

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 13, 2015

The Executive Board met via conference call on Friday, March 13, 2015, at 8:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Michael Crafton (President), Robert Mayers (VP Communications), Steve Lewis (VP Operations), Matthew Winard (VP Finance), Sarah Rutman (ED Women), Ken Pape (ED Men), Sean Horan (ED Sevens)

Non-Voting Members: Gary Heavner (Ad-Hoc), J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Clubs: Buffalo, Danbury, Hudson Valley, Morris, PAC, Syracuse, White Plains, Monmouth

Absent: Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:41 p.m.

Michael Crafton opened the meeting by detailing the agenda for the call – a budget proposal to add in High Performance 15s, a vote to provisionally approve the Danbury Women to EGU and a review and vote on the eligibility of Buffalo's D3 side for the Men's Playoffs.

EGU BUDGET

Mike Crafton stated the budget proposal is due to the work of Pat Moroney and Ken Pape to assemble a plan and outline for High Performance 15s. This is based on the momentum of last spring / summer and is wanted by players and coaches. The plan has been shared with Alex Magleby, who is working to help in this effort.

The Board met on March 8 to discuss the budget and how HP15s can be slotted into the current FY budget. Following a discussion, it was determined HP15s would be allocated \$15k, with an additional \$10k from reserves for an immediate infusion for start-up. Mike Crafton stated any vote would not be changing the full budget, just the addition of HP15s.

Ken Pape asked about a review of the EGU tax situation. Mike Crafton stated he did not see the tax matter being an issue that would significantly impact the reserves or the ability to fund HP15s.

A discussion followed on the tax matter. It was agreed this matter is of the utmost importance and an accountant will be secured to review and help resolve the matters at hand, prior to April 15. A report(s) back to the Board will be made as soon as possible.

Ken Pape moved that no vote on funding for HP15s take place until the tax matter has been resolved.

Sean Horan promoted checking with Pat Moroney on any necessary seed money for HP15s. Mike Crafton stated that if there was an immediate need for HP 15s money, the Board would address the situation, but otherwise did not expect any need currently.

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). The transfer of players from Hudson Valley to Danbury will not have any impact on the women's spring playoffs.

Danbury would 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. It will remain on suspended status for one (1) year following.

Sean Horan made a motion to admit the Danbury Women as a probationary member of Empire GU. Ken Pape seconded.

Vote: Yes (7): Sean Horan, Ken Pape, Matthew Winard, Steve Lewis, Robert Mayers, Sarah Rutman, Mike Crafton; No (0): None.

Motion passes, 7-0. Danbury Women admitted to Empire GU as a probationary member until the next AGM.

BUFFALO PLAYOFF ELIGIBILITY

Mike Crafton detailed sanctions enacted by the Board in May 2013. Based on those sanctions, Buffalo's D3 side is currently ineligible for playoffs. Mike presented the view of Dan Sanderson (Syracuse Chargers), who said that while Syracuse would stand to benefit, it was in the best interest of Buffalo, Syracuse and the EGU to rescind the sanctions and allow Buffalo to compete.

Ken Pape stated after a discussion with the Buffalo President and head coach, he was comfortable with Buffalo's actions as a club and supported overturning the sanctions. A discussion followed on whether the sanction should, or could, be rescinded (by a vote of the Board), or to uphold the current suspension.

Nick Kusmierski of Buffalo made a brief statement in defense of Buffalo. A took place on the merits of rescinding the sanctions, Buffalo's leadership and Buffalo's standing within the EGU. The Board discussed the previous actions taken by former Board member and Buffalo member Steve Molnar, which Mike Crafton and Sean Horan agreed was the main reason for their support of sanctioning Buffalo in May 2013.

Mike Crafton stated that he always believed Buffalo as a club put too much trust in a person who was not the proper representative of their club before the Board, as Steve was not the Buffalo President. The result of this negatively affected Buffalo as well as several other Empire clubs.

Mike Crafton made a motion to rescind the sanctions against Buffalo from May 2013 and be able to immediately compete in the playoffs. Ken Pape seconded. It should be noted that a 2/3 vote of the Board would be necessary to overturn a previous ruling.

Vote: Yes (7): Sean Horan, Ken Pape, Matthew Winard, Steve Lewis, Robert Mayers, Sarah Rutman, Mike Crafton; No (0): None.

Motion passes, 7-0. The sanctions against Buffalo are rescinded and the club is permitted to compete in the 2015 playoffs.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator