

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 21, 2018

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, May 21, 2018, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Clubs: Village Lions (Quin / Sashi)

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 p.m. A quorum was in place.

RANDALL'S ISLAND - VILLAGE LIONS

Quin Works thanked the Board for the time. She said the club wanted to raise the issue to the Board of the current state of Randall's Island and the replacement of the turf (sand as compared to pellets). The club's Athletic Training partner, Fusion, has said there is a cause for concern of staph infection, exchange of bodily fluids, fellow EGU clubs have raised issue and traveling clubs have raised issue. The club has documented these injuries through a number of photos. Sashi added that this is a danger and will be an on-going issue.

Ken Pape stated that this is a unique situation. He asked if Village Lions can take the lead on drafting a letter to NYC Parks from the EGU-member clubs, including statements from Fusion, photos, documented issues, etc. Ken did state that this would ultimately be in the hands of NYC Parks.

Brad Kleiner stated that he has personally seen issues during games this year. Previously, injuries may have been similar to a rug-burn, now there are open wounds with dripping fluids.

At the conclusion of discussion, Ken asked JC Whipple to coordinate a working group amongst the clubs which are regularly allocated time at Randalls.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ken Pape said he was going to discuss the survey EGU put out to membership and the open tasks the Board has in front of it.

Regarding the emergency USA Rugby Congress call, there are a number of Board members resigning due to the RIM report (licensing fees). Congress has asked for a special election of two Board members to assist in the transition. The initial RIM report said the funding will not meet the initial obligations.

A Board member was requested to resign, but the vote did not pass. The member in question did in fact resign of their own accord.

There were questions about the Rugby 7s World Cup and the Wales match. USA Rugby is in a dire financial position.

SEVENS REPORT

Rosalie MacGowan said the Summer Series in good position - five for men, four for women. She spoke with the organizations who did not receive bids this summer. There is a big push to get the referee societies from New England, Upstate and NY on the same page as summer is a time for vacation. Women's clubs

have until June 6 to submit registration for National Championships and also to submit bond for hosting. She is also working on the play-through system for tournaments. Rosalie said she would like to make a motion to award the winner of D2 & D3 a \$750 stipend and a \$250 award to the second-place clubs.

BYLAW MOTIONS

Motion #1: Amend the bylaw to read: Section 3.09.LOSS OF “GOOD STANDING” STATUS BY MEMBERS. A member shall lose its voting rights in the Union and become “not in good standing” as a result of its failure to meet *all* of its financial obligations to the Union, including its dues, *levys, charges, fines and assessments.*

Opposition: None

Motion #2: Amend the bylaw to read: Section 4.03.REMOVAL OF OFFICERS. Any Officer may be removed by a *two-thirds [simple]* majority of the votes cast at a meeting of the members of the Union, providing a quorum is present and notice of this action has been given under Section 3.04.

Opposition: None

Motion #3: Amend the bylaw to read: 6. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – REFEREES. The Executive Director – Referees represents the interest of the Referees Society on the Executive Committee. *This officer position is a non-voting member of the Executive Committee.*

Opposition: None

Motion #4: Amend the bylaw to DELETE in its entirety:

10. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – COLLEGE. The Executive Director – College represents the interests of college rugby.

Opposition: None

Motion #5: Amend the bylaw to DELETE most of the current bylaw so that it now reads: Section 5.02.DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE.

(A) PURPOSE. The Disciplinary Committee shall have jurisdiction over member clubs (including players, coaches, and others affiliated with the member clubs) in matters of conduct on, or associated with, the field-of-play.

In addition, the Disciplinary Committee shall have jurisdiction over member clubs (including players, coaches, and others affiliated with the member clubs) in matters of conduct off the field-of-play that reflect upon the game of Rugby Union Football and jeopardize the interests of the game.

(B) OPERATION. The Empire Union Disciplinary Committee shall conform to all current World Rugby and USA Rugby disciplinary guidelines and regulations.

Opposition: None

POLICY CHANGES

Policy Motions

Motion #1: Authorize the waiver of all Empire CIPP/dues and fees for all college players transferring to the Empire for 7s seasons.

Opposition: None

Motion #2: Authorize the creation of a committee to investigate our future relationship with the Northeast Academy and other academy programs.

Opposition: None

Motion #3: Change the score for a recorded forfeit to 28-0 (4 tries) for the winning team.

Opposition: None

A discussion took place on the validity of a recent vote for NCR3 Chair and the previous motion will be discussed. Additional policy motions will be tabled for further consideration.

The above Bylaw and Policy changes were approved by unanimous vote.

TABLED MOTIONS

The following motions were tabled for further consideration by the Board:

Motion #8

Authorize the creation of a committee to investigate improprieties in the leadership of the NCR3.

Tabled

Motion #9

Authorize the creation of a committee to investigate the possibilities of creating our own referee assignment panel.

Tabled

Motion #7

Authorize the VP Governance to spend \$15,000 to hire an attorney to apply for 501c3 designation.

Tabled

Motion #12

Stipulate that the AGM shall also be considered a Meeting of the Members of the MetNY Union, and authorize the VP Governance to do whatever is needed to run a Meeting of the Members of the MetNY Union to effectuate the transfer of monies remaining in the MetNY accounts.

Tabled

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Pat Moroney said there has been a lot going on and his recent travels have brought insight to bringing non-traditional populations into the game, especially women. Pat will provide a report to the Board within in the next three weeks.

MEN'S REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said he is working on the 2018-19 schedule. Long Island won the Elite 8 and advance to the National Championship. and Morris lost to Detroit Trademan in the Elite

WOMEN'S REPORT

Jen Jones said there is a lot going on with the Women right now. She will have a more formal report for next meeting and will keep Ken apprised of developments.

REFEREES REPORT

Brad Kleiner said the playoffs and Challenge Cup were completely covered. There were some issues with referees being paid by EGU - he will work with JC Whipple to expedite payment to those referees.

NCR3 REPORT

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS

AGM Date / Board Candidates

Ken Pape asked JC Whipple to poll the Board members as to their intentions for re-election. Ken proposed a tentative date of July 15. The meeting will be announced via newsletter and requests for Board candidates presented.

Competition Windows

Ken Pape said the proposed competition windows are as follows:

August 1 - November 15: EGU League play

February 1 - May 31: Tournaments, Select Side, All-Stars *

June 1-July 15: EGU 7s

** D2 Men's Champions will compete against D2 Select Side. D3 Men's Champions will compete against the Men's Select second side. D2 Women's Champions will compete against the Women's Select Side.*

Michael Crafton said he is concerned with putting the league competition into one window as clubs advancing to Nationals would not be prepared for a competitive run. Gary Heavner said it will take some time for members to wrap their heads around a change and also to present to USA Rugby that contesting a Championship almost 10 months after the start of a cycle is asinine. Brad Kleiner suggested extending the 7s window to the third week of July.

Newsletter Advertising

Ken Pape said he feels there needs to be a review of advertising within the newsletter. A discussion took place on the validity of requests for inclusion.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
J.C. Whipple
EGU Administrator