

TRU COMPETITIONS MEETING - AGENDA

Sunday, August 18, 2013 @ Dallas, TX - Embassy Suites

1. ROLL CALL @ 10am – McPhail

- Voting Members: McPhail, Watson, Courtney, Corrigan, Roberson, Schmidtke, Wolfinger, Camm, Parker
- Non Voting Members / [Club Roll Call](#)
 - 52 attendees, 43 club Present

2. STATE OF THE UNION – McPhail

- USA Updates – Congress / Need for elections
 - i. Sharpley - 16 reps, 2 from each GU
 - ii. McPhail - How will the election process be determined?
 - iii. Sharpley - No idea, a process will be proposed by the ad-hoc committee
 - iv. McPhail - My recommendation would be to have one rep the President (or someone from the Board) and another representative from the GU. We need to determine from now till the Fall AGM to determine how we choose our reps.
- GU Updates – continuing to grow but don't know purpose
 - i. McPhail - As you know we have been a pilot GU from the start, there have been a large number of other GUs submitted for approval to USAR. The 7 LAUs that were included in the West have been broken up and redefined with other/new GUs.
 - ii. Can you clarify the difference between the GU/CRs?
 - iii. McPhail - GUs were created to remove a layer of management from USA Rugby. SBROs & Collegiate Conferences were encouraged to break out and be independent. Their only reporting body is USA Rugby. Now that the CRs have been introduced it has caused somewhat of a struggle to determine who is determining competitions/structure etc.
 - iv. Sharpley - The CRs competitions committee is entirely Board driven (USAR). It has also been determined that Competition will be Nationally run. This mandate was given by CEO Nigel Melville that all Competitions will be Nationally run.
 - v. Courtney - Had a followup question, but we tabled for later in the agenda.
 - vi. McPhail - The GU/CR landscape is very dynamic and ever changing. We need to be flexible and open to change...
- Collegiate Updates – Changes with in Colleges and addition of LSC Women
 - i. McPhail - 5 Collegiate Conferences for 2013-2014 Competitive Season. 3 Men's Club and 1 Club Women's Division. HS is still pending, but could have two Conferences.
- High School Updates – Match Fees, Field Policy, On going discipline
 - i. McPhail - HS will pay mileage this year. Also, mileage was upped to \$0.35/mile (for all divisions).

3. REVIEW OF COMPETITION RESULTS – McPhail

- General summary – USA @ Dallas; TRU @ Galveston
- Mens Results:
 - TRU D2 / D3: Griffins; Austin D1B
 - McPhail - Austin Blacks D1b won TRU D3 Championships and advanced. D2, Frisco Griffins advanced.
 - West: D1 Teams: Austin, Harlequins, Dallas Reds, Huns (order of finish)
 - Austin Blacks and Dallas Harlequins advanced to Playoffs.
 - USA Playoffs @ Dallas
 - Austin RC, Dallas Harlequins, Griffins, Austin RC D1B
 - Dallas Reds held the USA Rugby Playoffs and did a great job! (Clapping)
- Collegiate Results: SWC, ARC, LSC and SWWC
 - SWC Rice advanced; Issues with hosting and pathways
 - Rice traveled to Wisconsin and faced Bowling Green, lost 94-17. From that experience and others, the SWC have decided they will play within Texas and not go for a National Championship through USA Rugby.
 - Anderson - Will that affect the Eligibility of those Collegiate players? Would they be eligible for Club play?
 - Courtney - No, I don't believe so.
 - Sharpley - They can apply for a waiver, but only if they are a graduating a Senior.
 - McPhail - We will follow up with USA Rugby in regards to that question.
 - Lonestar - Robertson: The LSC competes under the NSCRO and follows their eligibility guidelines. We had 2 teams advance to a Playoff with Colorado, our teams didn't do so well and discovered that the level of play is high. The CO teams advanced to the NSCRO Playoffs.
 - SWWC
 - Schmidtke - For 7s we held 3 7s Tournaments and Texas placed fourth at USA Collegiate 7s; A&M did well at 15s and advanced to the Round of 8.
 - SWC
 - Butch - A&M won the ARC and declined the option to explore a USA Rugby Championship.
 - LSWC
 - Roberson - We have seven women's teams included, new programs but excited about the number of teams.
- High School: Texas Only (STT and ???)
 - Wolfinger - D1: St Thomas won RT Championships over Westlake, Lake Travis won in D2.
- Discipline Matters: Referee Abuse by Coaches / Players; Failure to adhere to [Sideline / Barrier Policy](#)
 - McPhail - We need compliance for the Sideline/Barrier Policy. It has been on the website since 2010.

- Courtney - From a Disciplinary Chair stance, sideline/barriers help with disciplinary. We are looking for the top level clubs, we are looking for you to be exemplary in these policies. You are the example for all of the other clubs.
- Watson - One of my main objectives is to ensure that your fields are setup correctly. If this is not done correctly, we do give out fines. Please review all of the Operating Policies so you are in compliance. Random visits will be given by TRU Board Members and if you are not in compliance, you will be fined. Lastly, Coaches/Subs, you DO NOT have “conversations” with the referees during the match, if so, sanctions will be served. There is no wiggle room for referee abuse.
- McPhail - Running commentary is also not acceptable, if your coach acts this way, the players will act that way. It is a trickle down effect from the Coach to the players, spectators and fans. Note that there is a [Participation Agreement](#) on the TRU website that is required of all clubs, make sure you review it and sign it.
- Sharpley - Is the system of fines documented anywhere on the web site?
- McPhail - Yes, it should be included in the [Operating Procedures](#).
- Schmidtke - The Referee Abuse extends to ARs that are helping the Center Referees. You cannot have a running dialogue with the AR, the only acceptable conversation is subbing.
- Courtney - Coming this Fall, we will be offering a FREE online TJ course for teams. The idea is that if teams have certified TJs it can help raise the level of the match. More details will be coming on this soon.
- Sharpley - Is there a requirement that clubs have a certain number of certified TJs?
- McPhail - It was discussed at the time, but we were not able to get the program off the ground, originally it was a partnership with USAR. We tried to implement it last season, but USAR was not a good partner in that endeavor.
- Courtney - Yes, there is a requirement, but since the program wasn't implemented, we couldn't enforce it at the time.
- New for 2013 – 2014
 - D1 = New Orleans?
 - D2 = Little Rock, Tulsa
 - D3 = Midland (needs 2012 resolution)
 - Women D1 = Oklahoma Roses & Tulsa

4. **iRB SCRUM ENGAGEMENTS** - Butch

- [iRB Presentation](#)
- [iRB Website with videos](#)

5. **TRU OPERATING PROCEDURES**

- Review of website
 - Feedburner - Every Club is required to have ONE rep signed up with this, more is better. Sends

out a summary of all posts to the TRU website.

- [Participation Agreement](#)
- [TRU Bid Form](#) - Fill this out 30 days in advance of your tournament, it will be put on the TRU Calendar. Also send admin@texasrugbyunion.com your tournament details and we are happy to put a post up on the TRU website.
- CMS - All Leagues will use CMS this year. Logins and passwords will come closer to the season start. Note that the new CMS system is different and takes a bit of time to get used to.

6. [BY-LAW AMENDMENTS](#) / UPDATES – COURTNEY

- Discussion of Election Cycles
- Amendment One: Members / Affiliate Status
 - i. John Anderson makes a motion to approve
 - ii. Second, Travis Hughes
 - iii. Went to a vote.
 - iv. Yay: 20
 - v. Nay: 9
 - vi. Abstain : 2
 - vii. Passed by majority decision.
- Article XIII - Amendments
 - i. Travis Hughes makes a motion to approve
 - ii. Second, John Anderson
 - iii. Aye: Unanimous
 - iv. Nay: 0
 - v. Passed by unanimous proclamation

7. FINANCIALS

- Review of YTD financials and pro-forma budget
- Courtney, Motion to approve
- Campbell, second
- Aye: unanimous
- Nay: 0
- Passed by unanimous proclamation

8. SENIOR WOMEN'S COMPETITION REVIEW

- [Division One](#): Austin Valkyries, Oklahoma Roses, Harlequins, HARC, Denton (Denton & Diablos combining)

9. SENIOR MEN'S COMPETITION REVIEW

- ACR4/RRRC Update
 - Gregg Jarvis has been added to the RRRC as a 7s Specialist. Otis Parker has also been added.

- DIVISION ONE
 - Sharpley - There is a grievance at the USA Rugby Appeal Panel that is being deliberated.
HARC, Dallas Harlequins, Woodlands, Dallas RFC, Griffins, Austin Huns, Ft. Worth, Austin Blacks & New Orleans
16 league matches
 - McPhail - Corrigan is willing to put together a schedule, deadline is Friday by 5pm.
- DIVISION TWO
 - Shreveport, Tulsa, Oklahoma City, Little Rock, Alamo City, Bay Area, HURT & Katy
D1b: HARC, Dallas Harlequins, Woodlands, Dallas RFC, Griffins, Austin Huns, Ft. Worth, Austin Blacks & New Orleans
 - McPhail - Camm is willing to put together a schedule, deadline is Friday by 5pm.
- DIVISION THREE
 - North: DARC, Denton, Grand Praire, Ft. Sill, Midland (pending) & Dallas Diablos
South: Galveston, McAllen, Corpus Christi, San Marcos & San Antonio
 - McPhail - Parker is willing to put together a schedule, deadline is Friday by 5pm.
- SEVENS
 - a. USA Guidance
 - a. Sharpley - RRRC will develop a pathway for Nationals. 2 seeds are likely.
 - b. Camm - A document that I saw in the past indicated that a 7s Club will be mandated for D1 teams.
 - c. Sharpley - Yes, that will be a mandate, there will be a waiver if teams need another year to get organized for 7s.
 - d. Melius - What if you don't have a 7s team as a D1 team?
 - e. Sharpley - It has only been proposed for D1 Men at this point. The current design is that there would be a local competition to determine the teams moving on.
 - b. West Sevens
 - a. McPhail - More than likely going away.
 - b. Camm - At the Woodlands Exiles 7s event (West 7s) there were some issues with missing pads, field enclosure concerns etc.
 - c. Jarvis - The fields were lined by the city, it was a miscommunication. There were also some missing pads on Field 1, that was resolved by pushing the tournament back. It is the opinion of the West that it was an event run at the bare minimum and they would more than likely not run another event. The event was successful, just not run very well.
 - c. Texas Sevens Series
 - a. McPhail - Didn't get off the ground this year, but we will need to determine some sort of structure for Competitive 7s. The vision is to have three to four tournaments, etc.

d. [TOLA Results](#) – Dallas RFC Champions

10. TEXAS RUGBY REFEREE ASSOCIATION – Wolfinger & McPhail

- Recap of TRRA AGM
 - i. [TRRA Chairman Report to Partners](#)
 - ii. 538 [Online Assessments](#) were given, this is GREAT, keep it up. Keep in mind that saying the referee sucked is not helpful, we ask for constructive criticism.
- [Tournament Policy Update](#)
- Maximum games per weekend, Fall Schedule, Deadline for Submissions
- Adding, Deleting, Editing of matches to TRU Master Schedule

11. [IRANZ](#) - Watson

- Dallas Texas – 16 hour clinic over three days
 - i. Friday 23 August 2013 Evening Session
 - ii. Saturday 24 August 2013 Day Session
 - iii. Sunday 25 August 2013 Day Session
- Austin Texas – 16 hours clinic over four days
 - i. Monday 26 August 2013 Evening Session
 - ii. Tuesday 27 August 2013 Evening Session
 - iii. Wednesday 28 August 2013 Evening Session
 - iv. Thursday 29 August 2013 Evening Session
- Houston Texas – 16 hour clinic over three days
 - i. Friday 30 August 2013 Evening Session
 - ii. Saturday 31 August 2013 Day Session
 - iii. Sunday 1 September 2013 Day Session

12. FALL (Texas Cup) COMPETITION - Watson

- Texas Cup - Tryouts - 9/7/2013
- Texas Cup - Conditioning & Practice - 9/14/2013
- Texas Cup - Conditioning & Practice - 9/21/2013
- Texas Cup - Game Week 1 C v B - 9/28/2013
- Texas Cup - Game Week 2 A v B - 10/5/2013
- Texas Cup - Game Week 3: A v C - 10/12/2013
- Texas Cup - Game Week 4: B v C - 10/19/2013
- Texas Cup - Game Week 5: B v A - 10/26/2013
- Texas Cup - Game Week 6: C v A - 11/2/2013
- Potential for a game against a Guest team in November or maybe in Spring 2014, details are pending.

13. REVIEW OF HIGH PERFORMANCE – Group Discussion

14. WEST & USA BOARD UPDATE

- New West Directors (Dave McPhail / KJ Abel (Kansas))
- Review of West Minutes (DRM)
 - McPhail - Sent out to each of the Divisional Reps
- New USA By-Law Changes (Scot)
- Need to start discussion on GU representatives for next cycle (2 people?)

15. OLD BUSINESS

- Courtney: Disciplinary Code may need to be adjusted as USAR has changed theirs. Will more than likely be looked at after Fall 2013.
- Camm: HS player, playing Club Level, has the process changed?
 - i. Sharpley: There is a waiver that includes a medical screening etc.

16. SELECTION OF WINTER MEETING LOCATION & DATE – Houston is up next

- Probably Feb or March, location TBD. Houston area.

17. NEW BUSINESS and INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

- Admission of new members: Tulsa, Little Rock, Oklahoma Roses and Midland(?)
 - i. Each new member except Midland spoke.
 - ii. McPhail - Motion to approve all clubs (except Midland)
 - iii. Watson, second
 - iv. Aye: unanimous
 - v. Nay: 0
 - vi. Passed by unanimous proclamation
- Dates to consider:
 - i. Vegas 7s - January 24-26, 2014
 - ii. iRB Women's 7s - Feb 14-16, 2014
 - iii. [USA Rugby National Development Summit](#) - Feb 23-24, 2014
 - iv. USA Rugby Collegiate Round of 32 - April 12-13, 2014
 - v. USA Rugby Collegiate Regional April 25-27, 2014
 - vi. USA Rugby Collegiate Finals May 9-11, 2014
 - vii. USA Rugby Club Conference Playoffs - May 17-18, 2014
 - viii. USA Rugby Club Conference Competitions - June 7-8, 2014
 - ix. USA Rugby 7s Collegiates - Nov 23-25, 2014
- Executive Board Seats open today:
 - i. Courtney: 30 day notice will be posted on the TRU web site and online nominations will be accepted.
 - ii. D1 Men's Club Rep
 - iii. Men's Collegiate Electoral Representative
 - iv. Women's Club Rep
 - a. [Women's Club Rep Requesting Nominees](#)

v. Director of Discipline, President and Director of Competitions may be open as well. Verification of that will be confirmed and open nominations will be posted on the TRU website.

18. **Presentation** (Traci)

- Congratulations to Dave McPhail for 5 years of service! The Executive Board of the TRU presented him with a commemorative plaque, TRU etched beer mugs & a vintage leather rugby ball!

19. **ADJOURNMENT**

- Courtney moves to adjourn
- Watson, second