

2013 GRU AGM

Open Meeting: 12:15 PM

GRU Officers in Attendance: President - Brian Auerbach, Treasurer - Gary Kent, Secretary - Lee Fudger, Member at Large - Dustin Karr

I. Attendance:

In attendance: Emory Men, GA College & State University Men, GA State Men, GA Tech Men, Clemson Women, Emory Women, GA Tech Women, Kennesaw State Women, N. GA Women, Athens, Old White, Columbus, High Country, Macon, NARC, Valdosta Atlanta Harlequins, Phoenix Youth, and Kennesaw Youth

Not In Attendance: GA Southern Men, Jacksonville State, North GA Men, UGA Men, GA Southern Women, UGA Women, Armstrong Atlantic, Atlanta Bucks, Atlanta Renegades, Golden Isles, Hilton Head, Life, Savannah

Pending Members: Blue Ridge Men's, Gwinnett Griffins Men's and GRITS Men's

II. Approval of Minutes of 2012 AGM:

NARC moves to accept 2012 minutes, Athens seconds. Minutes accepted.

III. Financial Report:

Jacksonville State is behind \$275.00 on dues and are under sanction. North GA College Women, GA State Men and Valdosta State are behind de minimis amounts. Treasurer encourages members to ask questions and reminds members to plan ahead for GRU dues, which enable the GRU to pay for expenses outside the set budget with reserves.

There is approximately \$1,101.70 in the GRU General Fund and \$44,066.45 in the GRU Money Market Account which is a \$3,674.11 profit from 2012.

We were able to host the GRU Rugby 7's tournament along with coaching refereeing classes in Athens on June 1, 2013 with the help of Athens RFC.

We provided support for the USARS Women's 7's, the Women's Nationals Competition and the GRU Men's 7's team.

The floor was opened for questions, none were asked and High Country moved to accept the 2013 Financial Report all approved.

IV. Discipline Report:

Garrett could not appear, but provided a memorandum of discipline, which was read by the President. There were only two discipline incidents within the GRU. The only issue worth mentioning was the spectator fight at the Old White vs. Renegades match. Both teams have been declared on Probation and will be observed closely for the next year for similar incidents and problems.

Garrett wanted to remind everyone that there is a referee shortage and that each team should encourage players to become certified and participate as referees. On that note, Garrett also wanted to remind everyone that all rugby governing bodies sanction referee abuse penalties and will be taking a hard line on such abuse in the up coming season.

The floor was opened for questions, none were asked and NARC moved to accept the 2013 Discipline Report all approved.

V. SERR's Report:

Nigel Platt in attendance for SERRS gave report. Nigel advised that there will be a Level 1 referee course in Late August 2013 in Tallahassee, that he was taking a referee course hosting class at Life University in December 2013 which would hopefully result in offering more local courses. Nigel reported that there is a 12 to 1 retention rate on persons taking the classes and actually becoming referees. There are 22 teams in the metro Atlanta area there are 5 local referees.

The current travel reimbursement for all referees is \$75. If a team requests or requires a referee to cover a second match (B-side), the reimbursement is \$65. All A-side matches regardless of the number of games played on the day are reimbursed at \$75, as on most occasions this involves two referees at the same location or one ref traveling from one location to another. The additional travel reimbursement is as follows: Over 100 miles in one direction for one or more matches - \$20, Over 150 miles in one direction for one or more matches - \$40, Over 200 miles in one direction for one or more matches - \$60.

All referee contact information is up to date at www.serrsrefs.org. All Fall schedules need to be in before the end of August so that referees can be assigned. As always Friday night games and Sunday games are encouraged whenever conflicts arise.

The GU and LAU debate will not effect SERRS, they will continue to cover the same Geographic Regions.

There is a new scrum cadence, CROUCH, BIND, SET with a video on the IRB website.

SERRS will not tolerate "ref shopping". Always go through SERRS to set schedules, do not contact local referees it simply boggles up all the schedules.

All teams are reminded to contact their assigned referees prior to the Wednesday of the match, if the assigned referee is not contacted he can be reassigned to another match.

VI. Collegiate Report:

Memo from Dave Conyers read by Brian Auerbach.

Dave expressed concern for a lack of a select all-star collegiate rugby program in place for the GRU. Dave congratulated Life University on bringing back two national collegiate championship titles to Georgia this past season.

S.I.R.C is putting together a North versus South match to select a team to compete as all-stars in a tournament later this year.

The college D1AA season saw the states four colleges all perform credibly.

University of Georgia who competed in the strong SEC competition are in a rebuilding phase after graduating many seniors last year and got good experience from the tough opposition.

Georgia Tech returned from the ACC to compete in the Southern Independent conference for the first time, and was able to reach the playoffs in their first attempt.

Kennesaw State finished a close third after a season handicapped by five mid-season ineligibilities that slowed that campaign. Georgia Southern performed well on occasions but was unable to maintain consistency.

Emory University under new head coach, and former GRU collegiate director Rene Daniel finished the Dixie league season with a winning record to take third place.

Valdosta State University won the college division of the Hotlanta 7's and the young club continues to grow.

Georgia State University and Armstrong Atlantic continue to grow and encourage new member ship.

North Georgia college qualified for the playoffs after a strong regular season under Head coach Randy Joseph.

Jacksonville State University unfortunately appears to be in a state of dormancy, come on guys get that club rolling again.

Georgia Perimeter College again, appears to have been inactive this year.

D111 clubs it seems the game is waning in this division, some of the universities aren't aligned with a conference.

Dave spoke with Sean Borman, the new president of the America Academy based out of Florida, regarding creating an academy for Georgia as a project in the GRU future.

Women's Collegiate

Emory women's rugby team was undefeated (4-0) and hosted the Division 2 Women's Collegiate Rugby South Championship as the #1 seed.

Kennesaw State an infant club in the GRU are in search of coach for the upcoming season and interested parties can contact them through the KSU club sports website.

Dave only received reports from these two clubs and would like all the women's teams to be more involved in letting the GRU know their status and achievements throughout the year.

All-Star 7s Report:

Rene Daniel

The GRU 7s had a good showing at Cape Fear 7s. GRU 7s is moving from being composed of collegiate players to Men's Division players. The Southern Union 7s is scheduled to Play the Life Elite in Sept. Rene asked that any coaches wishing to provide more exposure for their elite players to contact him at 404-668-7399.

VII. Youth Report:

A Georgia Youth Rugby Association meeting was held concurrent with the AGM, so no report was made.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

VIII. New Play Structure:

The new USA Rugby structure was announced and discussed. USA South is no longer our governing body. The GRU will be playing in NCR2 or "Southern Competition". All team must play in 10 matrix/divisional games to be eligible to advance to a national qualifier, this means matrix games will have to be played in the Fall season. Each team must have a USAR/IRB certified coach.

IX. New Memberships:

Gwinnett Rugby International Touring Side requested to become full members of the GRU presenting their organization, fields, equipment and the fact that they have been a team for approximately two years.

Athens motioned to accept GRITS as member of GRU as full member as Men's. Macon seconded. Motion carried unanimously. GRITS was ratified as full member of GRU.

Gwinnett Griffins requested to become full members of the GRU presenting their organization, fields, equipment and the fact that they are mostly comprised of Gwinnett high school rugby players looking to continue their rugby careers post graduation.

Athens motioned to accept the Griffins as member of GRU as full member as Men's. High Country seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Griffins were ratified as full member of GRU.

The Archangels requested to become full members of the GRU presenting their organization, fields, equipment and the fact that they are mostly comprised women residing in the North West quadrant of metro Atlanta.

The Harlequins motioned to accept the Archangels as member of GRU as full member as Women's. Athens seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The Archangels were ratified as full member of GRU

Blue Ridge requested to become full members of the GRU presenting Dustin Karr presented as their proxy for their organization.

Athens motioned to accept Blue Ridge as member of GRU as full member as Men's. Columbus seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Blue Ridge was ratified as full member of GRU.

Name Change- the high school teams of Walton and Kennesaw combined to form the U-19 Norsemen

Dustin Karr, Member at Large, moved that all teams new to the GRU play a year in Division IV to ensure they have the structure in place not to forfeit matrix games. After discussion Dustin withdrew his motion and it was agreed by all that teams can join directly into Division III, but any forfeit would require that team to play the next season in

Division IV and all subsequent seasons until their CIPP roster reaches a total of 30 players.

A vote was taken and the motion was passed with Columbus and Macon voting no.

X. DIII Matrix Shedule

A motion was made that the Executive Committee use their best judgment in composing a schedule for the DIII Fall and Spring season. NARC moved and High Country seconded, motion carried unanimously

XI. LAU vs. GU

LAUs vs. GUs, the GRU is currently in a LAU which USA rugby is doing way with. USA Rugby South will either be folded up in total or remain around for the purpose of providing competition for stand out players around the South.

Will Georgia become It's own GU or join with the True South GU, the Carolina GU or the Florida GU. Most of the discussion agreed that Georgia should not join another GU, but no motion was made or passed.

XII. Executive Committee Elections:

Vice President Nominations: Mike Haire, coach of the Norsemen, Griffins motioned and NARC seconded. Keith from GRITS was motioned by Columbus and Macon seconded. Keith withdrew, so Mike Haire was appointed as GRU Vice President.

Secretary Nominations: Lee Fudger, High Country, motioned by NARC seconded by GRITS. No other nominations, Lee Fudger was conscripted to be GRU Secretary.

Positions not running this year:

Treasurer, Gary Kent.

At-Large Member, Dustin Karr

President, Brian Auerbach

XIII. AGM Schedule

NARC moved that the AGM be rescheduled to earlier in the year, so that preparations for the new fall matrix season could be made, GA College seconded and it passed unanimously.

Gary Kent announced that the Executive Committee would tie the AGM to the GRU 7s tournament to the same weekend.

XIV. Budget Discussion & Adoption of New Budget:

NARC moved and High Country seconded that the GRU request USA Rugby to discontinue the \$17 additional CIPP and that GRU would collect all dues itself.

NARC moved that GRU collect money for the GRU All Star Programs, there was no second and no full vote.

It was agreed by all that the Treasurer would create a budget for the upcoming year, place that budget on the GRU list serve and take input from all members until Sept. 1, 2013. Subsequently the Executive Officers would take in all input and pass a budget.

XV. Adjourned