

MARFU Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Sunday, March 9, 2008

Location: Courtyard Springfield, 6710 Commerce Street, Springfield, VA 22150

[The Minutes were approved via on-line vote on Thursday, July 24, 2008.]

The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 10:15 AM.

Roll Call: President (Kris Kabza), Secretary (David Chapman), Treasurer (Pat Costello), Past President (Elaine Rechiutti; arrived at 10:45); VRU Reps: Carl Schmitt, Shannon Plum, George Durocher; PRU Reps: Eric Pittelkau, Maria Vastola, Jason Wallach (arrived at 11:18); EPRU Reps: Carl Ostermann (arrived at 10:45), Susan Martinko (arrived at 11:07). Absent: VP (Tom Lyons), Bob Weir (EPRU Rep).

Minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Medical: Bryan McCloskey, ATC, West Chester University Women (WCU W).

Bryan came to discuss medical care for rugby competitions and provided a presentation and arguments on why clubs need to implement this for all games. Some clubs have been successful in doing this and Bryan wants to cascade what certain teams and areas are doing to all of the clubs in the region. Additionally, he discussed the need to have an Emergency Action Plan.

Eric asked about the situation with WCU Men and whether they have access to a trainer, since Bryan cannot assist them due to liability reasons. WCU Men do not have permanent access to someone, but must have, at a minimum, an EMT at their games.

Kris asked Bryan what his opinion regarding the minimum level of medical coverage should be. Bryan offered that personnel should have advanced medical training (i.e., at least EMT training). Additionally, coaches should have training in basic CPR.

Carl S. discussed contacting all of the college/university institutions to remind and encourage them of the need for medical coverage at games.

Kris suggested that a Medical Development Committee be set up and said that he would talk to Eric (PRU President), Carl S. (VRU President), and Steve Cohen (EPRU President) to discuss formation. Shannon added that policy needed to be created to actually get something done. Pat interjected that action on this should be accomplished by the next Board meeting.

Ambassador's Shield: Jason Frost, NZ Embassy.

Jason asked to address to Board about developing further partnerships for the yearly Ambassador's Shield event and his interest in starting to plan earlier. Jason believes that

the potential exists to raise the profile of the match. Currently, attendance is around 800-1000, but he would like to get this up to 2000. He discussed some misconceptions about seemingly event-related fundraising for Hyde High School (e.g., much of it is done by corporate fundraising that the school would receive anyway, event or no event). Eric mentioned conflicts with Men's Club D1 & D2 league schedules; however, it was noted that this is the nature of the beast given the time of the year. Maria and Jason Frost will work together to get MARFU and the Embassy efforts in-line with each other.

2008 Budget Discussion/Approval

Pat provided the 2007 budget and execution, the 2008 proposed budget, and a narrative. Carl S. made a motion to accept (Carl O. second). The motion was accepted by voice vote.

Elaine discussed dues collection dates. Pat will clarify when he needs the LAU dues and will check what we have on the web site. However, Elaine reiterated that the LAUs must pay on the scheduled dates.

The Board agreed that percentages of LAU dues payments through the year should be 20%, 50%, and 30%. Dues are due on 1/1, 4/15, 10/1, respectively (reference: <http://www.marfu.org/marfudues.html>).

MARFU Name/Brand Usage & Fund Raising

During the winter, there was some discussion between members about the proper and appropriate usage of MARFU's name/brand when programs are fundraising. Kris will talk with Tom on their mutual thoughts/opinions regarding an approval process. Kris stated that he would develop the procedure.

Men's College D1 League - Final Procedure Presentation

Carl S. chatted about the College D1 league plan (sent to Board members via Email) and noted that Radford U. will move up to D1 in the Fall.

Susan asked about Ohio State and Army; Carl and Eric said that there are no current plans to expand this league past the MARFU boundaries.

Kris pointed out three concerns within the document: usage of the term "MARFU", rather than "Committee"; the procedure on the appointment of the Commissioner; and the wording concerning required medical coverage. Carl noted that the teams agreed to medical coverage at their events.

On close-of-business on Friday, 03/14/08, the Board would conduct a final vote.

Men's Club D1/D2 League Play - Fall 2008+.

David C provided details on the revised league system for Men's Club D1 with a new promotion/relegation for D1/D2 starting in Fall 2008 and beyond. He mentioned that the Men's Club 15s Committee had met in person in January and worked/edited a proposal offered by Gerry Timothy (Committee member and an officer with the Schuylkill River RFC). The Committee members went back to their LAUs and reported receiving acceptance of the proposal. No further discussion.

Men's 7s Qualifiers and Championship Location

Susan summarized the 7s report and recommendations. They are suggesting 3 qualifiers (Lehigh Valley, Maryland Exiles, and Norfolk Blues). The MARFU 7s Championship location is TBD, but the date should be in-line with USAR's Championship. The MARFU Championship would include Tier 1 (National Qualifier) and Tier 2 (Open-Only) teams, but each bracket would consist of 6 teams each.

As a result of disciplinary issues last summer, Carl S. noted that the Disciplinary Committee will follow USAR guidelines vice the iRB's for 7s.

There was information and discussion of the new USAR eligibility rules (e.g., inter- and intra-territorial transfer limits).

Motion by Pat (second by Carl S.) to approve the qualifier bids. Accepted on voice vote.

Motion by Carl S. (second by David C) to approve the statements included in sections 1, 2, 5, 6, and 7 of the 7s report: three qualifier tournaments and the MARFU Championship will be held during the 2008 season with the qualifier hosts being Lehigh Valley scheduled on June 7, 2008, Maryland Exiles on June 14, 2008 and Norfolk on July 12, 2008; continue the Tier 2 Qualifier division; decrease the total number of teams participating in each division at MARFU Championships from eight (8) to six (6), which would reduce the total number of matches to win from five (5) to four (4); red cards carry the identical penalty in 7s as they do in 15s; MARFU Sevens Committee will resolve CIPP disputes.). Accepted on voice vote.

By-Laws (re: Congress Members)

There has been some question whether the current by-laws adequately define the current process of seating the MARFU-based USA Congress (formerly, Board of Director) members. Board members entered a discussion regarding a general revision of the by-laws. The Board agreed that we will accept the current representatives, but that a review of the by-laws should go under review.

MARR Web Application Request

David C mentioned that MARR (Len Borcky) had asked about assistance in developing a web application for the referees (storage of assessments, assignment information, etc.). This would have been difficult, given the lack of time that most of us have. However, he mentioned that Tom had sent an Email suggesting a free workaround to and for Len.

MARR

No report.

All Star Coaches (terms, vacancies, reapplications)

Since his election, Kris said that he has worked through who all of the contacts are for the All Star program and will discuss options with any current coaches whose term has expired. Kris and David C are uploading a new web page with clarifications on expirations, as well as clean-up. The W's U19 coach's term was change to 2007-2009.

The Board reviewed a very nice template that Castner and Deremer use in the Women's U19 program. All Star coaches will be encouraged to use the template for their reports.

MARFU Hall of Fame

Elaine mentioned an idea for a virtual Hall of Fame to recognize exceptional past teams and players. She will discuss further at the next meeting.

Support of USAR Events at Pittsburgh Harlequins (PH)

Elaine mentioned the three USAR events that the PH are hosting in May, June, and August. MARFU will provide \$500 to the PH for each of the events to assist with their costs. Elaine encouraged everyone to attend and support these events.

Funding for National Championships

Elaine asked if any of the college teams had asked about assistance for travel to Albuquerque, NM for the Collegiate Championships. To the knowledge of the Board members, there had been no requests as of the meeting date.

New Business

Hotels – Carl suggested a general policy of blocking-out of rooms for MARFU events to ensure there are enough rooms. George mentioned doing this on a month-out basis; however, he noted that clubs need to take some planning responsibility, too. No action.

2008 Meeting Dates and Locations – The next Board meeting will be held on 09/07/2008 and the Annual General Meeting will be held on 12/13/2008. The location for the 09/07/2008 meeting will be at the Courtyard Springfield.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:44 PM.