

**EMPIRE RFU GU**  
**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
January 26, 2016

The Executive Board met via conference call on Tuesday, January 26, 2016, 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), Sean Horan (ED Sevens), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

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

Absent: None

Clubs: Greenwich, Union

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 p.m. A quorum was in place.

**GREENWICH MEN'S RUGBY CLUB**

Greenwich (OGRCC) applied for membership within EGU as an Associate Member. Andres Sheppard and two other club members detailed the structure of the club: 1. long-standing youth program with players returning to compete at Senior level; 2. 30-40 committed members; 3. well-structured and formed legally; 4. relationship with town of Greenwich for field space; 5. looking to compete at D3 level initially.

Ken Pape stated that per Lex Maccubbin and his discussions with Greenwich, D3 would be the right place to start, with a review following the Spring season. Pending admission as associate member, Greenwich would look to set its Spring schedule ASAP.

Lex Maccubbin made a motion for Greenwich to be admitted to EGU as an associate member. Pat Moroney seconded. The motion passed, 7-0.

**REVIEW OF TECHNICAL ZONES / RESTRAINTS / ID CHECKS**

Ken Pape introduced a review on policy for Technical Zones, Restraints and ID Checks. A discussion took place on updating the Policy Manual to formalize requirement / enforcement of Tech Zones and Rope Restraints.

Ken Pape made a motion for the requirement and enforcement of Technical Zones and Rope Restraints at all EGU matches. Brad Kleiner seconded. The motion passed, 7-0.

A discussion then took place on ID Checks. It was decided that match referees will certify pre-match that tech zones, restraints and ID checks have been completed. Will be included in their report if not.

A review of the policy manual showed language to be in place and the need for refinement. JC Whipple made updates to the language, changing ID checks from just EGU playoff matches to ALL EGU matches. The Board reviewed on GoToMeeting.

Ken Pape made a motion to accept the update to the policy manual to hold ID Checks prior to ALL EGU matches. Pat Moroney seconded. The motion passed, 8-0. The policy manual was updated immediately and is posted on the EGU website.

## **CONGRESS REPORT**

Mike Crafton joined the call to provide a report on the recent Congress meeting. The main topic was the discussion on a potential dues increase - imminent, but still to be determined. The time is now to review with clubs on an increase and what that would mean for programming. More information is needed from the National Office on planned use of funds. Mike also said that RIM would be made available soon.

## **SEVENS**

Sean Horan said that there has been interest / effort on establishing an Upstate 7s series. It has been formulated for this summer - will hold a three-tournament series Upstate, with Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo hosting. Top teams will compete at Blazing 7s for the EGU Championship.

An Academy will be established in conjunction with the Univ. at Buffalo, giving more opportunity/exposure to men's and women's athletes.

## **WOMEN'S LEAGUE**

Ken Pape said discussions have taken place with Adrian Gannon on adjustments to the Women's League. It is proposed that all EGU Women's teams would compete in one division. For playoffs, the top two (2) teams would cross over against NERFU D1. Third- and fourth-place teams would cross over against NERFU D2. Sarah Rutman and Ken will continue discussion and formalizing plan.

## **RRSNY MATCH FEES**

Brad Kleiner presented discussion on match fees for RRSNY. Currently, the fees are \$50 + travel (max \$30-35). Brad stated these fees are well below market rate and the RRSNY has been asked to do away with variable travel fees, moving to a fixed rate. The proposed fixed rate would be \$80-90 (no travel stipend). This is still under discussion and will be formally presented at a later date.

## **NCR3**

Lex Maccubbin stated NCR3 has recommendations to approve schedules and avoid late changes / movement for clubs among divisions. Ken Pape shared that Brett Willis told Lex Maccubbin (per lex) EGU would need to assemble a list of prospective teams for promotion / relegation; this would be for NCR3 to review. Ken stated he is waiting until EGU is provided guidelines for promotion / relegation before providing a list of eligible teams.

## **SELECT SIDE**

Pat Moroney provide a quick review of Select Side. Said there is an opportunity in 2016 as there will be no pro rugby in the Northeast. Selects will compete in Empire Cup in June + Saranac and one other tournament (total of five events). This will be fantastic exposure to ARP.

A cloud-based app is being considered to help improve athlete training, performance and tracking. Company is offering 50-60 athlete licenses (referees are free) for \$8200. A formal presentation will be made at a later date.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
J.C. Whipple  
EGU Administrator