

DRAFT

MARFU Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Sunday, June 29, 2003

The summer meeting of the MARFU Board was held on June 29, 2003, at the Marriott Courtyard, in Springfield, Virginia.

Present for the Meeting

Reyn Kinzey	VRU
David Chapman	VRU
Elaine Recchuiti	EPRU
Ed Gaffney	PRU
Tom Walsh	PRU

Alan Matas	MARFU President
Patrick Costello	MARFU Treasurer

Guest	Mark Kowai MARR
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Not Present for the Meeting

Carl Schmidt	VRU/Secretary
Eric Pittelkau	PRU
Sean Conroy	EPRU
Carl Osterman	EPRU

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 by the President, and attendance was taken. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted and approved by the Board.

Lightning Policy Dave Chapman

The lightning policy, which was taken from the NCAA's, along with other organization, will be published on the website. There is some question as to how lightning will affect competitions and Dave Chapman stated that he would bring it to the Men's 15s Competition Committee concerning what happens when you have delays/cancellations due to lightning. Pat Costello will be reminding the sevens committee about the rules for delaying the matches for the remaining

qualifiers and the MARFU championships. For additional information on the lightning policy, please see www.marfu.org.

[The motion was introduced by Reyn Kinzey and seconded by Tom Walsh. The vote was unanimous for putting the policy on the web.]

As we all know, thunderstorms are likely to strike within the MARFU area at any time, but more during the summer, early fall, and spring months. If a storm develops and is felt to be dangerously close, you have a duty to postpone your practice, match, or event for safety reasons until the storm has passed. A safe location to wait out the storm is any fully enclosed, substantial building (e.g., locker room, classroom, office building). If a fully enclosed building is not available, a fully enclosed vehicle with a metal roof and the windows completely closed is a reasonable substitute. Do not touch any part of the metal framework while inside the vehicle. Once it is felt that the storm has safely passed, the local event coordinator will inform everyone that the teams can return to practice/event activities.

Here, again, are facts that we would like everyone to understand:

1. The “flash to bang” count of 30 seconds is what we will be using to make a decision to discontinue activity. The NCAA uses this as a guideline for discontinuation of play. If any participant has seen a lightning flash and the ensuing thunderclap can be heard as a count of 30 seconds or less, a storm is dangerously close.

Essentially, a 30 second flash-to-bang means that the storm is 6 miles away (the distance is determined by dividing 5 into the number of seconds, in this case 30). It neither has to be raining nor extremely cloudy for a lightning strike to occur in the area where you are standing.

3. Even though a storm passes miles to the right or left of where you are located, it does not mean that you and those with you are not in potential danger. Lightning has and does strike when a storm is seemingly not a threat. Lightning has been observed striking 10 miles from the storm center.

4. Any practice/match/event that is delayed due to a thunderstorm may resume 30 minutes after the last clap of thunder is heard. This is considered to be a safe period of time

for any storm to clear the area and no longer be a threat. The storm is equally threatening on the back end as it is on the front end or sides.

Motion to Increase Awareness of Safety Issues. Eric Pittelkau was not available to provide additional discussion on this matter. However, the Board was informed that additional safety issue information is supposed to be coming out from the Medical Risk Management Committee of USA Rugby. The suggestion was made that we wait to see what is issued from this Committee and that if Eric wished to bring this back up, it should be so done at the next Board meeting.

Motion to Create MARFU D1/D2 for Senior Women. Elaine Recchuiti discussed this matter. At present, there are five D2 teams in the VRU and two in the EPRU. The PRU only has division one women's teams. Elaine will be going to the three LAUs and discuss this matter with the idea that a competition structure will be set up for calendar year 2004. Elaine will bring back additional information on this matter at the next meeting. Of note, not only must she talk to the affected LAUs and teams, but she will be speaking with the referees concerning their ability to supply referees to the competitions.

Director and Liability Insurance. Pat Costello is tasked to gather additional information on D & O Insurance for the Board. This matter was brought up by Alan Matas. MARFU will pursue the purchase of \$1 million dollars of insurance at a prorated rate. This proposal was introduced by Alan Matas and seconded by Pat Costello. All votes were in favor of the proposal.

Board Coverage of the MARFU Men's Sevens – July 25, 2003 – Washington, DC

The Board was notified that the Hyde School could not host the sevens championships as originally planned. The sevens committee (mainly Jason Maloni) informed Pat Costello that he was working on obtaining another host for the event. Rocky Gorge RFC was contacted with the proposal that Rocky Gorge host the event alongside their Slug Sevens Tournament. Pat Costello tasked with making sure that this event was locked in with a host by 3 July 2003. The Board was reminded that there were two remaining qualifiers – Norfolk and NOVA. Alan Matas volunteered to oversee the sevens event on July 25, 2003.

