

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 15, 2016

The Executive Board met via conference call on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, at 9:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Absent: Sean Horan (ED Sevens), Jorge Quintana (VP Operations),

Clubs: John Ziembicki (Long Island)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:38 p.m. A quorum was in place.

LONG ISLAND

Ken Pape asked John Ziembicki (Long Island) their preference for the coming season. John stated the club would prefer to compete at D2. John said they will have 20-25 players this season, with possibly more joining.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape stated that White Plains will remain in D2. CT Yankees will be coming under a vote for allocation as well. Lex Maccubbin said that Brett Willis of NCR3 has been in contact with CT Yankees. A vote by the NCR3 Board has taken place and CT Yankees will be moved to D2. Lex stated Ken should expect a notification on the vote by tomorrow morning.

Lex said this move would create an imbalance within EGU schedules and the number of games played within certain divisions. Crossovers would be necessary among divisions.

Ken said to move forward with CT Yankees in D3 and keep presented schedule as it stands. He is confident CT Yankees will win its appeal. Ken stated EGU will be filing an appeal to USA Rugby.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape said that USA Rugby has asked for financial assistance with the National Championship Series, of which the EGU had three teams compete in. USA Rugby has asked for \$3000, should EGU approve stipend, it would receive \$3000 of in-kind services for the EGU Summit.

Rosalie MacGowan raised the question of whether USA Rugby is cash-poor and that is another discussion. Ken said he made an agreement with USA Rugby to supply advanced services for the Summit and it will be an overall benefit, saving EGU a significant amount of money.

In regards to the High Performance weekend, Ken stated that he is thankful for the number of Board members who took part. It was a great weekend of Rugby and went almost seamlessly.

FINANCIALS

Rosalie MacGowan said EGU financials will be moving over to QuickBooks. This will allow for all the EGU records to be stored in one central location and will meet standards and compliance more efficient. Rosalie is working on a How-To on how EGU Financials operate. The goal is to get everything streamlined and start looking ahead strategically one- and two-years ahead.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Sarah Rutman said a final schedule was distributed two weeks ago. NCR3 sent out a playoff proposal - top two teams go to D1, seeds three, four and five go to D2.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin and the Board referenced the previous topics on club allocation for the Fall season. A more detailed discussion took place on scheduling, travel and impact on respective divisions.

SEVENS REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan said the opening round of the 7s Series is kicking off this weekend (June 18). Rosalie made a note that if Women's team want to earn a spot in Nationals, they must register for Saratoga. If a team does enter Saratoga, they are no longer eligible to win EGU Championship.

USA Rugby is not able to provide CMS. An online roster site and tournament responsibility docs have been established. A Northeast 7s website has been established and linked off the EGU website. A discussion took place on Summer 7s transfers.

REFEREE REPORT

Brad Kleiner said that he and Sean McKenna of New England met to cover future assignments and will entail referees crossing over for 7s tournaments. Brad is also involved in the National 7s Referees group - not high volume of referees available nationally. EGU is in good shape with the number of referees we have. Brad said that clubs should encourage for folks to get involved through the referee society to become an established referee.

Ken asked that Brad be prepared for promotion / relegation matches.

HP REPORT

Pat Moroney reported on the HP weekend in Saratoga, hosted by Saratoga Rugby Club. Saturday was set up as part of the National Tracking Camp for USA Rugby. 130 athletes took part - morning was skills and agilities, afternoon saw scrimmages. Sunday was the Empire Cup - numbers were not as hoped.

Women's had 22 athletes eligible, nine were elected to advance to next round. Pat said Men's program was in similar position.

Pat noted that Steve Lewis was on-site to scout for the new PRO Rugby League and there should be opportunities for athletes coming. He is confident it will be in a stronger position next year at this time. Pat commended Sean Horan on all the work he put in to make the weekend a great success. From the Board, Ken, Lex, Rosalie, Sarah and Pat were in attendance.

Pat said he hoped that Saratoga would consider joining EGU in the future. The club is ambitious and has the backing of the City, with great access to facilities.

NEW BUSINESS

Ken said not much to report as the National Office is preparing for Italy.

A discussion took place on the EGU AGM. Board intentions and vote. Meeting will be a GoToWebinar (\$199). JC Whipple asked that all Board members seeking re-election provide a summary of their candidacy in advance of June 24 - this will be distributed and posted to the members. All others from the membership seeking election will be afforded same opportunity/

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator