

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 8, 2018

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, January 8, 2018, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Michael Crafton (VP Operations), Pat Moroney (VP Communications), Jennifer Salomon (VP Finance), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Jennifer Jones (ED Women), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator), Melanie Pastuck (Village Lions)

Clubs: None

Absent: Rosalie MacGowan (ED Sevens),

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 p.m. A quorum was in place.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape said Melanie Pastuck is joining the call to discuss Youth Rugby within EGU. Melanie said she has heard from a number of members regarding Youth and some confusion. She said there are about 50 variations of youth rugby rules and programming. She is advising EGU to standardize the rule set, what other successful programs are doing nearby, training, etc.

Pat Moroney said Rugby NJ put standardized rules in place last year. Billy McKinley (Union) would be the person to talk to on this. Lex Maccubbin offered Rugby NY would be a good resource as they have a working infrastructure in place.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Jenn Salomon asked if anyone had any questions on the budget she sent out last evening. Lex Maccubbin said the Challenge Cup stipends were not included - it was originally proposed as \$750 to the winner and \$250 to the second-place team. This will be tabled for a review at the next meeting.

Ken Pape said a reduction in the Men's HP budget would not be appropriate as the cycle is current. There was a discussion on the funding for Men's and Women's HP. The proposed funding for Men's HP (Upstate, NY, NJ) will have a budget of \$18K and the Women's HP is \$10K. Michael Crafton said with current budgeting, there would need to be use of reserves to apply funding in these areas. He asked if there should be consideration given to participants paying some portion. Michael said he feels the proposed line items need some more detail to ensure clarity.

A discussion took place on the creation of budgets with insight from Pat Moroney, Lex Maccubbin and Gary Heavner. Rosalie MacGowan said she would like to see a program fee, similar to a tour fee, for players to invest in the program.

Jen Jones asked about the trophy line item. Following a discussion, it was agreed the line needs to be increased to account for all competitions.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney said everyone should have received an email regarding an invitation to join Slack. He feels strongly that the Board should move its primary communication to this medium. It allows a more chat-like conversation and is a more robust and modern system. He said we are at the free level of Slack currently.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said he sent out some proposed edits to the Policy Manual for review. Clubs are being finalized for the Challenge Cup as some clubs have declined.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Jen Jones said she sent out a survey to all Women's clubs and asked multiple reps from within each club (64 responses total). The big takeaway was the lack of rostered players present at games (75% responded less than 19 players). There is consideration for D1 to compete with NERFU and D2/D3 compete within EGU. Discussions are taking place now.

SEVENS REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan said everything is moving along well. She has adjusted the timeline for the applications. She said there will probably be an adjustment to the 7s schedule this summer as there are the same number of applications.

Ken Pape said the Board needs to discuss the bond refund to Village Lions. Rosalie said the last correspondence was a voicemail to Rich Gallina saying if they would like to appeal, they could follow the process she described. Pat Moroney said Village Lions wants to appeal the reduction of refund by \$250. Pat said he will connect with Rich in the morning. Pat said he feels the \$750 should be paid back to VL and then let the appeal play out for the balance.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner was having computer issues at the time. He passed along there are three upcoming referee courses and they have and will be publicized in the newsletter.

NCR3 REPORT

There has not been an NCR3 meeting since the last EGU Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Ken Pape said the Board approved a new position, VP of Governance. Ken asked that JC post the position announcement and solicit nominations (deadline by February 12). Ken said he would like the Board to consider installing a temporary VP Governance. A discussion took place and it was determined that filling the position on an interim basis was not possible due to the Bylaws. Nominations will be solicited from the membership and the Board will vote on those nominees.

NEW BUSINESS

Medical Guidelines Review

This will be tabled until the next Board meeting

Review of Teams Fielding Multiple Sides (Expectations)

Lex Maccubbin is proposing a change to the language requiring the higher division match be played first.

Review Post-Match Score Reporting

Lex Maccubbin is proposing new requirements for clubs to fulfill CMS immediately following a match (with sanctions and penalties for non-compliance)

Schedule Changes - Seasonality

Ken Pape and Lex Maccubbin will speak offline and connect with Lori Staples on this matter.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator