

**WESTERN RUGBY UNION
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING
COURTYARD MARRIOTT HOTEL, KANSAS CITY, MO
FEBRUARY 1-2, 2003**

President Sexton opened the meeting at 12:10 PM on Saturday, February 1, 2003

Attendees:

Bill Sexton [President], Wendy Cook [Vice President &ER], David Jenkins [Secretary & Texas], David McPhail [Treasurer], Paul Mabry [Director, USA Rugby], Bob Latham [Director, USA Rugby], Kurt Torkelson [HOA], Mac McLaughlan [OZ], Greg Smith [RG], Jared Hollinger [GP], John Wolf [Mo], Bill Haffner [Administration].

Guests:

Charlie Haupt [West Referee Chairman], Steve Glentzer [West Referees], Rich Cortez [West Men's Collegiate Coach], Anil Kamat [VP Rio Grande LAU], Rich Hartke [West HS/Youth], Paul Hoskins [ERRFU HS/Youth], Jim Strecker [MRFU HS/Youth], Larry Clarke [HOA RFU Referees], Scott Novak, [Manager USA Rugby Youth/U-19 Technical Program, and Christine Franz [HOA Treasurer].

Minutes: Attachment B

Latham moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting and Cook seconded. The Board approved the minutes. Missouri objected to the lightness of the Max Cleary sentence and agreed to discuss the issue off-line with the Referees Representative [Haupt]

State of the WRFU [Sexton]

Sexton thanked the WRFU Executive Committee and Bill Haffner for their commitment and dedication to the union. He recognized Julie McCoy (Senior Women) and Karl Barth (U-23) for their contribution as coaches to the WRFU Women's Representative Teams. He announced that Craig Coates [TX] has been appointed coach of the Senior Women's Representative Team and Dustin George [ERRFU] has been appointed coach of the Women's U-23 Representative Team. The new appointees would be required to assemble their staff [managers & assistant coaches] and submit their plans by April 1st. Sexton pointed out that the Executive Committee expects all managers and coaches to do a better job at submitting reports, plans and budgets. Sexton recognized Bill Haffner's efforts to organize and run the High School Rugby Development program in October 2002 in Denver, and for his efforts in organizing this follow-up session. Sexton reviewed the purpose and scope of the WRUF grants program for national team player support, and grants to clubs and LAUs for development programs. The West administration is committed to taking a greater role in our championship events, notably there is greater budget allocated to support

these events. He noted the increased allocation in the 2003 budget for support of the Western Referees Association, which will allow them to support the WRFU events, but also the development of their referee members. Sexton reminded the Board about the existing WRUF requirement that all teams participating in matches leading to a national championship, must have at least one Level I certified coach. Lastly, Sexton recognized the influence the WRUF has at the USA Rugby Board of Directors in their present representatives, Bob Latham (USA Rugby Vice Chair, USOC Representative, and Eligibility Committee), Paul Mabry (P.R. and media consultant), Bill Sexton (chair, Membership Committee, and member of Disciplinary and Collegiate Committees). Mabry and Sexton were members of the Human Resources ad hoc sub-committee that conducted the search for the new USA Rugby CEO, Doug Arnot.

Latham added that the All-American Collegiate Program was being re-evaluated and that it was unlikely to undertake overseas tours. Hartke expressed his thanks to the WRFU for their support of the U-19 program. Sexton added that the WRFU is working with USA rugby to establish better lines of communication on player selection to training camps and representative sides. It was agreed that the WRFU would request from USA Rugby a firm ruling on the amount of time that a U-19 player can play in a weekend tournament.

Agenda: Attachment A

A motion by Cook was made to approve the amended agenda and seconded by Latham. The Board approved the motion. All written reports are contained within the board books that were distributed to the attendees.

2002 Financial Report [McPhail] Attachment C

David McPhail presented a detailed review of his written accounting statements for 2002. It was pointed out that the payment schedule for the referees would be changed in 2003. Rich Hartke remarked that he had submitted expenses for the Youth Development program, but had not been re-imbursed. McPhail and Hartke agreed to resolve this issue off-line.

2002 Dues Report [Haffner] Attachment D

Haffner commented that if outstanding debts/fines and dues were not paid by February 15th, then those clubs would be declared ineligible for the 2003 Championships as per WRUF policy. It was also requested that the Referee Societies resolve their current dues situation. Two schools in Ozark and one in HAO still owe for 2001 dues and failure to pay by the required deadline will render them ineligible for 2003 Championships. The transfer of players needs to be reported to the WRFU by faxing a copy of the transfer form to Haffner. The current dues collection worksheet will be posted to the WRFU website in Word format within the next seven days.

OLD BUSINESS:

2003 Disciplinary Actions [Cook] Attachment E

A review of pending disciplinary actions was made.

2002-2003 Competition's Report [Haffner] Attachment F for 2002 Attachment G for 2003

Haffner pointed out that the referees are still not in compliance with the match reporting requirements of the new Regional Division One League. In regards to venues for the Championships, LAUs were requested to read the hosting requirements and to submit applications if they felt that they had suitable venues. The 2004 Venues will be announced at the 2003 August WRFU Board meeting and all proposals should be submitted to Haffner prior to that meeting. The key criteria for the selection of venues are quality of hosting and facilities and venue accessibility. The WRFU had previously used a bid process and it was an inconsistent process with some venues being good and others being poor and, as a result, the current venue selection process was adopted to improve the overall quality of the events.

2002 Membership Analysis Attachment G

Haffner reviewed the 2002 WRFU membership data, with comparison to previous years.

LAU Youth Development Plans Attachments H through O

Each LAU presented an executive overview of their Youth Development Plans. Scott Novak gave a review of the USA Rugby Youth Program. Haffner provided an overview of the October 2002 meeting, and the process that led to this presentation. Each LAU, except Great Plains, submitted a written youth development plan for the coming year. These plans were presented by Paul Hoskins (ER), Rich Hartke (HOA), Jim Stecker (MO), Mac McLaughlan (OZ), Greg Smith (RG), and David Jenkinsl (TX). Scott Novack (USA Rugby) provided an overview of the USA Rugby Youth Development Program.

REPORTS

USA Rugby Report

Bob Latham and Paul Mabry presented a brief overview of current USA Rugby business and items of interest, and fielded questions from the Board.

Referee's Report [Haupt] Attachment P

Charlie Haupt provided a written report, and reviewed the activity and accounting for the WRFURA for 2002. Mabry asked whether referees on exchange visits were paid and was informed that they were not. Mabry added that the WRFU should consider the East Penn RFU model of getting the referees

paid. The current method of payments to the referees is equivalent to the poor state of the CIPP payment system ten years ago. Mabry asked whether USARRA was working for the WRFU. Haupt responded that the current USARRA organization is not working due to personality conflicts and political in-fighting. Sexton requested that the lines of communication between the referees and the WRFU scheduler be improved so that all referees are aware of the WRFU policies on match reporting.

To-Do: Sexton requested that Haupt and Glentzer develop: [1] a job description for the WRFU Referee Scheduler by Feb 15th 2003, and [2] a proposal to hold a referees development seminar at which each LAU referees society would present their development plans for additional growth in the game.

REPRESENTATIVE TEAM REPORTS Attachments Q, R, and S

Team reports were submitted by Wolf (Senior Men), Franz (Senior Women), Cortez (Collegiate Men), and McPhail (Men's 7s). Some discussion about tracking players through the WRFU development teams.

To-Do: Sexton requested that a database be established to track the elite players as they move from the U-19 level through the Collegiate and Club system. McPhail agreed to develop a template that can be used throughout the WRFU. In regards to any player who steals a Representative jersey, they will be reported to the Disciplinary Committee for action to be taken.

To-Do: Sexton concluded by stating that, effective immediately, the prior and the forthcoming year's plans and budgets for each representative team are to be presented at the August 2003 Board Meeting. Failure to do so will result in that team's budget being frozen and may subject the manager and/or coach to dismissal from their positions.

Meeting recessed at 6:00 PM.

Meeting reconvened at 8:10 AM, Sunday, February 2, 2003.

ELECTION OF 2003 OFFICERS

The following officers were unanimously elected by the Board to serve for the next twelve months:

President:	Bill Sexton
Treasurer:	David McPhail
Secretary:	David Jenkins
USA Rugby Director [1]:	Paul Mabry

Two candidates were nominated for the position of Vice President, Wendy Cook [incumbent] and Christine Franz (HOA). **Wendy Cook was elected to the position of Vice-president for a period of twelve months.**

2003 BUDGET [McPhail] Attachment U

The 2003 budget, as submitted, was approved by the Board. It was requested that all correspondence on youth grants be copied to Hartke. A discussion was held around the possibility of having charge cards for West Directors. It was explained that this had been investigated previously and the West decided against this action.

2003 WRFU CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS Attachment V

The WRUF Competition Regulations document was presented and approved. Some rewording will be done to reflect the limitation on the length of HS games in the event of ties (70 min).

2003 WRFU EVENT HOSTING RESPONSIBILITIES Attachment V

It was noted that the cots for the referees for such events has now been incorporated into the Budget Line item for referees. An amendment to Item #8 was proposed and approved.

2003 WRFU EVENT CALENDAR Attachment X

The Calendar will be revised and uploaded to the WRFU website shortly.

WRFU PROCEDURES FOR GRANT TO PLAYERS Attachment Z

The WRFU has recently developed a coversheet and guidelines for members applying for grants from the WRFU. It was requested that all LAUS send out the procedures to their member clubs asap.

OTHER BUSINESS

- [1] The following proposal was approved by the Board:
“ Effective at the start of the 2003 RSL season, at all Rugby Super League games held in the West Territorial Union, the touch judges will consist of one B-panel referee with the required touch judge certification and one touch judge with a minimum of Level II Touch judge certification.”

This resolution needs to be distributed to all Referees Societies as soon as possible.

- [2] The following proposal was proposed to the Board
“Effective September 1st 2003, all Rugby Super League and Division One clubs should carry at least two Level II Certified Touch judges”

However following lengthy discussions, it was agreed that this motion would be removed and would be resolved via electronic balloting.

- [3] The motion from the Heart of America union to rescind the previous WRFU decision to eliminate Men's Division III Championships was not seconded and died for lack of a second.
- [4] The motion by Paul Mabry to eliminate referees dues was not seconded, and died for lack of a second.
- [5] The following motion was proposed and approved by the Board.
" Effective February 8th 2003, all College teams will be required to show their collegiate eligibility roster at all games leading to a National Championship. The roster will be assembled as per the current USA rugby guidelines and using the USA Rugby Collegiate Eligibility forms. The coaches of each team will be required to verify the roster of the opposing team prior to the start of each game and to report any breaches of eligibility to their respective LAU Presidents. LAUs are expected to impose disciplinary measures against college clubs that breach the eligibility guidelines. College clubs which field players who have dropped classes and failed to fulfill the required minimum hours of study will forfeit their games. This forfeiture will also occur should such breaches of eligibility be discovered after the games have been played"
- [6] A previous WRFU policy was re-affirmed by the Board and it is outlined below:
"All clubs who wish to participate in any games leading to any National Championship must have a coach who has a minimum of Level I certification. The WRFU will begin enforcing this requirement commencing September 1st 2003."

The WRFU Board expects that all LAUs will implement the same requirements on all Men's Division III clubs that play in their unions.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 AM on Sunday, February 2, 2003.