

## **MARFU Board of Directors Meeting December 2005**

The annual general meeting of the MARFU Board of Directors was called to order on 10 December 2005, in Springfield, Virginia. Present at the meeting were the following individuals:

President	Elaine Recchiuti
Treasurer	Patrick Costello
VRU Director	Kris Kabza
	David Chapman
	Shannon Plum
PRU Director	Eric Pittelkau
	Ed Gafney
EPRU Director	Susan Martinko
	Carl Ostermann
	Rich L'Ecuyer

### Directors or Officers Not Present

VP	Tom Lyons
Secretary	Reyn Kinzey
At Large Director	Carl Schmitt

Proxies were not presented prior to the meeting.  
The third PRU Director, Tom Walsh, arrived late to the meeting.

Guests	Jason Maloni
	Jamie Jisa
	Steve Laake

A general question was presented to the group: How many teams does MARFU verify with respect to going on to a national event or for an internal championship? MARFU checks 66 teams with respect to eligibility and other issues within one year.

### **Declaration of teams for weighted vote.**

<b>VRU:</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>EPRU:</b>	<b>79</b>
<b>PRU:</b>	<b>47</b>

Welcome to the visitors. Rich is the new director for the EPRU.

Motion to accept the minutes of March 13, 2005. The motion was presented by Kabza and seconded by Chapman. The minutes were accepted with no corrections or changes.

The agenda was accepted with some changes in location of discussion. The items that were given priority for discussion were collegiates, sevens, bids and calendar 2006, high school, select side reports, USA Rugby, and the budget.

### **Collegiates.**

Kabza presented information with respect to playoff scenarios for the various divisions, men and women. There was disagreement between the EPRU/PRU and the VRU collegiate women's directors as far as seedings. It should be noted that the EPRU/PRU proposal/discussion only dealt with the women's division 1 collegiate teams and did not effect the women's division 2 collegiate teams.

Points to make sure of with respect to "policy":

1. Want to ensure that the system for seedings is well defined and not arbitrary/capricious.
2. Do not want the LAU number 1 and 2 teams facing each before the finals.
3. Prefer not to have the LAUs in the same quarters so they will not be knocking each other out.

The concept when this was originally put into effect was to ensure that the territory was advancing the best teams to the nationals. For additional information on seeding, please refer to the website ([www.marfu.org](http://www.marfu.org)).

The Board okayed the proposal of the collegiate committee with respect to collegiate men's division 1 and 2. The seedings will stand as proposed.

There was additional discussion between Jamie Jisa and Kris Kabza. It was noted that five out of six of the top six teams in MARFU met in April 2005 at the MARFU championships and agreed to a different seeding proposal. The teams represented were Navy, UVA, Penn State, James Madison, and Princeton. West Chester was not present at the meeting but the administrator and coach was informed of the meeting and the general outcome. They basically wanted a different seeding method – one that takes into account strength of schedule and of the team. The further proposed to have mini-conferences in order to get better matches and better competition. Those mini conferences were: Penn State, West Chester, and Princeton; UVA, JMU, and Navy.

Jeff Adamczyk comes in as a visitor.

There was heated discussion and there was a question as to calling the competition "premier" competition even though the top six division 1 teams in MARFU are probably six of the top 30 teams in the country. There was additional questions on why the head of the Collegiate Women's Committee (Steve Cohen) did not put the proposal in writing and before the Board. After all of the discussion, the following motion was put before the Board:

Collegiate 1 and 2 women seedings will follow the A/B/C method for the spring 2006 championships. The motion was made by Gafney and seconded by Plum.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes	Gafney, Ostermann, Plum, Kabza, Chapman, Martinko, LeCleur.
No	Costello, Pittelkau
Abstain	Recchiuti

Motion passes: 7/3

The Women's Collegiate Chair is put on notice that he needs to look at the way seedings are accomplished in the future. If he wants to change this method, he needs to present in writing to the board a proposal for 2007.

## **Sevens.**

Presentation by Jason Maloni.

1. As a result of having a Tier 2 division, the number of teams entering into various sevens events and the qualifiers had increased dramatically.
2. For the three qualifiers, NOVA, Norfolk, and Exiles, 56 different teams participated in the qualifiers along with the championships.
3. Would like to have the championships in 2006 moved in order to work out a better travel deal heading to nationals (in Washington State).
4. Would also like to move the select side camp date.

Reported that the Sevens Committee was recommending that they have three qualifiers for 2006. Additionally, it was recommended that:

1. The following teams be awarded qualifiers:
  - a. NOVA June 10, 2006

- b. Norfolk July 8, 2006
- c. MD Exiles July 15, 2006

2. Raise the entry fee to \$195 for teams (tier 1 and 2) in order to cover referee costs.
3. Rosters for tier 1 and 2 teams must be provided by Thursday.
4. Encourage that an ambulance be on site but that the requirement for an ambulance to be there not be mandatory. The reasoning behind this is cost. This item was tabled for further discussion at the next meeting (Kabza will provide additional information).
5. Rocky Gorge would host the MARFU Championships on either 22 or 29 July 2006.

These proposals to the MARFU board was not unanimous from the Sevens Cmte. There was additional discussion by the Board as to how a team was given a qualifier. The items that were looked at included prior experience, venue, location, host capabilities, etcetera. It was noted that at this point, four qualifiers were not deemed necessary. However, if there continues to be renewed interest in sevens, then the committee will look at expanding to four qualifiers for 2007.

Motion was presented by Ostermann and seconded by Plum that the recommendations on the qualifiers be sent back to the Committee. The question was whether it was necessary/prudent to not assign a qualifier to the EPRU (Lehigh since it was the only bidder) and to put two qualifiers into the PRU. Also, there was some question as to whether NOVA had submitted a sufficient bid and whether it has the infrastructure to run such an event. Asked that the committee get back to the MARFU board by 16 January 2006 with their findings and recommendations.

Motion was presented by Pittelkau and seconded by Walsh that the committee look at making a geographic balance of the qualifiers. Motion passed with objections by Treasurer.

The Board agreed that Rocky Gorge would host the championships.

The Board agreed that MARFU would hold a tier 2 championship for 2006 and a women's sevens championship for 2006. There was some comment from Martinko with respect to "the women not knowing whether they wanted to participate in a championship". Recchiuti requested that Lyons (in absentia) be asked to talk with the women's sevens committee about this to clear up any problem.

### **Bids and Championships.**

Men's Division 1 CR4 – Schuylkill River  
Men's Division 2 Raleigh (a question was raised as to the affordability of this location because of increased referee costs – Chapman and Recchiuti to discuss with MARR).  
Men's Division 3 Quantico. NOTE: this will be a four team event and not an eight team event as in the past.

All the bids were accepted by the Board with Gafney abstaining.

Collegiates

Men's Division 1 and 2

Women's Division 1 and 2

The teams will be – 8 women/4 women/4 men/4 men

James River was awarded the event; the event will be at "Pole Green Park". The total cost for the event: \$800. A breakdown of costs have been requested for review by the treasurer because this seems to be very low (previous bids have run in the range of \$2K to \$2800).

The bid was accepted by the Board with Martinko abstaining.

Women's Division 1 and 2 – Club. There will be no championship in 2006. This is due to a change in the women's calendar throughout the country; i.e., Women's World Cup 2006 in Canada.

The Collegiate All Star event will be in the PRU. The PRU needs to talk to the collegiate coordinators to find a location and submit costs to the treasurer.

The High School Championships will be in East Penn. It will probably be in Wilmington but the EPRU directors need to talk with Wilmington on getting a proper bid in (addresses must be included).

All bids awarded.

## **High School.**

High School – EPRU and the PRU – During the previous six months, three members of the EPRU and the PRU have gone out to USA Rugby to receive a presentation with respect to a "high school model" that the national office is supporting. The presentation came from a Mr. Aker of Oregon (Pacific). While it was a different way of administering a program, the general consensus was that the model did not have much applicability for

MARFU/EPRU/PRU. The model was based on teams being very centralized (within a city/valley) and not spread over a large state or multi-state area.

From the USA Rugby presentation, the question arose as to whether an administrator is hired to do the work that volunteers are now doing. There is an initial problem in that will you have to file different tax forms since the LAU / TU becomes an employer. Based on the discussion during the meeting, the model was deemed to work for Oregon and Hawaii but that was based on a small number of teams and the actual location of those teams. It was recommended that MARFU not change its programs at the present time.

It was noted that a vast majority of individuals who work in other youth organizations are also volunteers. There are exceptions such as with soccer but it appears somewhat premature to move to the paid administrator model at this time. The main reason behind this – there just isn't enough money. A good point was brought up though: **PAY ATTENTION TO YOUR VOLUNTEERS AND DON'T LET THEM GET BURNED OUT.** Let them do their job and if they don't do it, don't beat them up about not getting it done. Try to go back and help them achieve their goal.

Select Side Reports. Awaiting those reports. Kuddos do go out to the Men's 15s Select Side which won the NAIA Championship the previous weekend. Kuddos were also given to Pete Steinberg, the coach of the Men's 15s team.

#### Select Side Coaches

Women's Sevens	Need to find a new coach
Men's Sevens	Open to further discussion
Men's 15s	Peter Steinberg – appointed to 2008
Women's 15s	Nancy Fitz – appointed to 2008
U23s	Lisa Rosen – appointed to 2008
Collegiates	Triumvirate – appointed to fall 2006

Additional comments were provided with respect to the Men's 15s Select Side. It was noted that MARFU had not won this event since the breakup of the East (which was 25 years ago). It was an incredible achievement.

#### **USA Rugby.**

The three directors (Recchiuti, Chapman, and Costello) discussed the 2006 CIPP registration increase (\$10 per person). Other comments were provided.

#### **Budget.**

The 2006 budget was approved. Other financial documents were reviewed. If anyone is interested in those documents, they should contact the treasurer for a copy. Those individuals who were not present at the meeting will be provided those documents under separate cover.

### **Email Votes and Proposals.**

1. The motion will be proposed and recognized by the chair. Once recognized, it must be seconded.
2. After the motion has been seconded, there will be discussion. The discussion will be open for 96 hours. This is four days. If there is a weekend, the weekend does not count in the 96 hours.
3. Once the 96 hours are complete, a vote will be called.
4. Voting will be open for two business days.

This proposal was submitted by Walsh and seconded by Gafney. The procedure was approved.

### **Men's Competitions Issues.**

There were more administrative problems this year than in the previous years. For 2006, the committee wants to ensure that everyone understands that if there is no proof of eligibility, then the person will not play. It will not matter who that player is.

Division III Men's Event. Note that it is changed from 8 to 4 teams. The higher seeds will host games and the lower seeds will travel. It is similar to Men's Division II.

Philly Whitemarsh did not play in the Fall Division I matrix. They are being encouraged to re-enter into the matrix in order to further encourage and develop men's rugby in the Philadelphia area.

Washington has been asking about putting a Division 1 team into the matrix league. This is similar to Old Blue in Met New York. Further development on this request is occurring at this time. If the other men's clubs are in favor with it, then Washington will be given the green light to go with it. The major question on it is how to police eligibility/player use to make sure all is fair for all teams competing.

There has been problems with rain. From 1 January 2006, make up matches will be at the end of the fall regardless of whether they effect ITT participation (camp or nationals).

Charlotte was accepted into the RSL over the summer. They want to continue putting a Division I club into the matrix in 2006. They are not, however, going ahead with a team into the 2005/2006 championships.

There has been additional problems with "wandering players" from Philly Whitemarsh. They have been going to Brandywine and other teams. The latest wandering player played for Brandywine against Lancaster and failed to transfer to the team. That match has since been forfeited to Lancaster. The committee will make it clear in fall of 2006 that players must transfer, and they will insist that rosters be collected at the beginning of all matches. Once collected they will be sent the committee. Hopefully this will decrease the number of players who are trying to 'work' or 'get around' the eligibility system.

Point was made that the LAU and MARFU coaches need to be working more with another so that like play can occur at all levels.

### **Elections for Officers of MARFU.**

President: Elaine Recchiuti (unopposed)

Secretary: Reyn Kinzey (unopposed)

Treasurer: Patrick Costello (unopposed)

Vice President: Kris Kabza and Tom Lyons ran for the position.

Vote Breakdown:	VRU	38 votes	Kabza
	EPRU	79 votes	Lyons
	PRU	15.66 votes	Kabza
		31.32 votes	Lyons
	Kabza	69.32 votes	
	Lyons	94.66 votes	

Lyons is declared the winner.

At Large Director: Carl Schmitt and Carl Ostermann ran for the position.

Vote Breakdown:	VRU	38 votes	CS
	EPRU	79 votes	CO
	PRU	47 votes	CS
	Schmitt	85 votes	
	Ostermann	79 votes	

Schmitt is declared the winner.

The next USA Rugby Meeting will be in Boulder, Colorado, March 3 and 4, 2006. Look at doing the next MARFU meeting on March 12, 2006. It is a Sunday. Secretary is asked to look at calendar and put out the rest of the dates for meetings and championships.

Thanks to the PRU for hosting the meeting. Jeff Adamczyk of Steamroller Rugby gave a presentation on different goods and services they are now providing for the rugby community.

The Board said good to Ed Gafney, of the PRU, who will be stepping down as a MARFU Director on 1 January 2006. At the next meeting, there will be a new person from the PRU. Much thanks is given to Ed for good and faithful service throughout the years.

The meeting is then adjourned.