

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 13, 2026

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Voting Board Members: Dannish Patel (President), Ed Panzella (Vice President), Lex Maccubbin (Director of Rugby)

Non-Voting Members: Derek Lipscomb (Community)

Ad-Hoc: JC Whipple (Administrator)

Membership: None

Absent: Gary Heavner (VP Governance), Kara Kalinowski (Women), Bob Figueiredo (Men), Jon Morgan (Referees)

Others: None

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 p.m. The meeting is being recorded.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dannish Patel said Empire received some good news. It will host its first Teaching & Education Summit on August 22 at Niagara University. It will include Coaching 1, Referee 1 and Strength.

Dannish said the HP program played a match (NYC-CT) played earlier in July. Dean Hottum said there is a possible match against a rival union, and looking to enter a side in the Marygram Tournament.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

JC Whipple reported there is currently \$85,488.66 in the bank account.

The USA Rugby registration cycle for 26-27 begins on August 15, so there will be an uptick in revenue from registration fees.

RUGBY REPORT

Lex Maccubbin said the Men's and Women's schedules have been distributed to the clubs. A discussion took place regarding specific divisions, clubs, etc. Lex said all clubs have been put on notice (two notices) to input all home matches into Match Facts.

VP / SEVENS REPORT

Ed Panzella said he has reached out to Saratoga seeking results from the weekend. He will share ASAP. Looking ahead to next year, Ed said there are changes already in the works for next year's series.

HIGH PERFORMANCE REPORT

Report was included in the President's report.

GOVERNANCE REPORT

Gary Heavner was not present.

REFEREES REPORT

Jon Morgan was unable to attend, but said new Law updates announced by World Rugby beginning July 1:
<https://passport.world.rugby/laws-of-the-game/whats-new/2026-07-law-updates/>

Quick summary is that there aren't that many things which impact Empire, as we already implemented the brake foot and sternum tackle height. There are also some minor Law clarifications, including updates to in-goal permutations

COMMUNITY REPORT

Derek Lipscomb said over the past few weeks he has met with Rob Sharp (Community Engagement at USA Rugby) regarding a number of issues and what community means at the national level. He said that the North-east is leading the way in its outreach, but there is a need for continued growth. Ideas coated are sock drives, clinics (high school, new to rugby), etc.

The hope is that each club could eventually have one designated Community representative to engage and support. Retention within clubs was also discussed, creating workshops to scale players up to Coaches and Refs.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

Being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JC Whipple
EGU Administrator