

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 9, 2015

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

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Jorge Quintana (VP Operations), Pat Moroney (VP Communications), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Sarah Rutman (ED Women), Sean Horan (ED Sevens),.

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

Absent: Rosalie MacGowan (VP Finance), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

Membership: White Plains

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 p.m.

WHITE PLAINS

Ken Pape gave an overview on the request from White Plains that the club be permitted to move from D1 to D2. Ken noted he had copied the Board on communication with the CR Committee, which is not in favor of this proposed move.

Eric Nicklas, President of White Plains, gave an overview on the state of the club, which is in a transition period. He stated WP has never been a deep club and there are 20-22 players for the first side. In order to keep up with the times and other D1 clubs, they would need to recruit 2-3 overseas players. The club has reached a crisis state as there are not enough players to field a proper side and safety ultimately would be an issue. A move to D2 would allow the club to focus on rebuilding for the immediate and long-term.

Dan Pazio, Coach of WP, echoed Eric's statements. He said they lost 12 starters from last season due to attrition, retirements, injury, etc. Sean Horan asked if the club were prevented from competing at the D2 National level, what impact that would have. Dan stated that was a problem faced last year with the D3 side and there would be a lack of motivation.

Ken Pape asked that with 75 currently CIPPed for the club, why were numbers a problem? Dan answered that the numbers were not accurate – a good number were Old Boys or not active playing members. The true number was closer to 25. The club struggled to fulfill D1 & D3 commitments last year.

It was confirmed that if this move were approved, White Plains would be fielding one side at the D2 level.

As there were no other questions for White Plains, Eric and Dan left the call.

WHITE PLAINS BOARD DISCUSSION

Sean Horan stated this was a bad spot for the club and one that just about every club in the sport had faced at one time or another. He felt EGU should do what it could to support White Plains, which had been D1 for its entire existence.

Ken Pape followed and said the reason for getting rid of B-side matches was to allow clubs to fulfill commitments. With no National playoff opportunity, there was a concern that players would move to other area clubs and the club would be in a state of perpetual transition.

A discussion was held on where to place the club within D2 and what made the most sense, considering all factors. It was determined that D2 NYC would be the best landing spot.

Ken Pape made a motion to approve a move of White Plains to D2 and place the club in D2 NYC. Jorge Quintana seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0.

D2 MEN'S PLAYOFFS

A discussion took place on the allocation of slots for the D2 Men's Playoffs, including wild card slots. A proposed alignment will be presented to the Board for review.

CR COMMITTEE

A discussion took place on the CR Committee. Gary Heavner advised that no offline or sidebar discussions take place with any CR Committee members, that everything be handled in an official capacity.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Ken Pape said that Michael Crafton had declined the DC Chair position. Ken said that he would remain in the position for the time being, until a replacement could be found and groomed. A full list of nominees for the DC will be forwarded to the Board.

OTHER BUSINESS

Ken Pape said that he would have two Bylaw changes for consideration in the near future. One would be removing the Referee seat from the Board and the other was a change in language as to the inclusion of the DC.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator