

Virginia Rugby Union
Executive Committee Meeting
June 30, 2002
Richmond, Virginia

In attendance: Kris Kabza (President), Bill Lucas (Vice President), Greg Markham (Secretary), David Chapman (Treasurer), Reid McClure (Men's Coordinator), Stephanie Edwards (Women's Coordinator), Dan Bicehouse (Youth Coordinator), Rodney Hall (Disciplinary Chair), Reyn Kinzey (USA/MARFU Representative)

Men's Division III System (McClure)

- Mr. McClure presented Jim Collum's (Blackwater RFC) proposal for reorganization of Division III as well as Jeff Hollier's (Virginia RFC) response, with discussion from all.
- Mr. Hall mentioned the scheduling problems for the large Division III - i.e. some dates in the fall prior to E/SL are not available to all clubs
- Mr. Lucas mentioned the EPRU "points" system used for standings.
- Mr. Lucas mentioned the other option of the VRU taking a hard line against Division III clubs not playing required matrix matches
- Mr. McClure stated that the VRU should nurture the smaller clubs
- Mr. Hall made a motion that Mr. McClure convene the Division III Club representatives and allow them to determine the Division III system. The motion passed unopposed.

E/SL Restructuring (Kabza)

- No strong feelings were expressed to change the current system

Women's Club System (Edwards)

- Ms. Edwards presented the fact of no established women's club system for the VRU
- Mr. Markham stated from previous minutes that this decision had been postponed pending development of the emerging clubs
- Ms. Edwards stated that the initial system would be a single division of women's clubs, with required matrix matches.
- Ms. Edwards presented the request from Blackwater Women to be allowed to deviate from a women's matrix, for purposes of better growth for the collegiate players
- Discussion again ensued concerning forfeitures
- It was agreed that a Matrix Season would be established for the women's division. For the fall season, Women's schedules are due August 1, and Ms. Edwards would work with clubs concerning forfeitures because of matches scheduled before today's establishment of matrix.

Youth Rugby (Bicehouse)

- Mr. Bicehouse presented Brett Burdick's proposal to pass a resolution requiring all VRU Clubs to begin a youth program.
- Mr. Bicehouse is opposed to such requirements on each club, but believes that the Union should encourage, better, each club to establish such a program
- Mr. Kabza suggested a checklist/guideline be developed to help each club through the process, using successful programs as models.
- USA Rugby has similar materials available
- Discussion was made to ensure that Youth Funds allocated in a fiscal year can be carried over into the following fiscal year.
- Discussion was made on how to leverage school teachers to the benefit of Youth programs.

Additional Handbook Issues (Kabza)

- Mr. Kabza mentioned there are "holes" in the handbook, and asks that each person go over their section.

- Mr. Kabza suggests the inclusion of an “appeals process” section, as well as a “Chain of Command” section in the event of conflict of interest.
- Mr. Chapman stated he would supply a MS Word version of the handbook to allow each EC member to edit their section
- Mr. Hall asks about the inclusion of MARFU issues
- Ms. Edwards asked about League Reporting and Standings. This is the responsibility of each coordinator. Mr. Chapman will post standings at the web site if these are provided in a postable format to him.
- Allstar month is designated as November

Newport News Color Change (Kinzey)

- Newport News RFC reported a potential sponsor, but the sponsor would require Red, White, Blue colors. NNRFC requested permission to change. Discussion ensued, and it was agreed that the change was permissible as long as the new jerseys were distinct, and they retained their old jerseys in the event of conflict with such clubs as SWVRFC.

Treasurer’s Report (Chapman)

- A \$100 Stipend for each complicit club will be given for attendance to the Conference on the Game
- Budget is where it generally is this time of year
- Mr. Chapman reports that the checking account is to be shifted to a money-market checking account.

Blacksburg Declination to represent MARFU at Division III Championships (Chapman)

- Blacksburg RFC won the MARFU Div III Championship
- Blacksburg did not inform the MARFU Representative, or the VRU Men’s Club Coordinator of their decision not progress beyond the MARFU Championships
- MARFU sent an alternate representative to the USA Division III National Championships
- Mr. Chapman suggested that this could become an issue with MARFU and that the VRU should take action in order to circumvent MARFU action.
- Discussion ensued about the circumstances of the declination as well as the travel capabilities of Division III clubs. Mr. Chapman pointed out that the entry form for the MARFU tournament contained a clause that the tournament winner is expected to represent MARFU at the National Championship Tournament.
- Mr. Chapman proposed that Blacksburg not represent the VRU at 2002/2003 MARFU Championships, and that the VRU send only one Division III representative club for the 2002/2003 AND 2003/2004 Championship series
- Additional discussion ensued concerning this proposal
- Motion was made (and seconded) to sanction Blacksburg by suspending them from MARFU playoffs. Blacksburg was still eligible for VRU playoffs. Motion passed by majority vote with one abstention.
- Mr. Kinzey proposed that the VRU Div III Union Clubs should not be punished and that the VRU should not voluntarily cede any MARFU Playoff representation. Mr. Kinzey suggested that MARFU would push the matter if it were an issue.

Open Discussion

- Charleston, Wva has inquired about becoming part of the VRU and playing at this year’s E/SL cup. Mr. Kabza will continue contact, and allow this with the approval of their current Union.
- Each Coordinator will now allow for pre-arranged forfeitures of matrix matches
- Discussion of tournament approvals and submission policies. No recommendation were made.
- Mr. Chapman mentioned that the RSV is a little disorganized at this point, with no president

- Mr. Chapman read a thank-you note from a MARFU select-side player who received the VRU stipend for a player that makes MARFU Select-side
- Mr. McClure stated that the Men's Select-Side program needs a manager/coach. He was asked to determine if Jeff Hollier will continue to be involved.
- Mr. McClure inquired as to the "mission" of the Select-Side; the program does not directly increase the pool for national team players, and interest at our level is waning. Mr. Kinzey reported that USA Rugby wishes to keep the program intact.

<BREAK>

Va Tech Women's RFC Appeal

- Virginia Tech cancelled a match with Mary Washington in the spring. The Women's Coordinator (Julie Comer) and the Treasurer (Mr. Chapman), as designee for the President, decided to fine Virginia Tech WRFC for improper match cancellation.
- Ms. Edwards asked that the original Issue be recapped
- Mr. Kinzey presented the VaTech side of the original Issue, with discussion
- Mr. Lucas presented the Mary Washington College side of the original Issue with discussion
- Minimal discussion ensued, and it was verified that a further appeals path existed
- Vote was called for. The vote was 3-3 to uphold the fine. (Mr. Kabza, Mr. Lucas, and Mr. Chapman did not vote due to conflict of interest). Mr. Kabza stated that VRU rules require a majority vote to overturn a sanction. The Fine for Improper Match Cancellation was upheld.