

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 20, 2016

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, April 20, 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), Sean Horan (ED Sevens), Sarah Rutman (ED Women), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

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

Absent: none

Clubs: none

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape stated that meetings will be more functional and efficient, per feedback from various Board members. Structured format will be followed.

Currently working on EGU Training & Education Summit. Proposed dates are August 12-14 or 19-21.

Friday, Level 150, AR Touch Judge Course and Technical Clinic (facilitated by TBA). Strength, Referee Level 1, Level 300 (Sat-Sun). Strength Level 2 (Sat-Sun) First time in US. Referee Level 2 (Sunday).

Total cost is \$10,000. Erik Geib of USA Rugby has committed to supporting event around \$5000. Looking at vendors to sponsor a specific class. Limited number of free spaces available for each course. Looking at free of charge for EGU or significant discount. Pay for course - upon completion, reimbursed. Non-EGU members

Offer a higher-level service for membership. Ken is confident through vendor sponsorship and other mean, EGU costs can be covered.

Sean Horan mention the National 7s is the weekend of August 12. Based on the time of year, he suggested a survey of membership to see if folks would be able attend (based on end of summer, etc.).

Ken continued with Women's League alignment proposal - a hybrid Division 1-2, which would eliminate significant travel for clubs at all levels (including trips to Boston). Monmouth, Lions, Brooklyn, Morris, New Haven, possibly Old Blue. Top two teams play against NERFU top two; #3 and four against NERFU #3 and #4. EGU D3 would have North (Ithaca, North Buffalo, South Buffalo, Uticuse, Rochester) and South (Danbury, HV, Suffolk, Union, possibly Old Blue, possibly PAC). Playoffs would feature North-South crossover.

Ken also reported he is working on concept for EGU Man, Woman or Club of the Year. Rugby world lost a great man, Bill Campbell, founder of Old Blue and very active within rugby. Award proposed in his honor. Nominations would be open, after a review settle on three or four people to be presented and then a vote of membership. Pat Moroney suggested presenting the award at the EGU Summit. A discussion took place and it was suggested that instead of just one award, present one each for EGU Man, EGU Woman and EGU Club of the Year.

FINANCIALS

Rosalie MacGowan presented on the financials. She said EGU is in good shape with funds, totaling approximately \$60K in cash on hand. She has created an Expense Reimbursement form for EGU Board members and will be working with Jorge on determining moving to a software to track and create financial statements.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin stated that CMS is updated across the board for playoff clubs.

Lex and Pat were on a call for NCR3. Discussion on which clubs would be available based on ARP / D1 (NYAC). Final draft of policy dealt with: Promotion / Relegation (in-line with EGU policy); scheduling (when scheduling must be completed); Wednesday after National Championship - want a proposal for each division; one week later, the committee will approve or no (Lex argued that club needs must be taken into consideration); final schedule target is July 1.

Fall and League season went well. Disappointment was Syracuse forgoing their season early on - but did fulfill their obligations with second side. First round played to form with all top four seeds advancing. NYC Division went to the last weekend for the third seed and wild card to play out.

Fall season - teams looking at starting the last weekend in August, instead of playing Labor Day weekend. Ken Pape said leave option - start August 27 or Labor Day. One caveat is November 5 (All Blacks) and consideration to not play that weekend.

Lex will be working on a proposed realignment of divisions.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Sarah Rutman said she has a set up a conference call for this Sunday evening for Women's clubs. This will be to discuss realignment and other issues. She will also be sending out a survey to gauge interest in realignment. Sarah reviewed CMS and found 20 matches (Women and Men) that were not completed.

SEVENS REPORT

Sean Horan reported all schedules have been distributed. Rules have been updated and posted.

He is working on educating Upstate clubs for the new Upstate 7s Series - Men, Women, HS. Looking to have tournaments registered early (June - May, July - June).

There will be a change in disciplinary for this year's Summer 7s, eliminating committees on-site. One red card received, no review - player is done for day.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney presented SLACK, which is technology for Board to communicate and eliminate email. Encouraged this as a new communication tool for EGU Board. Group will log in and download app to test.

REFEREE REPORT

Brad Kleiner referenced the Tech Zones and Restraints. As the Spring season started, clubs were not fully aware. As the season has moved along, compliance has been more prevalent. Not every club has a clearly defined area - some using cones.

The NYSRRS had some admin issues. Cleared everything up with USA Rugby prior to Spring season. RRSNY built a website and have seen progress. Referees can upload Red Cards to the system.

Looking into an issue from a playoff game last weekend. Protocol used by a referee (advice from touch judge) is in question. Brad does not feel referee was improper - simply looking for more information.

Looking at referee assignments for EGU Cup finals. Need to determine who is going to be assigned and whether travel (NYC to Upstate or vice-versa) is warranted. Ken Pape stated EGU wants the best referees possible covering the EGU finals.

OLD AGENDA ITEMS

Morris Rugby HS: Ken Pape asked for an update on the Morris HS Girls donation. JC Whipple reported the GoFundMe was funded at over \$1000 and the EGU had made its stipend donation to the club. It was decided to leave the GoFundMe open until the club competes at Nationals.

Old Boys League: Lex Maccubbin gathered feedback from a survey of clubs and will create a proposal. There is a possibility of a one-weekend tournament

Randalls Field Requests: Rosalie MacGowan asked for standardization of the request process for Randall's Island. A discussion took place and it was decided the schedule for requests would be posted on the EGU website ASAP.

HP Program 2016: Pat Moroney presented the format for the HP program, which would commence in Summer 2016. Empire Cup 15s would benefit Men's and Women's athletes and provide a Regional Tracking Camp in Saratoga (June 11). Select-side announcement would come following the Camp. A full schedule for Select Side would include one-day camps in July / November, Can-Ams and Nov Game. Empire 7s Selects would announce side after Empire 7s and will compete at Can-AMs and NY7s. The total number of rugby-involved folks would = 326 (athletes, coaches, managers, referees, staff). Ken Pape said he is prepared to move on EGU HP. Not ready for Northeast Academy. Sean Horan said he feels it will work. Ken said funding is there based on financials, concern is timeline. A discussion took place on budgeting. Following, Ken Pape motions that EGU approves budget for Budget A (\$29,590), Budget B (\$20,340) or Budget C (no approval). Pat Moroney seconded the motion. Motion for Budget A passes, 8-0. EGU High Performance will be funded at \$29,590.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator