve the presence of EGU and member clubs. He is putting together a best-practices document for clubs to create video content. Pat said he was at the Red Bull game for Pride Night and amongst other events, it led him to think EGU should create a Pride Day or Weekend.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said there was a Fall meeting for the men's club. CIPP, CMS, EAP, scheduling, playoffs and the proposed EGU Challenge Cup. Lex said 85 percent of the clubs took part. There has been great interest in the Challenge Cup.

Lex said there is a delay with CMS being updated due to USAR not receiving from NCR3 Committee.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Jen Jones said there will be a Women's Fall meeting held this Wednesday (Aug 16) at 8:30. Fairfield has been added to the Women's D3 schedule. Princeton Women are CIPPing as a social member club (players have an option to register as a social member). Jen asked if Fairfield needs to be voted in as a full member since they have been added to the schedule. Michael Crafton is checking the Bylaws to see what process needs to be followed.

Jen commented on the EGU Women's Selects competing at Saranac against Old Blue in an all-EGU final. Lex Maccubbin echoed that and said he was impressed with the level of play and everyone involved should be commended.

Jen said Women's Gold Cup has been expanded to include top two teams from all Eastern Regions (8 in total) and games would count toward Nationals.

Jen asked on the NCR3 Women's Rep. Ken stated that Angela Corpus kept her Women's seat when she was elected President.

SEVENS REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan said 7s Nationals Old Blue Men took the Plate and NYRC Women took the Plate. It looks to be the second-highest finish for the EGU Women in history. This past year, bonds were implemented to ensure the quality and professionalism on each tour stop. Last year there were more clubs which applied than there were available tournaments. If criteria were met, the bond would be returned.

Rosalie said she is also working on evaluating potential changes to the 2018 schedule, though consideration needs to be given to Rugby 7s WC in San Francisco.

Ken Pape said his only comment on the 7s Series was there were some tournaments which had too many teams participating. Led to some scheduling issues. Rosalie said that was noted previously and will be handled.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner said there was a Referee Course held at Saranac. Brad said there will be a Referee clinic held on August 27. He advised Jen Jones (ED Women) to provide any updated schedules to the referee societies to ensure coverage.

Brad said there were administrative questions on the on the CIPP fees associated with Referees for 2017-18 (increase in dues to \$110).

Ken asked how much a typical referees dues were last year - \$45. The new EGU fees are \$20 and \$45 EGU fees on top of that. Brad said there are no dues fees to the Referee Society. Ken asked Brad how much he thought the referee fees should be for EGU - Brad responded \$0. Michael Crafton said he was surprised the EGU was not receiving dues from referees. He polled GUs around the country and was told it was a "big deal" when dues were added (\$10-20).

Rosalie asked if there is knowledge of the benefits (actual or perceived) were referee receiving. Michael Crafton said in a typical business situation, both entities would be charging each other. Lex Maccubbin said we are hiring the referees as a contractor, but the referees have a vote on the Board, so it is a mixed relationship.

Brad said the EGU represents about half of the total matches the Referee societies assign. Rosalie asked what the Referee societies would be looking for in return. Brad responded he didn't feel anyone would be necessary as the referees are working under the contractor mentality. He said the referees have the need to be members of USA Rugby, but not necessarily EGU. Pat Moroney said this is a product of an administrative mistake (not a conscious decision by EGU). Michael Crafton said he agreed and the decision needs to be made on whether to eliminate the fee, keep it and if keep it, what should the amount be. He said a decision needs to be made tonight to expedite referee CIPP.

Rosalie MacGowan made a motion that EGU does not implement a fee to Referee for this CIPP cycle through USA Rugby. Lex Maccubbin seconded.

Voting Board Members: Michael Crafton (No), Pat Moroney (Yes), Jennifer Salomon (No), Lex Maccubbin (Yes), Jennifer Jones (Yes), Brad Kleiner (Abstain), Rosalie MacGowan (Yes), Ken Pape (No). The final vote: Yes: 4; No: 3; Abstain: 1. The motion passes.

Ken Pape sent an email to Lucy at USAR notifying her of the update. He asked Brad to notify the referees of this motion.

NCR3 REPORT

Ken Pape sent an email to the Board calling for a vote for the Chair position and D1 rep of the NCR3. Michael Crafton said this goes back to 2015 where there was an attempt to get clarity on the election process. He said once Board members are voted in, there are on in perpetuity unless a request for an election is made.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jenn Salomon provided a comprehensive overview of the budget for 2017-18. A discussion took place on various line items. Jenn said additional clarity would be provided in the coming days and the budget would be available for vote at the next Board call.

NEW BUSINESS

* Fine System (CMS, Gameday, Disciplinary)

Ken Pape said he would like to implement a fine system for clubs not keeping in compliance with

* Bylaw Change

Ken will be proposing a change to the structure of the Board, potentially eliminating the Referee seat on the Board.

* Ken Pape made a motion to accept Fairfield Women as full member club with EGU, on probationary status until the next AGM. Rosalie MacGowan seconded. Voting Board Members: Michael Crafton (Yes), Pat Moroney (Yes), Jennifer Salomon (Yes), Lex Maccubbin (Yes), Jennifer Jones (Yes), Brad Kleiner (Yes), Rosalie MacGowan (Yes), Ken Pape (Yes). The final vote: Yes: 8; No: 0. The motion passes.

* DC Chair

Ken Pape asked Michael Crafton to start the process of determining a DC Chair for the coming season. Until the Board has agreed on a Chair, the Board will hear any DC items.

* Administrator Pay Raise

Ken Pape is making a motion to raise the Administrators stipend from \$15K to \$20K. Michael Crafton seconded. A discussion took place on the merit of the raise. Ken Pape said JC will have additional responsibilities coming forward and he will also be providing a SOP for his position. Voting Board Members: Michael Crafton (Yes), Pat Moroney (Yes), Jennifer Salomon (Yes), Lex Maccubbin (Yes), Jennifer Jones (Yes), Brad Kleiner (Yes), Rosalie MacGowan (Yes), Ken Pape (Yes). The final vote: Yes: 8; No: 0. The motion passes.

* Items from Clubs

There have been no items for consideration from member clubs.

Being no The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator