

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 18, 2017

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, September 18, 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: Anna Gildea, Steve Lewis, Adam Slansky (Long Island), Howard Chen (Morris), Kevin Holt

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 p.m. A quorum was in place.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape welcomed everyone to the meeting.

NCR3 Women's D1 Rep

The first order of business is the vote for the NCR3 Women's D1 rep. Ken opened the floor to nominations. Pat Moroney said there is a nomination of Alexandra Ramsey (Monmouth). Nominations were closed. Vote: Village Lions Women vote in favor of Alex Ramsey. Alexandra Ramsey is the new NCR3 Women's D1 rep.

Club Development

Ken announced Anna Gildea will assist the EGU in a new position as Director of Club Development. She presented a five-year action plan for new Men's and Women's EGU Clubs. Anna outlined the two main goals to 1) provide nominal financial assistance and 2) guide and assist through organizational needs. Ken said this role will help to assist clubs in their growth and work through any pitfalls. He said any financial means will be reviewed in concert with Jennifer Salomon and ultimately voted on by the Board. A discussion took place on the need for EGU to make better decisions on expansion and eliminate dilution taking place.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ken Pape opened the financial section with a presentation on HP Budgets for the new league year. Projections are for the Women's program to receive \$10K and Men's Upstate, NYC and New Jersey to receive \$6500 each.

Jennifer Salomon presented the 2017-18 Budget. A discussion took place on Google for Work: Pat Moroney is going to work to activate the platform. Club Reimbursement will be reclassified to Summer 7s College Reimbursement. National Stipends: The Board agreed to the pool of funding allocated. Randall's: JC Whipple said the \$3K variance between Randalls fees and club payments could be cut down. He will look at EGU needs and come up with a plan. EGU Challenge Cup Ref Fees: Lex said the budget can be reduced as ARs are not necessary for pool play.

Jennifer Salomon said the way the budget is set up, there is about \$10K to play around with. The special project of organization formation will cut into those available funds. Ken asked Jen and Michael Crafton to work together on this to make a final determination.

A question came in regarding the status of the tax filings. Rosalie MacGowan said she has met with three accountants and worked with the IRS. The special project (organization formation) will determine the tax filing status.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney presented on a proposed Inclusion Policy Program. Pat said EGU can create language that would be communicated across all platforms and events. He suggested we reach out to worldwide organizations - mixed ability rugby groups (wheelchair rugby, etc.). The proposed Inclusion Day would be set for a time this spring when proper effort can be put toward it.

Video Proposal: Tools and technology are there to start generating content from member clubs which would be distributed through web and social channels. Additionally, a platform is available for clubs to upload game-film, this would directly impact improvement in league play. Costs seem to be nominal, Pat will review and come back with a more robust proposal.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said the season is off to a good start. Clubs are handling CMS pretty well so far. There has been one red card to date.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Jen Jones said the season has gotten off to a somewhat rocky start as there have been a couple forfeits early on. Jen has been working with Fairfield to get them stabilized. Gold Cup has expanded to home and away series, dates are in place and are being voted on by NCR3 reps.

SEVENS REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan said things are pretty quiet right now. She will be following up with host clubs for 2017 Series. One project she is working on is polling clubs to evaluate their value from Northeast Academy. Bid forms for 2018 will be going out in late November. Deposits are being reviewed and communication with clubs is forthcoming.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner said start of season has gone pretty well. Only one club did not confirm its referee. Discipline has been nominal to date with one playing enclosure ejection. Both Gary Heavner and Mike Crafton are receiving card reports.

NCR3 REPORT

Ken Pape asked Lex Maccubbin or Gary Heavner to provide report. Lex said there was one short meeting about a month ago and nothing pressing was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Sevens HP Committee (Steve Lewis)

USA Rugby created an HP advisory board to make recommendations to Dan Payne. This is to improve pathways and opportunities.

Northeast Academy Funding Request

Steve Lewis made a presentation on the NEA. A reduction in the request, the new amount is \$25k (down from \$30K). NERFU has approved their portion of funding at \$25K. The NEA has lost two sponsors for next year. NEA will now have a permanent place at Women's 7s National Camp. It was noted the Board received several emails in support of the Northeast Academy (these will be packaged and attached to the minutes).

Rosalie MacGowan made a motion to approve the request for \$25K stipend to Northeast Academy. Lex Maccubbin seconded. A discussion took place on the proposal. Vote: Yes (4): Jenn Salomon, Lex Maccubbin, Rosalie MacGowan, Brad Kleiner; No (3): Ken Pape, Michael Crafton, Pat Moroney; Abstain (1): Jen Jones. The motion passes, 4-3, with 1 abstention.

D&O Insurance

J.C Whipple presented the annual Directors & Officers Insurance coverage accessed through USA Rugby. The policy is \$850 and provides \$2M in coverage, with the new cycle starting Nov. 1. Ken Pape made a motion to approve. Brad Kleiner seconded. Yes (7): Ken Pape, Michael Crafton, Pat Moroney, Jenn Salomon, Jen Jones, Lex Maccubbin, Brad Kleiner; Abstain (1): Rosalie MacGowan. The motion passes, 7-0, with 1 abstention.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator