

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 21, 2016

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, March 21, 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)

Clubs: Tom Feury (Morris HS Girls)

CALL TO ORDER

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

MORRIS RUGBY HS GIRLS - NATIONALS

Tom Feury (Morris Girls Coach) said the team has been invited to Nationals for third year in a row. Event is held at Central Washington University - expense with flights, hotels, etc. will total \$25K (25 players / four staff).

Club has been raising money for a year. Girls have raised almost \$10K. Asking Empire GU to consider a \$5K grant. Many of the advancing girls come back to play for Empire clubs.

Ken Pape asked what other grant opportunities have been explored. Tom said the team received a \$1K grant from a local women's club and a \$500 grant from a local sporting goods store. Expect each player to contribute \$350 each.

Lex Maccubbin asked if Morris had approached Rugby NJ for support. Tom replied he is on the Board and the funds are not available. Lex offered a few ideas on additional fund-raising opportunities.

Ken Pape offered that it is not typical for EGU to provide financial support in this manner, but the organization is always looking to support Youth Rugby in the area.

Sean Horan echoed Ken's statement that the interest is there to assist Youth rugby and developing opportunities.

Rosalie MacGowan stated that EGU has supported clubs making nationals previously.

Ken Pape said he has looked into this. Rans some numbers - \$25K to ODA Men / \$12K to ODA Women. EGU had \$40K allocated to High Performance. A discussion took place on the value of supporting this effort.

Jorge Quintana presented the thought of putting this out to the EGU community to ask for support of the Morris girls.

Ken Pape motioned to set up a Go Fund Me and Promote to EGU membership; EGU would match EGU-member donations up to \$1K. Pat Moroney seconded.

Motion passed, 7-0, with one abstention.

OLD BOYS

Lex Maccubbin said nine men's clubs would be interested in an Old Boys competition (split evenly between NY, NJ and Upstate). Prospect would be to have a round-robin league season with a season-ending tournament. Most said they were not looking for multiple games and significant travel. Competition could be in either Fall or Spring.

Ken Pape said he would like Sarah Rutman to work with the Women's clubs to inquire about Old Girls, working with Lex.

TRANSFER FEE SYSTEM

Ken Pape said the new transfer system is much easier and a quicker process. He is working with Lucy Zugschwert at USAR to eliminate the transfer fee altogether. Sean Horan said he feels this will spark an increase in summer transfers.

BYLAWS CHANGES

Ken Pape said he is working with Mike Crafton in crafting new language with for the DC Chair. There is currently language stating Chair must be a lawyer and there are questions surrounding.

HIGH PERFORMANCE SUMMIT

Ken Pape has a meeting with USA Rugby regarding a High Performance Summit in mid-August 2016. Course, costs, etc. Sean Horan suggested an off-season date as it may spark more attendance.

SUMMER 7s

Sean Horan said the Summer 7s schedule is set, including an Upstate NY series. Five for downstate and four for Upstate. Summer 7s Championship will be at Blazing 7s.

HIGH PERFORMANCE

Sean Horan said the Academy had another successful year, expanding into the Women. A great year overall with players in the National Pool for 15s and 7s. We want to see the Academy turn away from 7s only and become a full Rugby Academy - forwards, tight-fives, etc. Bring in more coaches. Offer more to the entire rugby community. Looking to offer a full rugby weekend (June 11-12) for Men, Women, Boys and Girls and offer a National Tracking Camp for USA Rugby National Team coaches (held in Saratoga, NY). Coaches will be heavily involved, including opportunities for EGU coaches to attend a Coaches Round Table, Meet & Greet, etc.

Pat Moroney offered Men's players will take part in mini-camps and tracking camp, allowing for visibility to Eagles coaches (June 11). Four teams will compete on June 12 and players will be selected for the Empire Select Side. Women's will be parallel to the this, though structure is to be determined. Four competitions will be selected throughout the year for Select Side to compete in. Men & Women chosen to the EGU Select Sides will be admitted to the Academy. There will also be an application process for coaches to take on responsibility.

Ken Pape asked if all players and funding would be directed to EGU-specific players. Sean Horan verified.

Upstate 7s Series, Empire Cup (Players/Coaches), Academy will expand into Upstate NY (Lex Maccubbin Director, mirror NY academy). Every single member of the GU will have the opportunity to participate in High Performance.

Finished 2015-16 season. With Olympic cycle and Pro Rugby this year, looking to limit amount of events (six total - one Men's only, one Women's only). EGU will have a Board seat on NE Academy Board. Pat Moroney, HP Director for EGU, will be first representative.

Last year budget \$127,000. Budget for the 2016-17 year is \$97,000. In 2015-16, EGU provided \$25K (Men) and \$12K (Women) for \$37 total. For 2016-17, Academy is seeking \$30K total from EGU. Does not include Empire Cup, other EGU-specific HP initiatives. Ken Pape asked if there could a complete High Performance budget in place for next Board meeting.

TECH ZONES

Ken Pape asked Brad Kleiner if referees have been checking on Tech Zones. Brad said it has been discussed at meetings and he has reports this is in place.

FINANCIALS

Ken Pape asked that Rosalie MacGowan, Jorge Quintana and JC Whipple work to move to a Quick Books-style platform for recorded EGU accounting. Ken asked for an update from Rosalie on the reimbursement form / process. Rosalie said she will work on this and complete.

MATCH FEE INCREASE

Brad Kleiner said the fixed-rate Match Fees will be \$90 per match.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator