



CGRU Monthly Union Officials Meeting

February 13, 2023

<https://meet.google.com/ebq-gzfx-van>

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Attending: Scott Conway, Allen LeCroy, Callie Woods, Matt Haney, Morgan Sweeney, Mel Cochrane, Paige Bramblett, Kelly Ralston

Absent: JK Anderson, Zach McAfee, Adam Jasenak, Mike Willer

Agenda

- I. Welcome & general items
 - A. Open communication; formality of meetings (Robert's rules); timing
 - B. Review of Conflict of Interest statement (cgru.rugby/conflict-of-interest); link will go out this week to confirm that everyone has read and understands our COI statement
 - C. Agenda & Minutes approval process (+/- 1 week). Agenda always open for input. Agenda to be started 1 week prior to meeting with everyone invited to add topics. Approval will go out through the Google doc functionality to be approved within 1 week of the meeting so that it can be posted to our website.
 - D. Email accts created, contact list shared, RX access set up, shared calendar of events to be shared.

- II. Roles
 - A. Need people to be on the competitions committee; other unions use exec directors.
 - B. Senior Club Council liaison - Scott is currently attending this monthly.
 - C. What are you interested in doing? We need board members who can execute, not just be strategic.
 - D. Create Dir of U23 role as a non-voting member of the board. Appointed by the board ([Appendix B](#))



1. *Motion: Create a new role for the Director of the U23 program as a non-voting member of the CGRU board. Motion has a 2nd; passed unanimously.*
 2. *Motion: Appoint Randy Little as the newly created Director of the U23 program. Motion has a 2nd; passed unanimously.*
- E. Disciplinary comm - review proposal ([Appendix A](#)), discuss and vote on implementation.
1. *Motion: Restructure the Disciplinary Committee so stated in Appendix A. Motion has a 2nd; passed unanimously.* Board will post on social, website and directly to clubs that we are taking applications for the Chair and At-large positions, with the board appointing both at the next board meeting in March. Scott to update the website with a new structure.

III. Financials

- A. \$100K in checking account; spring spending coming up

| | Club | College D1 | College D2 |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| 2/13 | \$1,050.00 | \$60.00 | \$0.00 |
| RX Revenue | \$40,460.00 | \$3,270.00 | \$1,755.00 |
| Sub-account Balance | \$95,572.65 | \$5,025.00 | |
| TOTAL Bank Balance | \$100,597.65 | | |

- B. Need overall budget (Kelly/Officers)
1. Kelly needs data from early '22 from David Morris
 2. Unsure if the tax document was filed for '21; may face a penalty.
- C. Need collegiate budget (Mel/Paige)
1. Scott to get playoff costs; some U23 costs will be part club since there are club players in the age group; program can apply for CGRU grants to cover initial costs such as uniforms, etc.
- D. Need playoff budget (Scott & TBD)
1. Finishing up CGRU playoffs, Scott getting SuperRegional costs.



IV. Policy Development

- A. Transgender policy - women's division directors to collaborate on best enforcement; primarily affects the women's divisions
 - 1. Met with USAR's DE&I Chair for Senior Club Council - they proposed new info, CGRU is not enforcing until policies and pathways are laid out for all unions in country
 - 2. We will set up a meeting with the women's team presidents once we have additional info from USAR.
- B. Forfeit policy - review recommendation of task force. Vote on implementation. ([Appendix D](#))
 - 1. No motion to approve. A survey will go out to all clubs to collect information of field costs & timing as well as details of all forfeits since the September 2022.
- C. Match day process - review proposal; vote on implementation ([Appendix C](#))
 - 1. *Motion: Implement the match day process so stated in Appendix C. Motion has a 2nd; passed unanimously.*
- D. What policies are still needed on the website?
 - 1. Promo/Relegation
 - 2. Standings Points
 - 3. Playoff tiebreakers
 - 4. Severe weather -
<https://cdn1.sportngin.com/attachments/document/0085/8691/usar-lightning-policy.pdf>
 - 5. Player eligibility (Club and College)
 - 6. Ref & coach certification
 - 7. Scott to share Google folder of prior policies copied from our previous website.

V. College Playoffs (<https://www.cgru.rugby/2023-college-playoffs>)

- A. CGRUs April 1 @ Northeast Park (Triad)
 - 1. Pitches and times set, SERRS informed, good on equipment
 - 2. Need game balls, trophies
 - 3. Social media post, and communication to clubs
 - 4. Need to pay for pitches



5. Hotel recommendations?
 - B. CRAA East Regional April 22/23 @ Gaston
 1. 4 D1, 4 D2 teams from Capital, CGRU, Florida
 2. Match schedule set
 3. Need streaming service
 4. CRAA handling referees
 5. Need to pay for pitches
 6. Eligibility forms need to be shared soon as they take time with the registrar
 - C. CRAA Nationals May 6 @ Houston
- VI. Club Playoffs (cgru.rugby/2023-club-playoffs)
- A. CGRUs April 15 @ Gastonia
 1. Location set
 2. Need to pay for pitches; Allen said we will be billed afterwards for \$50/pitch setup + \$40 per match.
 3. Time slots agreed upon and updated on the website
 4. Check on equipment
 5. Confirm with the SERRS
 6. Match balls and trophies
 - B. Gulf Coast Superregionals
 1. CGRU, GA, FL, True South, Texas
 2. Narrowed down to Orlando
 3. Seedings still being discussed
 - C. Nationals
 1. Locations still not set. Waiting on Senior Club Council 3/17
 2. June 3?
- VII. Director updates
- A. 7'S (JK) - No Report
 - B. Referees (Mike) - No Report
 - C. College D2 (Paige)
 1. Grant process for whole CGRU
 - a) Team hosting tournament > \$\$ to help with referee cost
 - b) Pay for coach L200 clinic certification (\$125)



2. Coaching compliance
 3. Elon
- D. College D1 (Mel)
1. Teams need to do a better job of completing the roster prior to KO.
 2. Concern as there are only 4 teams. Need more to be competitive.
- E. Women D2 (Morgan)
1. Received feedback that clubs would like the opportunity to bid to host CGRU events in the future.
 2. Here are current standings (simplified) and loose costs [Senior Women's Playoff Structure & Home Game Costs](#)
 - a) For 2022-23 are all forfeits a -1 point, or only if no game was played
 3. SERRS Site says CGU W finals are on 4/1...~~confirming this is incorrect?~~-This is for college
 4. Team Compliance (past non-compliance)
 - a) We have reports in RX to show compliance. We have also developed an Excel macro to detail coaching compliance (has been shared with other unions).
 - b) Need to be aware of slow background checks
 - c) Need to be aware of expiring SafeSport certs
 5. ATL 2.0 Selects - check to see if they are planning a 15s for next year
- F. Men D2 (Zach) - No Report
- G. Men D3 Gold (Matt)
1. Referee issue
 2. Savannah and Charleston are not working towards a solution for the fall postponed match.
- H. Men D3 Silver (Allen)
1. On top of CGRU playoff and CRAA regional. Confirming with county this week.
- I. U23 Women
1. Program started with great support. Budget being worked on. 6 coaches from around the CGRU. 2 tryouts scheduled, 2 tournaments planned. Webpage published w details. Solid use of social media.



VIII. Map feature

- A. We added a new map feature on the website (cgru.rugby/clubs)
- B. All clubs were contacted to share but also to ask for logos with transparent backgrounds. Only 2 clubs responded.
- C. In an effort to look more professional, it was discussed at the AGM that we would need logos meeting requirements no later than 2/15 for this map page as well as in RX.
- D. *Motion: Clubs that have not responded by 2/15 will be charged \$10 to edit their current logo. Must be paid no later than 2/23. Motion has a 2nd; passed unanimously.*

IX. Barbarians vs Savannah

- A. Barbarians had forfeited the fall match @ Savannah. Savannah requested the spring match at Charlotte be moved to Savannah.
- B. Board discussed that the current forfeit rules would not apply to same season changes. The newly recommended forfeit policy will do away with “away match if you forfeit” as it hinders the growth of clubs. The policy takes a different approach.
- C. *Motion: The spring match on Mar 4 of Savannah @ Barbarians will remain as scheduled in Charlotte. Motion has a 2nd; passed unanimously.*

X. Reimbursement for forfeits

- A. Savannah has requested partial reimbursement for matches forfeited to them (as per email Feb 3).
- B. Board discussed the precedent and its effects across the union. It would send the wrong message. However, it was noted that certain teams are being hit financially due to the lack of and/or late communication.
- C. As part of the survey (Section IV, part B:1), CGRU will collect information on current year forfeit costs to clubs. Union will investigate and consider the option of a pool of money to be shared by clubs that have faced a financial loss.
- D. *Motion: No action to be taken until further information has been collected. Motion has a 2nd; passed unanimously.*



Appendix A - Disciplinary Committee Structure

The initial responsibility and jurisdiction for the administration of the **Disciplinary Procedures** and for the initial adjudication and determination of appropriate disciplinary sanctions (if any) is held by the local Organizing Body most immediately responsible for sanctioning a competition (which currently includes SROs, GUs, College Conferences), which, as the same exists from time to time, is hereinafter called a "Local Organizing Body." Therefore, the CGRU has established the Disciplinary Committee ("DC") to address such issues.

The DC is comprised of the:

- **Disciplinary Chair** - Appointed by the CGRU Executive Committee within one month of the Annual General Meeting
- **Executive Director of Referees** - Appointed by SERRS
- **Executive Director of Men's Rugby** - Elected by the respective Division Directors at the Annual General Meeting
- **Executive Director of Women's Rugby** - Elected by the respective Division Directors at the Annual General Meeting
- **At-large Member** - Appointed by the Executive Committee

The Appeals Committee is composed of officers of the CGRU.

No person shall serve on the Disciplinary Committee or Appeals Committee with respect to any match in which such person participated as a player, coach, or match official.

If the Local DC does not include a Qualified Judicial Officer or Qualified Appeals Officer, the Local DC may consult with a Qualified Judicial Officer or Qualified Appeals Officer in the course of conducting its business.

The DC shall follow the guidelines set forth by USA Rugby and World Rugby: **Disciplinary Best Practices**



Additional information can be found in the **policy section of the USA Rugby website**

as well as on the World Rugby site:

Regulation 17 - Foul Play

World Rugby sanctions for foul play

This is an overview of the discipline process and does not supersede that outlined by the by-laws and WR17. The following was written to simplify and summarize WR17 and the CGRU proceedings and likely relevant timelines. However, Procedures or proceedings under Regulation 17 and/or Regulation 18 or any decision of a Disciplinary Committee, Judicial Officer, Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer shall not be quashed or held invalid by reason only of any defect, irregularity, omission or other technicality unless such defect, irregularity, omission or technicality raises a material doubt as to the reliability of the findings or decisions of a Disciplinary Committee, Judicial Officer, Appeal Committee or Appeal Officer or results in a miscarriage of justice. (17.28.2). This means if the referee is late to file a report or the information is not processed within certain timelines, this is not grounds for dismissal or appeal.

Appendix B - U23 Program

Proposal to create a director of U23 Selects to the board as an appointed, non-voting member. Similar in structure to the Director of 7s position. Appoint Randy Little who has kicked off the program.

Appendix C - Pre/Post Match Process

Proposal to ensure all clubs are compliant for all matches.



- Schedules - Due at the beginning of the season to Division Director and SERRS with opponent, date, time, pitch location & matrix/friendly.
 - Friendlies can be added during the season, but SERRS cannot guarantee an assigned referee.
 - Matrix matches may be rescheduled due to weather or due to unforeseen circumstances with approval of the Division Director.
 - Matrix matches will be entered into RX by the board
 - Friendlies are entered by the home union of the home club, and will be located in a separate competition so as to not affect standings.
 - Exceptions: College vs club, College CRAA vs NCR (due to technical reasons)
- Rosters - All rosters must be entered into the Rugby Xplorer app no later than 24 hours prior to kickoff.
 - Alterations may be made up until kickoff.
 - Rosters must include a compliant coach
 - Division directors to confirm
- Pre-Match meeting - prior to kickoff, the referee, 2 captains and 2 team admins shall meet.
 - Confirm all pitch requirements (postpads, ropes, flags, paint, etc.)
 - Review of technical zone
 - Assign touch judges
 - Clarify any RX issues
 - Confirm medical is onsite
 - The team admin may not be a player. It can be a coach or spectator with access.
 - If a club has no one to handle the team admin duties, the opposing club may administer for both clubs. The short side must communicate all pertinent actions (who scored, injuries, red/yellow cards).
- Match - Team admin tracks scores, substitutions, and cards in the RX Match Day app. If technical issues occur, write down the details to enter after the match.
- Post Match meeting - Referee and Team admins meet to confirm the score, and any disciplinary cards including the player and infraction.



- The app had a dropdown of all possible reasons.
- The referee will be accountable to report all red card infraction details via the match report.
- The report shall include any other disciplinary actions such as coach and/or sideline activity.
- Division directors to confirm that the match is updated to "Result" in RX by EOD the day after the match (i.e. by Sunday night following a Saturday match).



Appendix D - Forfeit Policy Proposal

1. Full or majority Spring Schedule
 - Having a 6 game matrix season all in the Spring
 - Begins early February, 2 games on, 1 weekend off
 - Having CGRU hosted “round robin” style tournaments in the fall
 - The men’s schedule is made AFTER the women’s schedule to encourage more joint home games amongst clubs
2. Fines
 - FORFEITING TEAM:
 - Must notify other team by Tuesday at 11:59pm prior to Saturdays match
 - If low on numbers, we encourage taking the forfeit but still play the game
 - If the other team is notified of the forfeit after Tuesday at 11:59pm, the forfeiting team is fined \$250 to be paid back to the Union – If not paid back by end of season, they will not be able to compete the following year until their fines have been paid
 - TEAM FORFEITED ON:
 - Must submit form to union, with proof forfeit occurred after Tuesday at 11:59pm by Monday after game was supposed to be played in order to receive \$250 compensation