

MARFU BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
March 12, 2006
Minutes
Approved

Present:

Officers: Elaine Recchuiti, president; Tom Lyons, vice president; Reyn Kinzey, secretary; Pat Costello, treasurer; Carl Schmitt, at large.

EPRU: Carl Ostermann, Susan Martinko.

PRU: Gus Ventura, Maria Vastola, Eric Pittelkau for Jason Wallach.

VRU: David Chapman.

Absent: Rich L'Ecuyer (EPRU), Kris Kabza (VRU), Shannon Plum (VRU).

Elaine welcomed the new PRU directors to the board.

Elaine asked all directors to mail a three-sentence profile to David Chapman, to be placed on the web site.

Minutes of last meeting approved:

Motion by Kinzey, seconded by Schmitt, passed on voice vote.

Declaration of teams:

Pat needs the declaration of teams by April 1. Dana Bateman will respond for the EPRU, Jami Jisa for the PRU, and David Chapman for the VRU.

History of MARFU:

Elaine would like for us to compile the history of MARFU. She asked people to update the championships.

Elaine suggested that the Board should get Tom Walsh a plaque commemorating his many years of service as a director; Tom was one of the founding members of MARFU. There are others that Elaine mentioned should be recognized, too (e.g., Dana Bateman).

7's Qualifiers:

The four Men's qualifiers for tiers I and II were accepted by email vote. The championships for the two Men's tiers and the Women have been moved to July 22 and will all be hosted in the same location by Rocky Gorge.

Elaine wants a volunteer to provide the Women's program with a qualifier system. Eric agreed to discuss with Susan Martinko and Stacy Bennett for 2007.

ATC's vs EMT's at MARFU Events

Kris Kabza is reviewing the pro's and con's of having ATC's vs EMT's at MARFU events. Kris requested more time to look at the issue. It will be addressed at the next meeting.

Report on USA Board Meeting:

David, Elaine, and Pat gave a review of the past USA Board meeting, at which a strategic plan and new plan for governance was presented by Atlantic Sports Management. The plan for governance calls for a "Congress" to replace the Board of Directors and a new nine-member executive-level Board that would consist of six at-large individuals, two International Athletes, and one Congress member. The new Board will be charged with raising funds and other tasks as stated in the new bylaws. The current Board of Directors approved this plan for governance with one negative vote, cast by David Chapman.

The MARFU board passed a resolution of "no confidence" in this plan. Motion by Kinzey, second by Costello, passed on voice vote.

Membership and Eligibility:

Teams going to nationals need to go to the USA web site and download forms. If they have any problems, they should contact Elaine, Pat or David.

There seems to be some question about what constitutes "good standing" and which teams are required to have a coach who has gone through a background check. USA seems to be working on the assumption that all high school and collegiate teams need to have a coach who has gone through a background check. However, it is not clear if this policy is in writing anywhere and is *published* policy.

Committee Structure of MARFU:

An updated list of committees and coaches is needed on the web site. Elaine will email committees and get them to update their memberships. Those committees or individuals should send their updates to David, who will put them on the web site.

Disciplinary Report:

Carl Schmitt passed out a written report outlining the structure of our disciplinary procedures. The three recommendations in the report were passed by voice vote.

Referees:

Tom Lyons reported that some MARFU referees are going to national events.

The BOD is still trying to iron out a sense of responsibilities and management with MARR. Finances continue to be one of the larger concerns for both the BOD and MARR leadership. Tom suggests that the BOD needs to start looking at the issue in a different way and start looking more carefully what it will cost to hold events in certain places. The costs of providing referees to different parts of MARFU can vary greatly, and the BOD needs to be sensitive to that when awarding venues.

MARR has expressed a desire to referee the invitational Men's Collegiate Division III tournament. Elaine and Carl have informed them that this is not a recognized national event or territorial event and therefore do not expect it will be assigned by MARR. Carl Schmitt will inform MARR once again that this is the case. He will copy Elaine on the matter.

Treasurer's Report:

Pat provided a written report. For the most part, the budget is working well. However, the men's 15 program came in \$4,000 over budget. Lindy Birch is working to try to recover some of that. The Women came in under budget, partially because they were more conservative, but also because they had a good fund raiser.

ITT's:

It appears that the national office is considering dropping the men's 15's ITT.

The BOD passed a "sense of the board" resolution that the men's 15's ITT should be discontinued. Motion by Kinzey. Second by Schmitt. Passed by voice vote.

BY-Laws Review:

Our by-laws and procedures are all currently online. Kris is reviewing them and will have a report to us on them in October. Elaine will talk to Gus and Susan about helping Kris with this review.

Dates, procedures for rest of year:

The BOD needs to start setting the agenda for meetings 30 days before the meeting. All motions to be made at a meeting must be emailed to the secretary at least a week before the meeting so the BOD will know what actions need to be decided at the meeting.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, August 26, 2006, and the AGM will be Saturday, December 9, 2006.