

Mid-Atlantic Rugby Football Union
Board of Directors Meeting
March 13, 2005

LOCATION OF MEETING: Courtyard Marriott Springfield, Springfield, Virginia

Meeting Called to Order by President Elaine Recchiuti

Roll Call Taken

Directors and Executive Committee Members Present

VRU David Chapman, Kris Kabza, Shannon Plum
PRU Ed Gafney, Eric Pittelkau
EPRU Carl Ostermann, Susan Martinko

EC Elaine Recchiutti, Pat Costello. Tom Lyons

GUEST Jason Maloni

ABSENT Reyn Kinzey
Tom Walsh
Sean Conroy
Carl Schmitt
No one present from MARR

The Board of Directors (BOD) was informed that Sean Conroy has given proxy to Elaine Recchiuti. Notification was sent to the Secretary, Reyn Kinzey.

The new director from the VRU was welcomed – Shannon Plum. The EPRU has been informed that they need to get someone to attend meetings on a consistent basis – the attendance of Sean Conroy was called into question.

Approval of Minutes from the Previous MARFU Meeting was put before the Board. There was a question as to whether the minutes had been presented. It was clarified that they had been presented via email to the Board but that any changes or modifications had not been made, or decided thereon. Hence, those minutes must be resubmitted to the BOD with changes made as appropriate. No date was given as to when those minutes must be approved.

Agenda. The agenda was presented by President for approval with minor modifications. The agenda used is as follows:

1. Remarks by EC
2. Sevens

- Maloni (mens)
- Martinko (womens)
- 3. Collegiates
 - Enrollment
 - Weather
 - Princeton
- 4. Select Side
 - Coaching positions open and updates on applications
 - Confirmation of coaches
- 5. Referee Update -MARR
- 6. Discipline
 - PW and Baltimore
 - List MARFU of individuals on probation
 - Fines – how team/individual informed/billed
- 7. Competitions
 - D1/D2 – B Side Matches
 - Status of women's competition
 - Northern Cal Men's Division I and II Proposal
- 8. Coverage of Events within MARFU and General Membership/CIPP Item
- 9. USARFU Governance
- 10. High School Committee
 - Grants
 - Bid for Championship
- 11. New Business
 - 1. Boys and Girls on a Team
 - 2. Mens and Womens on a Team
 - 3. Eligibility – Declaration of a Player Not in Good Standing *
- 12. USA Rugby
- 13. Adjourn

Agenda was approved.

I. Sevens.

Men's. Presentation was made by Jason Maloni, the Chairman of the MARFU men's sevens committee. The items put before the BOD were:

A. For each of the qualifiers, there will be a second tier (tier two) for competitions.

(1) This competition will be run the same way the upper tier qualifiers are run.

(2) They will compete at the three qualifiers this summer.

(3) Committee will have to work on the actual eligibility requirements in this tier but the committee will report on this at a later date.

B. This second tier competition will culminate at the MARFU Sevens Championships. This means that there will be need for additional referees, fields, and trophies.

C. Registration for Qualifiers and Championships. Moving from paper to electronic. They will be putting data into email with pictures and other paperwork that may be necessary. The teams that compete in the championships will provide this information to MARFU so that a MARFU official can review these documents prior to the championships.

D. Modification on how quarter finals at the championships will be seeded. (NEED THE EXACT WORDING ON THIS).

E. Additional fee of \$300.00 for each qualifier. The concept behind this is to use the monies collected by the qualifiers to help bring in higher quality SEVENS referees at the MARFU championships. The sevens committee is not speaking negatively against the MARR referees – what they want is to make sure they get use to the type of refereeing that will be accomplished at the national championship event. The committee also wants to ensure that the men and women who are refereeing the territorial event are actual sevens referees versus fifteens referees.

Discussion on these items.

* There is concern that if the \$300 item is passed that some kind of limitations be placed on the host team with respect to the amount charged to each team for the event fees. Discussion centered on a charge running from \$15 to \$25, but not to exceed \$50 extra per team.

* The money would not pay for 'better' referees at the qualifiers. It would only go towards the championship event.

* Unknown as to who would collect the monies and how it would be distributed to the referee(s) brought in for the MARFU event.

* Perhaps the better way to go would be to go back to MARR and ask for sevens specialist referees at the championship instead of enacting the \$300 fee.

* Also perhaps a sevens referee protocol should be enacted that tells referees what is expected and what teams/MARFU will be looking for.

* Work on contacting national panel referees and getting them into the event with the possibility of conducting a mini training session.

* Lyons and Kovacs have attended the most recent LA Sevens referee training event. These individuals could be tapped to present information to the referees who might be interested in order to raise the level of referee expertise. A combination of this with getting a national panel sevens referee into the territory may be the best solution (politically at least).

TOM WALSH ARRIVES.

* Discussion on concerns on security of the information being passed around with the electronic registration.

* Clarification was made with respect to the second tier competition. Specifically, Treasurer wanted to make sure he understood that there would be additional referee (and perhaps other) costs involved with the MARFU championships – costs that were not originally budgeted therefor when the budget for 2005 was approved in December 2004.

After further discussion, Maloni removed the recommendation on the \$300 fee. The remaining items were put before the BOD for a vote. The item was placed before the BOD by Ed Gafney and seconded by Sue Martinko.

RESOLVED: All BOD, but one, voted to approve the recommendations. Pat Costello voted against due to the money implications of the tier two competitions at the MARFU championships

DAVID HATWELL, a guest observer, enters.

Women's Sevens. Briefing is provided by Susan Martinko. Insert recommendation from email into this area.

The basic suggestion is that the Board accept what has been presented. Women's sevens is still in its infancy and they need to run the program a bit more before any additional tweaking is done on it. After the discussion, the Board approved the recommendation. It is noted that Kabza put the recommendation forward, it was seconded by Gafney. All voted for except Lyons who abstained.

ELIGIBILITY OF PLAYER NOT IN GOOD STANDING

This item was brought before by the PRU (in general) and the Maryland Exiles in particular. The question involved is whether a club has a right to declare a player not-in-good-standing, and if it does, will the LAU and the TU recognize that status. Such a status would prevent a player from transferring to another club.

CARL SCHMITT HAS ARRIVED.

The particulars involved in this matter involve monies owed to a club and a player trying to evade those debts by moving to another club to play rugby. A wrinkle is added by the fact that the clubs in question are a division 1 and an

Rugby Super League (RSL) club. Additional discussion occurred on this matter. However, after said discussion it was determined that MARFU would not step into this matter until the PRU made a determination on the matter. However, it was also noted that the TU would not become an arbitrator when the more logical step would be for the club to go through the civil court system.

The discussion was closed and a motion was put before the BOD. The motion was to have MARFU determine what classifies a player as being "in good standing". The motion was tabled upon further discussion. However, MARFU acknowledges the problem and looks forward to hearing the resolution of this matter by the PRU.

COLLEGIATES

1. As a reminder, Princeton University is hosting the MARFU collegiate, division 1 and 2, men's and women's championships. There will be a total of 24 teams at this event. For the minutes, it was noted that the budget presented by Princeton was approved via email vote.

2. Enrollment in the online CIPP program and how it affects those clubs/individuals involved with the collegiate championships. It was acknowledged that many people are enrolling online. However, others have sent an actual paper application to the USARFU national office for processing. Unfortunately, the national office is four weeks behind (or more) in processing those paper applications. In order to ensure that players are registered, all are highly encouraged to submit an application on line even if they have sent in a paper copy.

3. Weather policy. Kris Kabza provided a handout on the weather policy for collegiate quarterfinal matches. As head of the MARFU collegiate committee, and due to previous problems that occurred in the past due to weather, Kris came before the Board asking "what does home mean" in relationship to the weather policy. After initial discussion, it was motioned that the collegiates adopt the men's competition policy on "what is home". This definition is provided below.

If the original home field was cancelled (for any reason), the home team shall make any/all effort to secure a suitable field no further than 30 miles in additional travel distance from the original venue for the away team.

(THIS IS APPROVED AND INCORPORATED)

Modification of the policy further occurred with respect to item number 4. The word "impartial" was stricken and the words "local or territorial appointed referee" were added.

Both of these items were put before the Board via a motion by Carl Schmitt, seconded by Tom Lyons. These items were approved unanimously.

SELECT SIDE TEAMS

Requests for applicants for the head coaching positions for the following positions have been obtained: Senior men's 15s, senior women's 15s, and men's sevens. A number of applications have been sent in and additional information on this process will be forthcoming from Elaine Recchiuti. The EC will be speaking with Brett Burdick about the applicants and also speak with the respective committees concerning the individuals who have submitted an application.

Tom Walsh, Nancy Kechner, and Dave Lett were confirmed as the coaches for the following teams: Collegiates, U23s, and Women's Sevens.

MARR

Recchiuti attended MARR meeting in February and went over many of MARFU's concerns. Informed that Terry Haus is now the Director of Referees for MARR. David Harwood is still the treasurer.

Elaine noted that MARR asked for the following:

1. Pay MARR early.
2. Assist them in how they do allocations.
3. Provide recommendations as to further organize the group so it is more efficient and cost effective.

Elaine informed MARR that we desire better record keeping, allocations, and a better working relationship between the two organizations.

JAMIE JISA ARRIVES AS A GUEST.

DISCIPLINE.

Much of this discussion was accomplished in Executive Session.

Of note: John Dyduck is stepping down as MARFU Chair of the Disciplinary Committee. Dyduck will remain as the EPRU chair. Jason Wallach is the new PRU Disciplinary Chair and will represent the PRU on the Disciplinary Committee.

It was recommended that Carl Schmitt be named as the MARFU Disciplinary Chairman. It was agreed that he would speak with Elaine after the meeting and that this would be put forth to the whole board for approval via electronic vote.

Baltimore and Philly Whitemarsh Incident. A discussion ensued and it was determined that this item would be returned to the Competitions Committee for additional development.

There was a roll call vote on returning this to the Committee:

Walsh	Yes
Pittelkau	Yes
Plum	Yes
Schmitt	Yes
Kabza	Yes
Chapman	Yes
Osterman	Yes
Martinko	Yes
Gafney	Abstain
Costello	No
Recchiuti	Yes
Lyons	Yes

This whole Philly Whitemarsh matter will go back to the committee for further action. The committee will inform PW and MARFU of the action in a letter along with the recourse available to PW.

MARFU Individuals On Probation. Yellow and Red Cards.

PRU, EPRU, and VRU are publishing a list of individuals on their respective websites. MARFU will include on its site the names of individuals. However, Lyons recommends STRONGLY that the infraction is not listed. If there is additional questions on the reason for the infraction, the individual asking the questions can speak with the Disciplinary Committee asking for that information. It is recommended, but not acted upon, that only put the information on the site that is relevant – the name of the individual and when they can return to play.

The whole subject of FINES was returned to the Disciplinary Committee for additional suggestions and recommendations.

COMPETITIONS

Women. This has been previously discussed and further information will be coming out for the Womens Committee as needed. For additional information, Nancy Fitz should be contacted.

NOR CAL and D1/D2 proposal. This has been previously discussed.

Coverage for events

Recchiuti	Raleigh
Unknown	Happy Valley
Unknown	Raleigh Men
Schmitt	Charlotte
Unknown	Baltimore
Unknown	High School Championships

NOTE: Additional information will be forthcoming on the high school championships. It is up to the PRU to come up with a bid on this event.

PRU and EPRU ALL STARS

11th and 12th of June, 2005

All age group players are eligible to play. They do not have to play on a high school team and can play on a club team.

USARFU GRANT. USARFU sent out a proposal to all LAUs concerning a bid for a high school program grant. Both the PRU and the EPUR put in separate proposals for these grants. It is unknown when these will be awarded.

ERIC PITTELKAU LEAVES THE MEETING.

USARFU GOVERNANCE.

Tom Lyons provided a little information on this. NEED TO PUT IN NOTES FROM THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – LYONS NEEDS TO SEND FOR INCLUSION. However, the general context from Lyons was that they want to split the commercial game from the member based game – perhaps national versus non-national teams.

USARFU – the next Board of Directors meeting will be in May 2005. At this point, there are no monetary deals on the table for sponsorship. There will be discussion on the electronic membership program.

Boys and girls playing rugby. Men and women playing rugby. The only thing out there is that men and women can not play in a match leading to a national championship. Brendel has issued an informal note saying that they should not play on the same side... However, there is a problem out there with a couple of

pending lawsuits. It is hoped that a club will look at the legal and liability issues and then make a rational decision on how they want to proceed.

Quick review of the Treasurer's Handouts. There were over 10 pages provided to the Board Members for review.

Additional questions came up on whether MARFU should have a preferred provider for goods at MARFU events. This is an ongoing discussion.

Next meeting date. Undecided – additional information will be coming out on this item. Recchiuti asked that someone start to look through the current MARFU bylaws because they need to be reviewed and cleaned up. Kabza volunteered to review.

MEETING ADJOURNED.