2020 Annual General Meeting
February 15, 2020
College of the Holy Cross

10:00 Roll Call   **Jeff Sperling**

- RSVP form used for attendance
- Clubs that did not respond must check in

10:05 Approval of 2019 AGM Minutes   **Members**

- Motion: MCLA, Second: Springfield RFC
- All in favor- not opposed

10:15 Welcome Address   **Lori Staples**

- **Review of current landscape**
  - NSCRO reorganization
  - Declining membership nationwide
  - Membership evenly split between club and college

10:20 Treasurer Report

- Benefits of NERFU membership
  - Lower dues/no tiered fees
  - Financial assistance for coach education
  - Playoff assistance
  - Select-side reimbursement
  - NERFU Cup (senior teams)
  - Review of budget (revenue v expenses)

10:25 Congress Report

- Continued frustration, and lack of defined roles or empowerment

■ USA Rugby filing for bankruptcy, which will impact current structure

10:30 Executive Director Summary

- **Senior Clubs**
    - Overview of club rugby structure
    - Regional overview (CR3/Atlantic North)
    - Review of division winners and playoffs

- **Colleges**
    - Moment of Silence for UVM coach
    - Overview of Northeast College structure
        - NSCRO affiliation
        - NERFU is the largest
            - 3 out of 4 spots in the regional playoffs
    - Review of NERFU divisions
        - 3 divisions
        - Focused on reducing the forfeits at the Developmental level
            - Instituted 3-team events with positive results
        - Select-side: many NERFU players performed well and 2 were named All American selections

- **Sevens- Executive Summary**
    - Bid form will be sent out soon to submit host requests
    - Funding eliminated for the Northeast Academy
    - Review of 7s series last year
        - Winners: Men- Lowell Highlanders, Women- Providence RFC

- **Media Specialist- Executive Summary**
    - Social media presence continuing
    - 7s application is now live

10:45 Review of Disciplinary Procedures

- 3 member panel from Executive Board

- Overview of procedures when incidents arise

- Citation process- no official citing officer, but clubs can always submit citations

    - Will require 'proof' to result in any sanctions, but can at least inform the Disciplinary Committee of the incident (video is very helpful)

- CIPP process- required for all participants (players and referees)

10:50 Union Functioning and Competition Protocols

- Advised to obtain club data through the USA Rugby database prior to reorganization

- Referees: Chris Schuyler is President, Peter Watson has stepped down

    - Other options beyond NERRS

    - Review procedure for obtaining a referee

- B-side requirement protocols (no requirement for full match, but should play some sort of B-side)

- Rostering requirements (CMS), and roster checks are always an option

- Matches can be played under protest- must be announced prior to the match

11:00 Awards

11:05 Election of New Board Members

11:10 New Business

- **Brad Dufresne- New President's Address**

- **Bill Good- MYRO**

- ○ Importance of starting youth programs
  - ■ Use the schools as a resource
- ○ Regional Cup Tournament
  - ■ Chance for college coaches to recruit and network
- ○ National Development Tour events
  - ■ Youth track
- ○ 5 State Rugby Organizations in New England
- ○ Review of NDS and upcoming courses

- ● **Review of USA Rugby Landscape**
  - ○ Financial difficulties from the national office
    - ■ Misuse of member dues
    - ■ Task Force organized to address issues
      - ● Working with silo stakeholders
      - ● GU Leaders demanded to place their own member (Kirk Tate- Texas Rugby Union)
    - ■ NSCRO (soon to be NCRO) stepped up to lead college rugby
    - ■ Funds will run out within the next few months, with reorganization to be finalized by August 2020
  - ○ GU Leader Feedback
    - ■ Timeline is unreasonable
    - ■ Reorganization does not address the current issues comprehensively
    - ■ Club option/plans:
      - ● Wait for reorganization plans
      - ● Pursue autonomy without USA Rugby
        - ○ Insurance
        - ○ Competition structure/Championships

- Many unions are seriously considering breaking from USA Rugby (Empire, Texas, Indiana, etc)

11:45 Adjourn- breakout sessions