

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 18, 2015

The Executive Board met via conference call on Wednesday, November 18, 2015, at 9:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Absent: Jorge Quintana (VP Operations)

Clubs: Union, Tri-County, New Haven

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 p.m. A quorum was in place.

FALL WRAP-UP

Women

Sarah Rutman provided an overview of the Fall season and status of Women's competition. In D1, two matches have been moved to the Spring and will not effect playoffs. D2 held the wild-card playoffs and all home teams won. Seeding is complete for the playoffs. D3 completed its season and held a cross-over playoff (East v West). South Buffalo defeated Ithaca in the final. Sarah will provide a recap and pictures for distribution and posting to website.

Men

Lex Maccubbin recapped the Fall season. D3 results are complete and seeding is being completed for the playoffs. There will be no re-seeding as rounds advance. Syracuse and Morris were elevated from the standings as they administrativey forfeited their seasons.

D2 competition continues with a round of matches this weekend and a series of matches two weeks in Spring. Seeding for playoffs will be completed then. White Plains is not eligible for playoffs based on their sanctions. Per Ken Pape, White Plains will be appealing this. Lex questioned how this would be possible since White Plains agreed to the sanctions imposed and EGU worked on their behalf with CR Committee.

A discussion took place on a potential protest / appeal between Union and Montclair regarding use of ineligible players. This will be handled by Ken Pape and Lex Maccubbin accordingly.

DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE

Ken Pape said the new conferencing platform has been quite effective for use by the DC. There has been interest from EGU members on taking over as DC Chair. Ken will forward to the Board early in New Year. There are fewer red cards this season. Ken will be making a recommendation to the Board to implement Tech Zones, Rope Restraints and ID Checks permanently. There are no pending suspensions.

WOMEN'S ODA FUNDING

Sean Horan presented an overview of the Women's ODA, which kicked off in May. (32) players total compete, with (18) from New York. The team has had an extensive schedule and has three remaining tournaments, including NY7s, Tobago and Las Vegas 7s. Two sides will be entered into NY7s.

The budget is \$59K for the year and NERFU funded at \$25K. The original ask from EGU was for \$15K (for the full schedule). The amended request is funding for \$12K for the remaining three tournaments. This would be in line with EGU funding provided for the Men's ODA.

A discussion took place on recruiting and advancement in Upstate NY. Sean stated that efforts need to be made to expand those efforts and coaching could be implemented. Brad Staufenberger of Tri-State offered assistance with fields and coaching.

Ken Pape stated that a discussion took place between Sean, Pat Moroney and himself on the EGUs support of the ODA. Ken said he doesn't feel the EGU membership wants to continue support and he would look to move to a scholarship program for those taking part in the ODA. Sean Horan stated that a discussion needs to take place on alternatives, rather than discontinuing support completely.

Ken Pape motioned to fund the Women's ODA for \$12K for the remaining three-tournament schedule. Pat Moroney seconded. The motion passed by a vote of 7-0.

OTHER BUSINESS

A discussion took place on Summer 7s and the possibility of creating an Upstate 7s segment of the series. Sean Horan will discuss offline with Brad Staufenberger.

Ken Pape raised a question from Syracuse regarding the Men's Playoffs. Ken stated all of the Upstate clubs want to go back to the Conference Playoff format. Brad Staufenberger said Tri-County would not be in support. Lex Maccubbin said this change would not be happening and he has already discussed with Dan Sanderson (Syracuse).

A discussion took place on the evaluation of Upstate referees. Brad Kleiner provided insight to proper steps and would also pass along concerns to the chair of the NYSRRS.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator