

EMPIRE RFU GU
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 15, 2026

The Executive Board met via conference call on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 9:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Ad-Hoc: JC Whipple (Administrator)

Membership: None

Absent: None

Others: None

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ed Panzella said Dannish Patel will be joining in a few minutes. There is nothing new to report at this point.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

JC Whipple reported there is currently \$87,225.97 in the bank account.

Empire accumulated expenses of \$15,916.61 for the ASR (field rental, medical support, print costs, etc.). JC is working on reimbursement of these expenses through USA Club Rugby.

ASR Referee fees associated with D3 Women and D4 Men matches totaled \$2,750. Empire has paid \$2,375 to date (three referees have not responded).

RUGBY REPORT

Lex Maccubbin (DOR) said Bob Figueiredo has reached out to all the Men's teams to . Lex is starting to putting together a draft schedule. Lex said a couple teams are protesting being relegated, though Empire policy is clear (especially related to forfeits). More to follow.

Kara Kalinowski (Women) said she has communicated with all teams about their involvement for the 26-27 season and will be drafting a schedule.

Ed Panzella (Sevens) provided an overview of the first 7s event - the

Atlantic Region Women's D3: There is discussion amongst Atlantic Region leadership regarding WD3 not NCS governed and to allow transwomen to play in the league. Kara Kalinowski said she met with Empire WD3 clubs previously on this topic. Gary Heavner said Empire cannot support a competition if every single player is registered through USA Rugby and those players will follow USA Rugby policy. A discussion amongst the Board took place. Dannish Patel will be reaching out to fellow Atlantic leadership with Kara Kalinowski and Derek Lipscomb planning to join.

HIGH PERFORMANCE REPORT

Dean Hottum was not present to report.

GOVERNANCE REPORT

Gary Heavner said there a few cases being wrapped up based on team schedules.

REFEREES REPORT

Jon Morgan said the spring and playoff structure went well, and everything has now shifted to the 7s season.

COMMUNITY REPORT

Derek Lipscomb said he spoke with Rob Sharp (Community Engagement at USA Rugby) regarding a number of issues. 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 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JC Whipple
EGU Administrator