

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 8, 2015

The Executive Board met via conference call on Sunday, March 8 2015, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Michael Crafton (President), Robert Mayers (VP Communications), Steve Lewis (VP Operations), Matthew Winard (VP Finance), Ken Pape (ED Men), Sean Horan (ED Sevens), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees).

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator), Gary Heavner (Ad-Hoc), Pat Moroney (HP 15s Director and Head Coach)

Absent: Sarah Rutman (ED Women)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 p.m.

Michael Crafton opened the meeting by stating this would be a working session to discuss EGU budget / HP15s, Buffalo and the men's playoffs, and the Hudson Valley-Danbury women's scenario.

A regular meeting of the Board would be scheduled for later in the week where membership could attend and votes would take place as necessary.

EGU BUDGET

A discussion took place on Senior Men High Performance 15s and how to include funding in the current and future budget cycles.

Mike Crafton noted a budget discussion was taking place at this point in the year due to a strong desire to initiate and fund HP15s, and with EGU income exceeding expenses at this point, there is capacity for starting this program. Pat Moroney was invited to provide the Board with background on the HP 15s proposal and has made real progress with a vision for making HP15s happen, so it required the Board to review the EGU account and see what level of funding it could commit at this point.

The discussion essentially came to the conclusion that for the remainder of the FY14-15 cycle, funding for HP15s would be \$15K out of the budget, with an additional \$10K coming from the EGU reserves to provide a start-up infusion.

A follow-up took place on funding HP15s for FY15-16 at \$25K. Ken Pape stated this could be achieved through eliminating Rugby Research Group (Dr. Victor Lopez) or taking a closer look at other funding areas. Assuming that action is taken, HP 15s would be funded at \$20K going forward. If any other funds become available after looking at actuals post-July 31, the Board discussed allocating those funds to HP 15s. At the Board meeting later this week, the Board will vote on the inclusion of the HP 15s budget into FY14-15.

BUFFALO PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY

Based on sanctions enacted by the Board in May 2013, Buffalo's D3 side is currently ineligible for Buffalo playoff eligibility. A discussion took place on whether this should or could be rescinded (by a vote of the Board), or to uphold the current suspension.

The Board reviewed all scenarios, including the inclusion of Syracuse, the fifth-place team in the standings.

An official statement will be forthcoming.

HUDSON VALLEY-DANBURY WOMEN

Danbury approached EGU leadership and indicated a number of women currently CIPPed with Hudson Valley have expressed interest in joining Danbury. Danbury was asked to prove it has enough players to field a full competitive side (which it has done).

Danbury will be voted on as a provisional member by the Board, which would allow the Danbury Women's club to play friendlies, etc. It will be voted on as a full member club by the EGU membership at the next AGM.

As a result, it looks like Hudson Valley will not have enough players to field a women's side at this time. The transfer of players from Hudson Valley to Danbury will not have any impact on the women's spring playoffs.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator