

**EGU Women's Fall Review**  
**Minutes**  
**December 16, 2015**

**Agenda**

Develop an ODA Academy Upstate  
Upstate Sevens Series  
Empire Sevens  
NRU Sevens  
Review of Fall Season

**On Call:**

- From the Board: Sean, Pat, Lex, and Sarah.
- Teams on Call: Uticuse, Village Lions, Morris, Old Blue
- Teams that did not call in indicated that and wrote in.

**ODA**

Sean presented what the Olympic Development Academy (ODA) does. The ODA acts as a pathway for players to the national team. They hosts men and women, 15's and 7's for players 18 and Up, with hopes of going into youth. They do several domestic and international tournaments throughout the year.

Located in New York and Boston, we are trying to get a few coaches and/or team representative's to have one in the Upstate New York area with one or two fields to use for practice and to balance out travel for players to those practices.

We find it to be vital and useful to have. It will develop better rugby and create a bigger player pool to be represented at the regional and national level.

**Empire Sevens Series & Upstate NY Series**

Most of the tournaments are downstate and participation is usually from those teams. However, that is not good for Upstate teams. Lex wants to put together an upstate series with at least 3 tournaments with men, women, and high school brackets. This is internal (Empire GU) based series.

## **NRU Sevens Series**

This series consist of 2 NERFU and 2 Empire GU sevens, with top teams competing at an invitational tournament for bids to nationals.

## **Review of Fall Season**

Since there were so few teams on call, those on call gave me insight from their clubs experience or issues during the season. Given, I had also spoken to other teams either via email or in person during the or towards the ends season as well.

From the meeting itself, upstate division 3, division 1 and 2 were covered.

For upstate division 3, there was a struggle in numbers for many teams that resulted in a technical forfeit; however every game was played except one. Those games were in 7's, 10's, 12's, or 13's with various time setups based on what the teams agreed to. After each of those games, a match report was given to me with scores. It was more important are playing and developing, rather than forfeit and not play at all.

For division 2, the only concern brought up was travel. This was partly due to Beantown's D2 side fold close to the start of the season. During August many emails went between the NERFU women's director, the head of the CR-3 committee, and myself along with a conference call to work out what to do.

An entirely new schedule was drafted to make more balance with home/away games. However, since many teams depend using public fields and booking EMT/Trainers far in advance it seem unwise for an executive decision on short notice. We put up the remaining teams on what schedule they wanted.

Option 1) The original schedule with whichever team played Beantown would have an extra bye and the two teams who did not play them, but played each other that game would cancelled out. Each team would have 6 games, but to satisfy the USAR 7 game minimum, for league matches, a playoff was impose. Top 8 (out of 9) were taken with higher seed hosting and to be play November 7, 14, or 21 depending on home field availability.

Option 2) Accept an entirely new schedule with 3 away and 3 home games. The 7 league games rule would have to have been over ridden and an appeal made, given the situation with USAR and CR-3 Committee.

The division 2 teams voted in favor of the original schedule with the playoff.

For division 1, for most teams it there redevelopment for clubs. The scoreboards from the fall and shifts in league alignment indicated all the things clubs were going through. The NERFU division 1 teams had been going through similar things.

### **Next Fall Season**

For the 2016-2017 competitive cycle (next fall season), I am currently in the early stages of realigning the divisions. Come January, I will present it to everybody for feedback, based on what you all have/will tell me this week and to come. Late spring another email will go out for fall schedule requests so I can take them with me into drafting the fall schedule. Shortly thereafter, the schedule will come out for review before it is finalized by early summer.

### **Things Not Discussed**

1) I did not go too far into the issue with the number of forfeits that occurred for upstate division 3. There was only one team from upstate on the call, so having a productive discussion was not going to occur. From numerous emails over the fall, those teams had recruitment campaigns and were still struggling. Ideally, teams like playing with and against full squads, but at the end of the day I would like teams to play the best they can with what they have within reason in order to develop as a league.

2) For sevens, a mass email to our membership will go out with all the tournaments and details. If there are questions, let Sean or I know.

The only clarification I for see is the difference in pathways between the NRU and Empire Series to nationals this summer. In years past, the men did the NRU series and the women did the Empire series. With top teams going to an invitational tournament, that last few and this summer being in Saratoga. Since an upstate series is in the planning stages, I am not a hundred percent sure.

### **End Note**

If there is anything to add or missed, concerns, or question, do not hesitate to speak up or ask.