

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 8, 2019

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, April 8, 2019, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ken Pape (President), Rich Gallina (VP Operations), Melanie Pastuck (VP Communications), Gary Heavner (VP Governance), Lex Maccubbin (ED Men), Jennifer Jones (ED Women), Rosalie MacGowan (ED Sevens)

Absent: Jennifer Salomon (VP Finance)

Non-Voting Members: J.C. Whipple (Administrator), Brad Kleiner (ED Referees)

Clubs: Rochester Women (Leah), Monmouth Women (Alexandria)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 p.m. A quorum was in place. The meeting is being recorded.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape said Jenn Salomon will not be present this event as she is traveling back from Hong Kong after representing Mexico in the HSBC 7s.

Rochester-Monmouth Women (Field Issue)

As it stands now, Rochester forfeited the match to Monmouth. Ken Pape said EGU is still waiting for a report at the pitch from the referee and societies. Ken asked Brad Kleiner to reach out to the society on the issue. There was an issue with the quality of the pitch and the referee deemed the field unplayable. The dispute is what actually transpired and what took place thereafter.

Leah (Rochester Women) said the referee approached her about an area of the field was deemed unplayable. The team investigated whether another field in close proximity was not allowed to be used. Rochester found a field at local college for a 3:15p kickoff. Monmouth refused the kickoff as it would put the team home too late. Leah there was never a time that Rochester agreed to a forfeit and that was determined by the referee.

Alex (Monmouth) said the club traveled up and was ready to play for a 1pm kickoff. She said there were numerous 6" holes around the pitch. She said the club called around to assist in finding another field. The field secured for 3:15p kickoff was 40 minutes north, which would require a second warmup and fatigue. It was heard from multiple sources that it was known the field was unplayable well in advance of the match date. Leah (Rochester) refuted this as the Rochester Aardvarks confirmed the field was playable and she walked the field herself.

Ken Pape recused himself from the inquiry and discussion as a CIPPd member of Monmouth Rugby Club. He asked Rich Gallina to take over the lead on the discussion. Jen Jones said she has some information which will be forwarded to the Board.

Rich Gallina said the next steps would be for the Board to discuss and hold a vote. He has confidence that the right determination would be made based on the evidence at hand and the rules in place. Due to the implications at hand with playoffs, a vote will take place tonight.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Per above, Jenn Salomon was not present. She will be providing a Financial update to the Board via email in the coming days.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Rich Gallina said he is working on a promotion-relegation / league structure and will discuss with the Men's and Women's directors. Later in the meeting will be a discussion on the DC Chair. Lex Maccubbin asked for clarity on the promotion-relegation / league structure

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Melanie Pastuck said while it does not apply directly to Communications, she has been working with Toby Butterfield on the Randalls Island permit applications. A discussion took place on the proposed dates for Fall 2019 and any potential bye weeks.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said playoffs have gotten to the final stage following the opening weekend. The finals will be held next weekend. It was discussed that Union would host the Crossover. Lex is proposing if Buffalo wins both D2 and D3, he feels Buffalo should host. The Challenge Cup finals will be held on April 13. Lex asked if ARs are covered for playoff Finals. Ken Pape said the Championship officials are covered by EGU.

WOMEN'S REPORT

Jen Jones provided a report for the opening weekend of the playoffs. She said the Rochester-Monmouth issue will need to be resolved. There is a conversation taking place on the crossover with NERFU and how that will play out based on EGU seeds (1v2, 2v1). Ken Pape said he will discuss with Lori Staples as there has been an agreement in place for the past several years. Jen said she feels there needs to be more attention to the forfeits from the Fall. A discussion took place on club viability, club building, infrastructure (Women and Men).

SEVENS REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan said for the Men's Northeast Qualifiers there are four dates and three venues confirmed. There will be a predetermined, closed field. For the Northeast Women there will be three tournaments - this year will see NERFU host two of the three. Dates and sites are confirmed. Women will have to play in two tournaments to be eligible and it will be a closed field.

For EGU Summer 7s, it will be reduced from five dates to four (and potentially three). These will be a pre-lim to the Northeast. 10 applications were received, with seven being strong.

Ken Pape asked if there was a way, based on the interest of the number of application, for it to be possible to expand the number of EGU tournaments from three to xxx. Rich Gallina asked if there was play or financial fatigue and to identify issues. Rosalie said there is a significant drop-off near the end of the series schedule. She said the hope is for the reduction to put emphasis on the quality of EGU tournaments and also the Northeast series. Rosalie said there were no takers on hosting June 1 or June 8. A discussion took place on health, numbers, financial impact on clubs and the related likelihood outcome for the series. Rosalie said seven clubs were all only able to host on one specific date. This led to the reduction of the number of EGU dates.

GOVERNANCE REPORT

Gary Heavner said he doesn't have anything to report.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner said there is a potential situation regarding playoffs and a need for funding. There is no referee scheduled for the Men's D2 Final. Brad said he is working with Percy and is seeking a qualified referee. Lex Maccubbin mentioned the possibility of a referee coming down from Ontario to cover the match. Brad said the further the reach, the more the inherent cost. Brad said he will keep everyone informed.

NCR3 REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said there was one item of business conducted via email. The NCR3 voted to allow a coverage of matches to permit

NEW BUSINESS

DC Chair

Ken Pape said to Rich Gallina he would like to move for the removal of the DC Chair. He asked if this would need to go to the Appeals Chair. A discussion took place, the current Committee would be Ken Pape, Rich Gallina and the Director of the opposite gender.

Ken Pape made a motion to remove the current DC Chair, Jasmine Rivera. Second by Rosalie MacGowan. Vote: Yes - Rich Gallina, Gary Heavner, Lex Maccubbin, Jennifer Jones, Rosalie MacGowan, Ken Pape. Motion passes, 6-0.

Ineligible Player

Lex Maccubbin said in the D2 Challenge Cup, NYAC helped to fill the field. It was noted an ineligible player took part in a match and the player was not registered on USA Rugby CMS, therefore NYAC used an ineligible player. Lex had previously made the Cup rules aware (including use of ineligible players). NYAC confirmed via email, from Tony Nash, the player was not CIPPD. -er the use of ineligible player, Bayonne would win the Challenge Cup division and advance to finals. Lex said his recommendation is a forfeit awarded in favor of Bayonne.

Vote: Yes - Rich Gallina, Gary Heavner, Lex Maccubbin, Jennifer Jones, Rosalie MacGowan, Ken Pape. Vote passes, 6-0. Bayonne is awarded the forfeit win.

Rochester-Monmouth Women (Field Issue)

Rich Gallina said there should be a vote held in consideration of the playoff timeline. A discussion took place on

Rich Gallina made a motion that the issue at hand flip a coin on the. Seconded by Rosalie MacGowan. A discussion took place that both teams took no egregious acts and based on the policies in place, the coin flip is the most fair way to resolve.

Vote: Yes - Gary Heavner, Rosalie MacGowan, Rich Gallina. Motion passes, 3-0. Abstain: Lex Maccubbin, Jennifer Jones, Ken Pape

A determination was made that heads-tails would be determined by alphabetical order. Monmouth would be heads, Rochester tails.

Rich Gallina conducted the coin flip via video conference. A 1983 US Quarter was used and the flip landed heads (Monmouth). Jen Jones will let teams know of the outcome via email, JC Whipple will post the outcome to the website.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator