

Southeastern Rugby, Inc.

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday, May 4th, 2021

Open: 8:00 PM EST
Closed: 9:27 PM EST

Roll Call

Commissioner – Marty Bradley
Secretary/Treasurer – James Farrar

Alabama – John Lorenz / Matthew Colson
Clemson – Troy Hall
Georgia – Cameron DiLoreto / Taye Olagunju / Danny
Georgia Tech – Mitchell Blair
Kennesaw State – Randall Joseph / Michael Healey
Kentucky – Gary Anderson

Louisiana State – Noah Wilsea / John Salyer
Memphis – Blake White
Middle Tennessee State – Jim Belli
Mississippi State – Jason Posey
South Carolina – Connor Carey / John Golden /
Andrew Boldy
Tennessee – Tom Pelini

Not Present: Auburn & Mississippi

Opening remarks

Overview of agenda provided by Commissioner Marty Bradley

USA Rugby Reorganization

- USA Rugby
 - USA Rugby has emerged from bankruptcy proceedings as a much different yet functional national governing body, providing selected services. These services include liability insurance for teams and participants, baseline coaching certification, and a universal registration system.
 - The SCRC has opted to remain under the USA Rugby umbrella as an independent conference. As such, SCRC teams and players must continue to register with USA Rugby.
- Collegiate Rugby
 - Despite USA Rugby's return, a great realignment has taken place in the collegiate world as conferences and teams have found new homes for competitive structure and organization.
 - The NCR, formerly the National Small College Rugby Organization, has consumed the landscape, creating a standoff between themselves and the national governing body.
 - As World Rugby looks to only one national governing body (USAR), the sanctioning of non-league matches has become necessary for the assignment of match officials and liability insurance compliance.
 - While the SCRC is not dictating play, it does ask its members to be aware of the current landscape when making scheduling decisions, as your match may require additional planning.

Officer Elections

- Commissioner
 - Cameron DiLoreto (GA) nominated Marty Bradley
 - Randall Joseph (KS) seconded the motion and motioned to close the floor of further nominations and accept the nomination of Marty Bradley by unanimous consent
 - Gary Anderson (KY) seconded the motion
 - With no objections, Marty Bradley retained his position as Commissioner
- Treasurer/Secretary
 - Cameron DiLoreto (GA) nominated Jim Farrar
 - Randall Joseph (KS) seconded the motion and motioned to close the floor of further nominations and accept the nomination of Jim Farrar by unanimous consent

- Connor Carey (SC) seconded the motion
- With no objections, Jim Farrar retained his position as Treasurer/Secretary
- Both men will serve a term of 1 year.
- The Commissioner shall have the authority to appoint additional personnel or advisers to serve as directors and on committees to support the operations of the conference. Current personnel include the following:
 - Gary Anderson – Competitions / Performance
 - Charles Dube – Discipline
 - Dave Haines – Referees
 - Marty Bradley – High Performance

Conference Handbook Review

- As an independent/autonomous conference under the newly restructured USA Rugby, the SCRC is responsible for forming its own policies and guidelines for competition, eligibility, discipline and team expectations, using World Rugby and neighboring associations as reference. Special attention has been given towards junior colleges and consortium agreements, and several new opportunities are available for league participants, and outsiders, to serve.
- Teams were given an opportunity to review a proposed handbook containing updated sections for each of the topics listed above.
- Commissioner Bradley fielded questions/comments regarding the proposed changes, with a majority involving the junior college consortium agreements. Over the past two years there have been many discussions, opinion, and complaints shared over this section of USA Rugby eligibility. There are those that want to see a wide-open eligibility for anyone that wants to play college rugby no matter where enrolled and there are those that want to end all consortium agreement waivers. This is an attempt to strike a balance based on the totality of the feedback that the conference has received. Links to the 2020 USA Rugby and NCR Eligibility Rules were provided for review.
 - Commissioner Marty Bradley (SCRC) motioned to close the floor of further debate and call a recorded vote on the proposed SCRC Handbook, including the addendum regarding consortium agreements
 - Jim Farrar (SCRC) seconded the motion
 - With 10 votes in favor, 0 against, and 2 abstentions, the new SCRC Handbook is approved

Approve the Proposal:

Alabama – John Lorenz
 Clemson – Troy Hall
 Georgia – Cameron DiLoreto
 Georgia Tech – Mitchell Blair
 Kennesaw State – Randall Joseph
 Kentucky – Gary Anderson
 Louisiana State – Noah Wilsea
 Mississippi State – Jason Posey
 South Carolina – John Golden
 Tennessee – Tom Pelini

Reject the Proposal:

N/A

Abstain/Present:

Middle Tennessee State – Jim Belli
 Secretary/Treasurer – James Farrar

Not Present:

- Auburn – Benji Gonzales (not on the call)
- Memphis – Blake White (call dropped during storm)
- Mississippi – Curtis Parker (not on the call)

2021 Fall 15s Season Proposal

- Tier 1: Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Kennesaw State, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee
 - 7 teams playing each other in round robin format → top 2 play in DI SCRC Final
- Tier 2: Auburn, Georgia Tech, Memphis, Middle Tennessee State, Mississippi, Mississippi State
 - 6 teams playing each other in round robin format → top 2 play in DII SCRC Final
- Allows for home & away, crossovers, & friendlies → home football weekends are avoided → each team receives their #1 open date, though some are not as lucky with their #2 open date
- DI & DII SCRC Finals to take place on Nov 20 at a site TBA based on a formal bidding process
- System for promotion & relegation to be provided

Div 1 SW	18-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct	9-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct	30-Oct	6-Nov	13-Nov	20-Nov	4-Dec
KSU	Tennessee		Alabama	At Clemson	Open	At Georgia	At Kentucky	South Carolina		SCRC Playoffs	Bowls
Alabama	Clemson	At Kentucky	KSU		UGA	Tennessee		Open	At USC	SCRC Playoffs	Bowls
Georgia	At USC	Clemson		UK	At Alabama	KSU	Open	At Tennessee		SCRC Playoffs	Bowls
Tennessee	At KSU		UK		Clemson	At Alabama	At USC	Georgia	Open	SCRC Playoffs	Bowls
Kentucky	Open	Alabama	At Tennessee	At Georgia	At USC		KSU	At Clemson		SCRC Playoffs	Bowls
Clemson	At Alabama	At Georgia		KSU	At Tennessee	USC	Open	Kentucky		SCRC Playoffs	Bowls
USC	Georgia			Open	At Kentucky	At Clemson	Tennessee	At KSU	Alabama	SCRC Playoffs	Bowls

Div 2	18-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct	9-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct	30-Oct	6-Nov	13-Nov	20-Nov	4-Dec
Auburn		At Georgia Tech	At Memphis		At Ole Miss	MSU		MTSU	SCRC Playoffs	SCRC Playoffs	Bowl
Georgia Tech		Auburn			MSU	At MTSU	At Ole Miss	Memphis	SCRC Playoffs	SCRC Playoffs	Bowl
MTSU		At Ole Miss		At MSU	Memphis	Georgia Tech		At Auburn	SCRC Playoffs	SCRC Playoffs	Bowl
Memphis			Auburn		At MTSU	Ole Miss		At Georgia Tech	SCRC Playoffs	SCRC Playoffs	Bowl
MSU		At Memphis	Ole Miss	MTSU	At Georgia Tech	At Auburn			SCRC Playoffs	SCRC Playoffs	Bowl
Ole Miss		MTSU	At MSU		Auburn	At Memphis	Georgia Tech		SCRC Playoffs	SCRC Playoffs	Bowl

- In the absence of a USA Rugby sanctioned post-season format, member conferences have joined together to create a bowl style weekend in Charlotte, NC the weekend of Dec 4. MAC and SCRC have each committed to the DI division, with a DII division currently in the forming stages. Big 10 & Rocky Mountain have each expressed interest to participate, though their level of commitment is TBD. Women’s teams will also be participating. Lack of post-season participation in recent years (extensive travel and expenses, as well as player availability) makes this affiliation/partnership ideal and sustainable.
- Louisiana State will be switching to the Associate Member status for the 2021-2022 season, opting for a ‘friendlies only’ 15s schedule this fall and next spring, effectively forfeiting their opportunity to participate in each of the conference’s championship events. Depleted numbers and a concern for the growth of their program will keep them close to home and limited in nature.

2021 Spring 7s Season Proposal

- Return to the original Sevens Series qualifiers with a SCRC Championship format (2015 & 2016)
 - Tournament 1 – TBA
 - Tournament 2 – TBA
 - Championship – TBA
- Standards and Requirements TBD
- Winner → Postseason Tournament (TBA)
 - If winner defers, finalist may apply for an At-Large bid
- The growth of the conference may require these to be two-day events
- Any 'SEC only' 7s Championship would be funded and organized by the participating teams, not the SCRC

Financial Report

- 2020-2021 Fiscal Season
 - Beginning Balance = \$31,700
 - Revenue = **\$500**
 - 1 member team @ \$500
 - Expenses = **\$0**
 - Ending Balance = \$32,200
- 2021-2022 Fiscal Proposal
 - Beginning Balance = \$32,200
 - Revenue = **\$14,400**
 - 12 member teams @ \$1,100 each
 - 2 member teams @ \$600 each
 - Expenses = **\$14,300**
 - \$5,175 – 7s Championship
 - \$4,850 – 15s Championship
 - \$2,500 – High Performance
 - \$1,780 – Administrative
 - Ending Balance = \$32,300
- Budget Approval
 - Marty Bradley (SCRC) motioned to close the floor of further debate and accept the 2021-2022 fiscal proposal by unanimous consent
 - Jim Farrar (SCRC) seconded the motion
 - With no objections, the fiscal proposal is approved

Other Business

- High Performance Partnership with Panther Rugby Academy
 - SCRC will allocate \$2500 towards supporting SCRC players selected to the Panther Rugby Academy, to include registration fees, travel, and equipment.
 - PRA is a high-performance/elite rugby program that develops athletes following the USA Rugby National Development Program.
 - Currently, 4 SCRC coaches are affiliated with PRA including Marty Bradley (SCRC), Gary Anderson (KY), Jody Hensley (MTSU), and Randall Joseph (KS), with this being the first year for U23.
- Contacts
 - Teams are encouraged to send their contact information (Coach / Officer / School Rep) to the Commissioner by the end of this week so that all updates may be reflected.

Being no further business before the group, the meeting was closed at 9:27 PM EST.