Allow Motions and Votes via Email – Presented by Alan Matas

The original proposal was: All motions must be approved by a majority of the Executive Board before it would be presented to the MARFU Board of Directors.

Three quarters of the board must vote yes on the motion for it to pass. A 48 hour limit would be placed on voting from the time the MARFU secretary distributes the motion. Any board member not voting would be considered a no vote.

Motion presented by Alan Matas and seconded by Reyn Kinzey. Discussion ensued and the motion was modified (and eventually passed) to the following:

All motions must be approved by a majority of the Executive Board before it would be presented to the MARFU Board of Directors. A simple majority of the board must vote yes on the motion for it to pass. A 48 hour limit would be placed on voting from the time the MARFU secretary distributes the motion. Any board member not voting would be considered an absence.

A vote was called with Tom Walsh and Ed Gaffney voting no. The motion passed.

Consolidation of Team Purchases

It was determined that for purchases by a select side team of over \$200, the vice president and treasurer will make such purchases. Additionally, "bids" will go out to various vendors for the purpose of obtaining an official MARFU Rugby Vendor. This arrangement will be for a period of one year. The thought behind this is this: If there is only one vendor, that vendor should provide better service and also a better price.

Jersey Inventory

It is still unclear what select side jerseys the territory has. Program directors are instructed to inventory their jerseys along with any other equipment they may have and provide a written report to the Board at the next meeting. Additionally, program directors are tasked with providing a "wish list" of items they will want for calendar year 2004. This list will also be provided to the Board at the next meeting. Those results will be taken into account when the budget for 2004 is drafted.

Elaine Recchuiti and Pat Costello were appointed to review travel and lodging costs/plans/reservations for all of the select side teams. They are tasked with working with the teams and getting the best deals for the teams.

Alan Matas submitted a proposal for funding on behalf of Steve Cohen for men's collegiate division III championships. The request was that \$300 be budgeted for calendar year 2004 for this event. The proposal was seconded by Pat Costello. Discussion ensued and a vote was called. The measure was soundly defeated with only Pat Costello voting for the request.

The MARFU LAU Collegiate All Star event will be held November 15 and 16, 2003. Steve Cohen is attempting to find a host for the event.

The MARFU Collegiate Championships will be held March 27 and 28, 2004.

Tom Walsh introduced notes on the select side team (men's 15s) that were prepared by the coach, Lance French. These notes have been previously distribute to the board and will not be included in these minutes. The item that was so glaring was the fact that Schuykill River sent two players to the select side camp. That action was laudable. However, these two players were not CIPPed and there was some question as to whether they played in MARFU division one championship matches. Alan Matas said that he would be speaking with Sean Connor about this problem and will work at ensuring that it does not happen again.

Coaching Certification. The board was reminded that Richmond RFC would be hosting the next coaching clinic in August 2003. The board was further reminded that by January 1, 2004, all clubs must have at least one level one certified coach on the club's rolls. After discussion, the Board reaffirmed its position that if a club has difficulty in meeting this requirement, a request for an exception should be submitted to the MARFU board for a determination on the merits of the request. Kris Kabza raised objections to this requirement.

The discussion turned to what "we" are getting from our various committees. The Board concluded that it needed to have more interaction with the committees, at the TU and USA Rugby level, especially in the areas of youth, high school, and collegiate.

The Board was tasked to review any notes from the past three years stemming from either the TU, LAU, or USA Rugby, that has not been addressed by USA Rugby and/or the TU. Said items should be brought up as topics of discussion at the next Board meeting.

Referees. Mark Kowai addressed the group concerning referees and the lack of referees. He asked that we all go back to our LAUs and local area referees societies and emphasize the lack of referees. It was proposed that MARFU make it a requirement that all players who are selected to play on a select side team must attend a cert 1 course. The players then must referee a set amount of matches during the year. Another idea talked about was the possibility of paying college players to become referees for high school and youth matches. It was brought up that a college player would likely not have classes on Friday afternoon and if they could referee, then the other referees would be relieved from this duty. It was further thought that a college player might like the idea of making some money as a result of the refereeing assignment.

These minutes were prepared by Reyn Kinzey, covering for Carl Schmitt who could not be present.

The meeting was called to a close at approximately 3:15 p.m., by Alan Matas. The next meeting will be September 7, 2003, in the Washington, DC, area.