

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 1, 2015

The Executive Board met via conference call on Sunday, November 1, 2015, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Rosalie MacGowan (VP Finance), Pat Moroney (VP Communications), Jorge Quintana (VP Operations), Sarah Rutman (ED Women), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Absent: Sean Horan (ED Sevens)

Clubs: Ralph von Rosendahl (Montclair)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 p.m. A quorum was in place.

MONTCLAIR DISCIPLINARY RULING - APPEAL

Montclair is appealing suspensions handed down from the Disciplinary Committee. Per Ken Pape, Jorge Quintana will be handling the appeal. Ken Pape, as DC Chair, will recuse himself from this process and will not be voting. Ralph von Rosendahl is representing Montclair for the appeal.

Ralph von Rosendahl stated that the two players involved were two young guys and knew they did wrong. The club has worked with the players following the incidents and they realized the situation.

Anthony Vercelli

Ken Pape stated that Anthony Vercelli was apologetic. Per USA Rugby guidelines, the infraction, which is considered "major physical," is two to six weeks. Ken, as DC member, felt two was too light and the midway point (four games) was appropriate. A red card was issued. Only reason six games were not issued was the player's lack of history and his apologetic nature.

Jorge Quintana stated he feels that four games is justifiable and the player should be taught the game and tackling appropriately.

Jorge Quintana motions to not hear the appeal from Montclair; seconded by Pat Moroney. The motion passes by a vote of 5-0 (Jorge Quintana, Pat Moroney, Brad Kleiner, Sarah Rutman, Lex Maccubbin) with two abstentions (Ken Pape, Rosalie MacGowan).

Dillon Pellegrino

This infraction was a strike to the face of a defenseless player. The referee saw it and the defenseless player was down. The sanction is "Major Physical." First offense is two to six weeks. Head shot is three to six weeks. Defenseless increases penalty by additional six to eight weeks. The DC Committee felt nine weeks was appropriate, with the option to reduce to four (4) based on certification as a referee and participation as a referee is a select number of games.

Per Ken Pape, the Union player was sanctioned for entering the field - given a warning. Montclair and Union received warnings for entering the field of play.

Jorge Quintana stated he does not agree with the DC "cutting a deal." Lex Maccubbin said there are no apparent sideline ropes and there are people coming off the sidelines.

Brad Kleiner motioned to hear appeal in order to discuss the sanctions; seconded by Jorge Quintana. The motion passes by a vote of 5-0 (Jorge Quintana, Pat Moroney, Brad Kleiner, Sarah Rutman, , Rosalie MacGowan) with two abstentions (Ken Pape, Lex Maccubbin).

Brad said he would like to see the referee certification be removed as option to reduce the sanction. He proposes a sanction of six (6) games. Ralph von Rosendahl stated the club asked for a sanction of five (5) games. Rosalie MacGowan made the point that six games would extend into the spring - she suggests five.

Jorge Quintana motioned for a six (6) or five (5) game suspension and the removal of the referee certification as a reduction of the original suspension; seconded by Brad Kleiner. The motion passes for a six (6) game suspension with removal of the referee certification as a reduction, 4-1 (Yes: Jorge Quintana, Brad Kleiner, Pat Moroney, Sarah Rutman; No: Rosalie MacGowan) with two abstentions (Ken Pape, Lex Maccubbin).

MONTCLAIR CONDUCT

Ken Pape stated this is the most red cards Montclair has ever taken on in the course of a season. Ralph von Rosendahl has assured Ken that the club is taking steps to ensure this does not continue. Ken Pape was contacted by a youth club which attended Montclair's match against Morris. A discussion ensued about the conduct of the Montclair club. Additional discussion commenced on future requirement of EGU clubs to video each game and upload. Ken Pape asked Rosalie MacGowan to put together a presentation on video and opportunity to add to EGU policy.

BYLAWS CHANGES

a) Process to Amend

Either two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of full members at a meeting of the members; or by a two-thirds majority vote of a quorum of Executive Committee Members at a meeting of the Executive Committee. Proposed changes shall be submitted in writing to the Vice President – Communications not less than sixty (60) days before the meeting for inclusion in the agenda if submitted by the Executive Committee, or members thereof.

Ken Pape will put together any suggested Bylaw changes and get them ready for public notice at minimum of sixty (60) days in advance.

b) Disciplinary Chair

Michael Crafton and Ken Pape have reviewed and would like to amend to say at least one person on the DC needs to have a background in law. Ken would like to get this in place in advance of Spring season.

c) Enforcement of (2) refs per team requirement

Brad Kleiner stated there is no good way of tracking or complying with that right now - only a few teams seem to be compliant. Brad agrees with rule and feels referees should come from current or former players. Ultimately, it would be difficult to receive (80) new referees and supply enough games to keep them engaged.

Ken stated he is working with Erik Geib and USA Rugby on a Rugby summit for EGU. Coaching courses, referee courses - trying to getting everything in. Trying to offer free of charge a benefit to membership. Referee course would be reimbursed following refereeing.

d) Technical Zones

Ken Pape said he would like to see Technical Zones made mandatory starting with the Spring season. Brad Kleiner has agreed referees will work to enforce this should it become policy.

SELECT SIDE MEN

Ken Pape, Pat Moroney and Sean Horan met to discuss ODA. Current budget was discussed and the addition of the Women's Academy. To complete 2015, there is a \$12K gap. This will be tabled until Sean is available to present and discuss. Ken's position is to move away from funding ODA and move to a potential scholarship manner.

Pat Moroney discussed EGU Select Side Men. Said 2016 is a unique year for rugby in America. Professional league to start - April to June. Most players at ODA level would be involved. Select Side would involve players at level below that. Olympics will require to block out period from calendar. 7s is up in the air due to these factors.

Players will come from D1, or D2 and below. Involve 7s and 15s players. ODA players will be involved with Olympics or Pro league.

WOMEN'S PLAYOFFS (EAST v WEST)

Sarah Rutman provided an overview of the Women's Playoffs. D3 Playoffs are set and has forwarded a tentative budget. Saratoga would like check in advance, though there seems to be quite a few question marks. Sarah will request formal requests or invoices. Ken Pape made point that costs would be shared evenly with NERFU.

Sarah finalized the D2 seeding with Tracey from NERFU. Home teams will play Nov 7, 14 or 21. Dependent on field and referee availability.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator