



MNRFU Board Meeting Agenda
Sunday, May 13, 2018 | 7:00-8:30pm
4137 43rd Avenue S. • Minneapolis, MN 55406

Present: Alexis Saari, Rachel Hill, Tammy Cowan, Ryan Gatzke, Eric Fallon, Angie Gaare, and Anne Barry

Absent: Becky Reynolds, Megan Braun, Dan Franklin, Dan Taylor

- I. Call to Order and Welcome at 7.04 p.m.
 - a. Angie welcomed and thanked everyone for accommodating a Sunday night meeting and patience with the new meeting software.

- II. Review and approval of minutes
 - a. April Meeting Minutes were approved.
 - b. Tammy requested that in the future Action items be sent out so that we know what we committed to.
 - c. **ACTION: Angie will summarize actions from tonight and last meeting into a tracking spreadsheet and send out.**
 - i. The Action log has been updated to be a Google Doc; it is housed on the mnrugbyboard google drive.

- III. Financial Report – Anne B.
 - a. Ten more teams have paid. Still waiting for some colleges and also Sr. Men's and Women's Sides still have not paid
 - b. **ACTION**
 - i. **Dan to follow up with the Men's sides (Metropolis, Banshees, Faribault, Rochester and Mankato)**
 - ii. **Megan and Rachel to follow up with the Valkyries and Menagerie**
 - c. Discussion of NSDU (women's) dues
 - i. Alexis (speaking as NDSU women's president) stated that due to budgeting issues they would not be able to pay their dues until after July 1st.
 - ii. Agreed that they must be paid prior to playing in ALL MN

- IV. Disciplinary Update – Megan B.
 - a. There is no disciplinary issues to report this month.

- V. Referee Society Update – Tammy
 - a. It has been a busy two weeks with two international referees visiting. Levar Boyd from the Bahamas and James from England. They have referred all but three of the 12 days they have been here.
 - b. There will be a Level 1 Referee clinic in June. They are looking for six people and will gear toward High School and College.

- VI. Resolution of Iowa Central Issue (Discussion/Vote) – Eric and Angie
 - a. Summary of the progress since the last meeting.
 - i. Eric – surveyed the D2 teams to see their interest in having ICC in their competition. Heard from 4 of 5 teams. No team responding was favorable to inviting them to compete with D2. Reasons cited were concern over travel time, and mismatch in competitive play.
 - ii. Angie – discussed matter with Rich Cortez at USA Rugby and asked that we discuss and vote then send him the outcome along with an overview of the

situation for him to take up. He noted we are under no obligation to include them in our play.

- iii. **ACTION: Since we didn't have a full board at tonight's meeting it was decided that Angie would send out to the voting members an email with the motion by Eric to discontinue to include ICCC in Northern Lights league play. Included as Addendum to these minutes**
- iv. **ACTION: Depending on the motion and the outcome of the vote Angie will write a letter to Rich Cortez informing him of our intent and reasons for action.**
- v. In previously noted conversation, Rich Cortez ask if we had any ideas of how best to resolve issue of competitive play for ICCC.
 - 1. A suggestion was made to encourage them to move up to Division 1A.
 - 2. Further, if ICCC was interested in fielding a domestic team as a B-side there may be room to negotiate participation in Northern Lights. This would be contingent on the willingness/agreement of the teams in the impacted league and the stipulations such as age that were agreed.

VII. All Minnesota Tournament – Dan

Per Dan, no update needed. In past years, Becky R. created Facebook event and send out email invitations to teams around July 1st. Most teams know and count on it but outstate teams benefit from the invitation.

Prior to the information being sent to teams, the board should discuss how registrations will be tracked and who will be point person for registrations and schedule creation. Becky has done this in the past, but will not be able to attend this year's event. (*June Agenda Item*)

VIII. Strategic Plan – Angie

- a. We have been gathering information and spreading the word. Still working on a method of collections (i.e. email address or link to survey).

IX. History Reconstruction – Angie

- a. The question regarding history came in from one of the Banshee Old Boys in preparation for their 40th Anniversary. We don't have our history recorded and available for access. Roger Riley has put his hand up to help with the Women's collegiate history. It was suggested that Rob Wagner may have started on this. This may be a good opportunity to work with an intern in addition to help already volunteered.

X. Other Business/Questions

- a. Level 200 Coaching Clinics (this summer)? Angie got an email asking if there were any Level 200 coaching clinics in MN this summer.
 - i. Ryan had looked into this previously and noted that there is not one scheduled near us.
 - ii. **ACTION: Rachel and Eric to reach out to the college teams to find out if there is any interest/need. There may be a need to remind or inform that this is a requirement. They will report back to Ryan what they find.**
 - iii. **ACTION: Angie to forward to Ryan the person who expressed interest**
- b. College Schedule for Fall 2018
 - i. Rachel and Eric are working on the schedule. Men's was contingent of what happened with ICCC. Now that is settled they can complete. Looking to coordinate some of the games so that teams can travel together where possible.
 - ii. **ACTON: Send Referees the schedule in Excel format**
- c. Wayne State Women (NE) inquired about joining Northern Lights
 - i. Rachel: They are looking to join in the fall. Would be in the southern teams

- ii. Biggest concern was distance our teams would have to travel. Wayne State is six hours from Twin Cities. It was suggested that Rachel look at how much that adds to the teams' total travel for the season. Wayne has won the National Championship several times and their progression through our league would mean that one of our teams would not have a seed.
- iii. Alexis said that they had approached NDSU for games. Complaints would likely be around travel. If they were willing to travel to play us or help with cost of travel and lodging that may be helpful.

XI. Adjournment at 7:54 p.m.

Next Meeting Monday June 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Addendum – Vote on Future Participation of ICCC in Northern Lights League Play

Vote take through email ballot process initiated on May 14, 2018 with voting deadline of May 16, 2018.

Call for vote initiated by Angie Gaare – President – in response to motion made by Men's Collegiate Commissioner – Eric Fallon – at the MN Rugby May 2018 Board Meeting. Binding vote could not be take place at regular business meeting due to not all members being present.

MOTION made by Eric Fallon (Men's Collegiate Commissioner): To discontinue Iowa Central Community College's (ICCC) participation in any future Northern Lights conference play.

- Vote YES if you agree we should discontinue their participation
- Vote NO if you would like to see their participation continue
- Vote ABSTAIN if you do not wish to vote YES or NO

DISCUSSION:

- One member expressed concern that the Board has not taken ICCC's interests into consideration and has not allowed the team in question the opportunity to present their position on the matter. She believes the call for a binding vote is premature as in any other disciplinary or competitive decision we would asked for information from both sides affected by the outcome. Requested that vote be tabled and at least give ICCC the courtesy of #1 knowing the vote is happening and #2 provide a statement on their behalf.
- Another member agreed that ICCC should be part of the conversation and vote. While he believes that they should be playing in a higher level of play than NSCRO and maybe even higher than D2. He has heard their team makeup has changed and the team is a unique situation and he wants to make sure we don't make a decision that will have unintended consequences. He also stated a potential that by removing ICCC out it has the very real possibility of Northern Lights only getting one D2 seed for the conference. They could get accepted into a different D2 conference and they would have to play them anyways to get to nationals. He believes this needs to be part of the discussion with the teams. He also had issue with voting out a team on the grounds of them being too good. Where do we draw the line? There other teams in other leagues that have consistently beaten teams by this threshold and for much longer than just a season.
 - With regards to what can be done in the future here was concerned with the blanket rule that they have to have an all American team to play in a league? Even at the club level there is a rule allowing a set number of players that are not US citizens. I don't want to alienate players that might be from another country and have zero Rugby experience. I also believe this is a slippery slope.
- A member asked why we have to let them know as they (ICCC) are not a member of our union. She said that when we decided to not have other teams in our leagues we just removed them.
 - A member replied as to whether it is the Union Board's responsibility to remove them then? We are a union board not a Northern Lights, shouldn't the teams be the ones to vote them out because they were the ones to vote them in? What other teams have we just removed because they were too good? I just don't think it's right to do it this way in my opinion and I don't think the teams have all the facts.
 - Another member also clarified ICCC's position that while they aren't a part of the union but they are a member of our conference and paid MN Rugby an administrative fee to oversee their competitions and technically advocate for them on a national level in that space. She also asked what teams the other member was referring to kicking out of the leagues? In their tenure on the board the only teams she can recall being removed from league play was done either at the teams request, with their consent, or due to substantial disciplinary issues which they received their due process.

- Member who posed the question agreed with some of the points made. She state that we let all teams vote and collect all data so we have concrete information on what the members of our union have voted on.
- Another member voted No and is willing to hear from ICCC to see what they have to say.
- One member voted Yes on the motion. She believes there is precedent of removing members without their consideration.

VOTE RESULTS: Motion carries 6 Yes to 3 No votes.

Roll call of votes:

Position	Name	YES	NO
President*	Angie Gaare	0	0
Vice President	Dan Franklin		1
Treasurer	Anne Barry	1	
Secretary	Becky Reynolds		1
Men's Collegiate Commissioner	Eric Fallon	1	
Women's Collegiate Commissioner	Rachel Hill		1
Disciplinarian	Megan Braun	1	
Technical Director	Ryan Gatzke	1	
Men's Collegiate Representative	Daniel Taylor	1	
Women's Collegiate Representative	Alexis Saari	1	
	Total	6	3

**In accordance with the Minnesota Rugby Bylaws, President only votes in cases where a deciding vote is needed.*