

DRAFT

**MID-ATLANTIC RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 7, 2004
MINUTES (DRAFT, NOT YET APPROVED)**

Present: Officers: Elaine Recchiuti, president; Reyn Kinzey, secretary; Pat Costello, treasurer; EPRU Directors: Susan Martinko, proxy for Carl Ostermann, Elaine Recchiuti. PRU: Eric Pittelkau, Tom Walsh, Ed Gafney. VRU: Carl Schmitt, Kris Kabza, Reyn Kinzey proxy for David Chapman. Guests: Rick Simms (Referees), Jason Maloni and Charles (?) (7's), and Jami Jisa.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: Minutes from the last meeting were accepted with slight revisions.

Treasurer's Report and accepted budget: Pat Costello provided a MARFU 2004 binder, which included a calendar of events, contacts, the minutes from the last meeting, the by-laws, and this year's budget.

Some slight adjustments were made to this written budget. The \$400 budgeted for the Man's Club Committee, the Men's Collegiate Coordinator, the Women's Collegiate Coordinator, and the Women's Club Committee was in each case lowered to \$250. The resulting \$600 in revenue was divided between the High School and Youth/15's budgets, increasing each of those budgets from \$1,000 to \$1,300.

Pat also provided a copy of Mid-Atlantic Referees Report form, which the head referee should complete and turn into David Harwood after each event. This will make it possible for MARFU and MARR to reconcile billing issues.

Rick Simms's for MARR

Rick Simms reported for the referees. Rick agreed that we have had problems with reporting how many referees refereed how many matches at events, and he acknowledged Pat's form as an attempt to rectify the problem. He also promised to use referees as effectively as possible to keep costs down. Ed Gaffney pointed out that MARFU has never seen MARR's budget. Rick said that he would request MARR to show us their budget. Elaine, Pat and Rick will work on projections of costs for referees.

Play-off venues

The play-off venues (presented in Pat's Calendar of Events) were discussed. Coordinators of all programs need to remind Division III clubs (collegiate as well as men and women) that if they start championship play, they must be prepared to keep playing as long as they win. Sometimes this places financial hardships on smaller clubs, so they should consider the up-coming venues and the associated travel expenses before they play in the first round of a championship.

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Monitoring Coaching Certification

MARFU now requires that every club have at least one certified coach. Some people have complained that it has become more difficult to get certification because USA Rugby has cut the number of clinics. USA Rugby has also not provided us with a data base of who has attended clinics. Since USA now requires certified coaches to be CIPP'ed, they should be able to provide us a data base, but we believe that we need our own tracking system. Eric has developed an online form (with in-put from Brett Burdick, MARFU Technical Director), and Eric and David will put the form on the MARFU web site. There was some discussion about how much information would be required from clubs. It was agreed that the form could be used to gather information, but a motion was made by Kinzey/seconded by Gafney and passed by voice vote that only the following information will be required from all clubs:

1. Name of club
2. Name(s) of certified coach(es)
3. Level(s) of certification
4. Year/Place of clinic
5. CIPP number for each individual

Individual LAU's will monitor compliance and assist clubs having difficulty in fulfilling the requirement that they have a certified coach.

Motion concerning admission of clubs to LAU's

Currently, each LAU has had the authority to admit clubs to membership without permission of MARFU (although each LAU has been required to get the permission of any LAU whose club wishes to leave that LAU). The VRU allowed Raleigh to leave North Carolina and join it, and the PRU has admitted Penn State, Pittsburgh, and IUP. The VRU has recently allowed Charlotte to join. All these clubs play in the MARFU competitive structures.

Eric Pittelkau presented a motion that in the future LAU's not be allowed to take in members outside their normally understood geographic boundaries without the permission of MARFU and the other two LAU's (clubs presently admitted would remain as status quo). The motion was seconded by Kabza. After lively discussion, Pittelkau accepted a friendly amendment that only the permission of the MARFU board would be required. Since the motion would require a by-law change, it would have needed a 2/3 majority vote. The motion failed by a vote of 7 "no's" to 3 "yes's."

Tom Walsh then began to offer a similar motion that would require MARFU to give permission only for clubs that would seek to enter MARFU competition. Recchiuti was prepared to second, but it was decided to table the motion until the next meeting so that Tom could present it in writing.

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Recommendation for 7's Committee

Jason Maloni presented a recommendation from the 7's Committee that would allow players to move from one team of a club to another team of the same club if injuries reduced the roster of that team (the idea would be to allow players from a "lower" team to a "higher" team of the same club, but the wording is difficult, because some 7's teams have, for whatever reason, referred to their prime team as II). The friendly amendment was made that if a club did move players, the team from which the players came (presumably the "lower" side) would not be allowed to return to qualifying play, and players for the same club could not reform into a third side. The motion passed 8 – 3.

Sports Institute

The Sports Institute (whose President and COO, Curt Baker, met with us at the January meeting) has recently held a high school camp. The Sports Institute is a for-profit organization, and it does use some of our resources (coaches, referees), so we feel that we need to be careful how we work with the organization. At the moment, it has no official sanction from either USA Rugby or MARFU. Since the Institute is passed in the EPRU, Elaine (as president of MARFU) and Sean Conroy (as president of the EPRU) will meet with Curt Baker to discuss relations.

Up-coming USA meeting

Eric Pittelkau proposed that at the up-coming USA meeting, our MARFU directors on the USA board should put forth a motion that if USA Rugby makes appointments for referees of a match, it should be USA's responsibility to appoint and pay for all referees of that match. The motion was seconded by Kabza and passed by voice vote.

Next Meeting dates:

September 12 (Sunday)

December 11 (Saturday)