

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 9, 2026

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Ed Panzella (Vice President), Gary Heavner (Director of Governance), Lex Maccubbin (Director of Rugby)

Non-Voting Members: Kara Kalinowski (Women), Jon Morgan (Referees)

Ad-Hoc: JC Whipple (Administrator)

Membership: None

Absent: Dannish Patel (President), Bob Figueiredo (Men),

Others: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 p.m. A quorum is in place. The meeting is being recorded.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ed Panzella (Vice President) was filling in for Dannish Patel (President) this evening. Ed said Dannish is continuing to work on HP for Men's and Women's and building out that program.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

JC Whipple said there is \$128,075.40 currently in the bank account. He reported that the typical uptick in USA Rugby dues will be coming in the next couple weeks. Upcoming expenditures will be the Atlantic Super Regional.

GOVERNANCE REPORT

Gary Heavner said there is nothing going on right now and waiting for the Spring to pick up.

DIRECTOR OF RUGBY REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said for the ASR, there is a financial proposal in from David Chapman at Niagara University. There will be multiple fields lined and structured. There will be concessions available. Schedules will be posted on the dedicated ASR website. Games / Rosters will be posted in RX (JC Whipple and Lex Maccubbin will work through this). Lex said Andy Buck and Matt Lake are working through referee assignments. Lex reported that the committee is working on streaming options (Jeff Qualey is working through that matter).

Lex Maccubbin said he and Kara Kalinowski (Women's Director) held a meeting for all Women's Clubs. He said the plan was for five (5) D2 teams and four (4) D3 teams. A few days following, Empire received a notification from Danbury and New Haven that the teams were looking at moving to NERFU. Lex said there was disappointment and the first reaction was no - this would negatively impact the women's program. A discussion took place. Gary Heavner said he advised a response be formalized as to say why Empire would decline such a move.

SEVENS REPORT

No report.

REFEREES REPORT

Jon Morgan said the Spring season is underway. There are a number of games that have been entered into Match Facts, everything needs to be in to ensure referee coverage.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JC Whipple
EGU Administrator