

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEN'S PLAYOFFS CALL
March 15, 2015

A conference call was held on Sunday, March 15, 2015, at 9:00 p.m. to discuss the 2015 Men's Playoffs.

ATTENDANCE

Ken Pape (ED Men), J.C. Whipple (Administrator)

Clubs: Morris, Union Rochester Colonials, Monmouth, Princeton, Rochester Aardvarks, Hudson Valley, Syracuse, NYRC, Old Blue

USA RUGBY CMS

All clubs need to be in complete compliance with USA Rugby Competition Management System – including rosters, players participating in match and scores. Ken Pape stressed that clubs have until the week of Empire 8 to be in full compliance.

It is incumbent upon each club to enter all of the necessary information. Any questions or issues should be directed to Ken (men@empiregurugby.com) or J.C. Whipple (administrator@empiregurugby.com).

ELIGIBILITY

USA Rugby eligibility policy changed January 1. A player must have played in three (3) league qualifying matches to be eligible for the crossover match.

Once a player hits 50% participation in a team's games, that player is locked in at that level. The player can still move up a division, but cannot move down.

i.e. = in a 10 game season, a player plays in five (5) D2 matches, said player must compete at D2

i.e. = in an 8 game season, a player plays in four (4) D3 and four (4) D2 matches, player is a D2 player

i.e. = in 7 game season, players plays in four (4) D3 and three (3) D2 matches, player is a D3 player but can also move up to D2

Gary Heavner asked if it was still planned to file a formal complain with USA Rugby over the timing (mid-year) of the rule change. Ken Pape said it was intended and he and Gary agreed to work on the protest.

SCHEDULE

March 28 and April 4 are considered the same playing day – opening weekend. Some Upstate matches will be held on April 4 based on weather and field availability.

All field **MUST** be within IRB regulation standards – no exceptions. If a host club has a potential issue with providing a regulation field, they are to contact Ken Pape ASAP.

For the duration of playoffs, all D3 games must be played prior to any D2 games. i.e. D3 kickoff at 11a and D2 kickoff at 3p. Ken stated that EGU will be flexible on kickoff times based on field availability. Any potential conflicts should be brought to attention immediately.

All schedules will be updated on the EGU website on the respective D2 and D3 playoff pages.

ID CHECKS

ID Checks are mandatory at each playoff game and will be handled by the clubs. Each club should provide a CIPP roster and ID for each competing play – 1 to 23. During the check if an issue arises, the team official should lodge a formal protest with the match referee.

REFEREES

EGU is working to get Empire officials for every playoff game. While it might not be possible in the early rounds, Empire officials will be assigned later in the playoffs for all games.

SEEDING / WEIGHTED STANDINGS

In D2, the top two from each conference (three conferences total) advance to the Round of 8. There will also be two (2) wild cards. To be eligible for the Wild Card, a club must win its second game.

In D3, the top two from each conference advance (four conferences total). There are no wild cards.

For seeding in the Round of 8, a weighted average will be used to determine the seed order (1 to 8). The weighted average is calculated by taking the total of standings points from the regular season + two playoff games and divided by the total number of games played.

The current weighted standings for both D2 and D3 have been posted to the respective playoff pages on the EGU website. These will be updated after each of the first two rounds of the playoffs.