

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 8, 2017

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, May 8, 2017, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Pat Moroney (VP Communications), Rosalie MacGowan (VP Finance), Sharon Berger (VP Operations), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Angela Corpus (ED Women), Sean Horan (ED Sevens), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator), Gary Heavner (DC Chair)

Absent: None

Membership: Alex Ramsey (Monmouth), Andy Buck

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:09 p.m. A quorum was in place.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape

FINANCIAL REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan provided an overview of the financial status. EGU is approaching end of the CIPP cycle and the close of receiving funds from USA Rugby. She brought attention to the HP program and \$9000 already spent and raised questions

Rosalie encouraged everyone to be judicious regarding expenses. In sorting through IRS issues, there is a possibility of paying fines.

Ken Pape added that the \$9000 already spent for HP is included in the \$30K allocated to HP. He also stated that Rosalie's budget / financial statement does not include over \$30K carried forward from 15-16 budget year. A discussion took place regarding the budget, money rolled forward from 15-16 (approx. \$35K),

Pat Moroney added that he shares in Rosalie's concern with the IRS issues and that it is an unknown. Rosalie said she would suggest EGU hiring someone to work through this issue and sort it out once and for all. Ken said he would support that and also MetNY should also be contacted regarding responsibility in tax matters.

Pat said the action items would be Rosalie identifying someone to help work through the IRS issue and Ken connecting with Michael Crafton

A discussion took place on budget, appropriate amount of cash reserves, organizational communication. Questions arose where the funding for the USA Eagle players is coming from - reserves carried forward or another budget line. Clarity is needed on this matter.

Ken Pape added that one team (Morris) will be moving to USA Nationals so a team stipend will be coming soon. Gary Heavner added that NYAC will be participating as well.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney said there is nothing to report at this time.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said the Morris men will be moving on. Fairfield lost to Saratoga by a point. Lex reached out to all the clubs to identify whether they were looking to move up, stay as-is or add an additional side. His goal is to have a draft schedule complete in the next couple weeks and can be discussed at the next meeting. The league structure needs to be to NCR3 by July 1.

Lex brought up the matter of clubs moving up / requirement on moving up. He said he discussed with Fairfield the possibility of having a D2 and D3 sides in the fall.

Angela Corpus said NCR3 documents where teams finish and suggestions on clubs which should move up in levels of competition. Ken asked if the promotion / relegation criteria has been approved by USA Rugby. A discussion took place on promotion / relegation and any necessary challenge matches.

Ken said he had discussions over the weekend with Saratoga regarding their intentions on joining EGU. He said Saratoga indicated they are still interested. An official letter is necessary from Saratoga to initiate this process.

Lex said a number of clubs have indicated they would like to complete the entire season in the Fall. It was discussed that an open weekend should be allocated for a USA Eagles match. Lex said clubs with D2 and D3 sides are interested in having clubs play same number of matches. Rosalie MacGowan asked if there was the possibility of creating a spring competition for clubs not qualifying for playoffs. Brad Kleiner said previous discussion on this were an issue because there was no advance knowledge of where games would be played. If the schedule is set in advance (by completing season in Fall), it would work. Lex, Rosalie and Ken will discuss.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Angela Corpus said the Women will need a significant restructure as several clubs are looking to separate out into distinct divisions. She said the schedule and travel were prohibitive for a number of clubs. Ken Pape said there needs to be further discussion on this and EGU will make decisions based on what is best for EGU and its members.

Morris and Monmouth did a really nice job in Saratoga over the weekend. While both lost, they both played very well. Angela said this shows the Women's program continues to grow in EGU.

Ken said Angela was the Match Commissioner at the Crossover this weekend and did a great job.

NCR3 REPORT

Angela Corpus there was a proposal put in front of the committee to prevent teams from same conference playing each other in first round.

SEVENS REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan said with Lex's help, the third and final Upstate 7s Series was slotted to Binghamton. Blazing 7s will be the final competition for the Series. All the hosts have submitted their deposits - they will receive deposit back if they are proficient in four areas for their competition.

She said there was some confusion over Princeton and Rockaway, which both indicated interest in inclusion in the Series. Both were declined, but will be hosting non-league tournaments. Rosalie encouraged the referees to schedule the EGU Series tournaments first prior to any allocations for non-league events.

National Championships will be in Minneapolis the second weekend of August.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner said playoff coverage went very well. During the down time between 15s and 7s, he will be working on a few projects. There will be a Q&A event with the match referees for the USA-Ireland match.

A referee clinic is being planned for the last weekend in June. A course is also in development for the Saranac weekend. An online evaluation system is now available where match video can be uploaded, coded and reviewed. Referees can receive more immediate feedback on their game management.

Ken Pape said Andy Buck was invited to the call. Ken said he receives emails and comments from the membership regarding referee match assignments. Andy said assignments are published a week or so in advance of matches. Generally speaking, there is a balance between assigning the most experienced referees with those less advanced. There has been a significant effort placed on referee coaching and support. It is always the goal to pair the level of referee with the level of the match.

Ken asked how a specific referee is allocated to a certain match. Andy said while more art than science, assignments are based on a variety of factors: fitness, management, history of clubs (style of play, etc), availability of referee to travel are all considered.

The mentoring program was discussed. Andy said there is now a more formal referee coaching system in place. The higher-certified referees are available to watch and review referees at all levels. Brad Kleiner said that program has been advanced this season. In many cases, the more senior referee will stay, watch and review the less senior referee (ie when D2/D3 matches are held at same site). There have been positives with referee development because of this.

To enhance continued referee development, Andy said one of the most important things that can happen is for clubs to record every match.

Ken said he will propose to the Board an addition to match day policy it be required for every club to complete a referee evaluation for each match. Ken also said he would ask any Board member who is a certified referee, they cover at least one (1) match during a 7s Series event this year.

DISCIPLINE REPORT

Gary Heavner said there is one outstanding item due to lack of communication from player in question, he will reach out to club to expedite. Everything else is updated and posted.

NEW BUSINESS

Old Blue

Gary Heavner said there are a number of issues to be discussed, but would ask they be included at the next meeting due to the lengthy discussion. He did say there are Old Blue players who were not mentioned as possible WC members included in subsidy from EGU. Ken Pape said the players identified were brought forward by Pete Steinberg. Kate Daly was not on Pete's original list and Ken reached out to her directly. The other players in question are college players who transfer CIPP for Summer 7s.

AGM

A discussion took place on best dates to hold the AGM. The weekend of July 22-23 seems to be the best option. Ken Pape asked Rosalie and Sharon Berger to identify location and financial feasibility for potential in-person site.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator