

Southeastern Rugby, Inc.

General Meeting
Wednesday, June 8th, 2022

Open: 8:00 PM EST
Closed: 8:58 PM EST

Roll Call

Commissioner – Marty Bradley
Secretary/Treasurer – James Farrar
Referees Director – Dave Hines

Auburn – Sam Parks
Clemson – Troy Hall
Georgia Tech – Chris Carter
Kennesaw State – Randall Joseph / Jack Donavan
Kentucky – Gary Anderson

Louisiana State – George Mercer / Mason Mahfouz
Memphis – Rick Cole
Mississippi – Mark Erbstoesser / Patrick Towery
Mississippi State – Jason Posey
South Carolina – John Roberts
Tennessee – Marty Bradley

Not Present: Alabama, Georgia

Opening remarks

Overview of agenda provided by Commissioner Marty Bradley

SCRC Postseason 7s in Review

- USAR Rugby 7s Collegiate Championship
 - May 14-15 in Atlanta, televised by NBC
 - Clemson (3-3) DIA Bowl Finalist
 - South Carolina (3-1) DIAA Cup Quarterfinalist
 - Tennessee (3-1) DIAA Cup Quarterfinalist
 - Kennesaw State (1-3) DIAA Bowl Quarterfinalist
 - Memphis (3-2) DII Cup Finalist
- Collegiate Rugby 7s National Championship
 - May 28-30 in New Orleans, televised by CBS
 - South Carolina (3-2) Shield Finalist
 - Clemson (2-3) Shield Semifinalist
- Goff Rugby Report 7s National Rankings
 - DIA/DIAA
 - South Carolina (27th)
 - Clemson (28th)
 - Tennessee (38th)
 - DII
 - Auburn (13th)
 - Memphis (14th)

Membership

- Using an extensive vetting process that ensures compatibility and competitiveness, one program chose to complete the application process for DII consideration - Valdosta State University (VS)
- Commissioner Bradley fielded questions while providing a recent review of the applicant
- Valdosta State University
 - Marty Bradley (SCRC) motioned to close the floor of further discussion and call a recorded vote to accept Valdosta State's application to the SCRC as a Full Member
 - Chris Carter (GT) seconded the motion

- With 12 votes in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions, the motion is approved
- Commissioner Bradley will follow up with the program

Approve the Proposal:

Auburn – Sam Parks
 Clemson – Troy Hall
 Georgia Tech – Chris Carter
 Kennesaw State – Randall Joseph
 Kentucky – Gary Anderson
 Louisiana State – George Mercer
 Memphis – Rick Cole
 Mississippi – Mark Erbstoesser
 Mississippi State – Jason Posey
 South Carolina – John Roberts
 Tennessee – Marty Bradley
 Secretary/Treasurer – James Farrar

Reject the Proposal:

N/A

Abstain/Present:

N/A

Not Present:

Alabama, Georgia

USA Rugby vs National Collegiate Rugby

- The SCRC opted to remain under the USA Rugby umbrella as an independent conference for the ‘21/’22, though postseason options have opened a discussion in considering NCR membership.
- Without a clear directive from the membership during the AGM in May on which governing body the SCRC should align with for the upcoming ‘22/’23 season, Commissioner Bradley tabled the discussion for one month to allow for further review.
- Commissioner Bradley fielded questions while providing a macro view of what a change in membership/alignment would mean for the conference and its member teams:
 - The NCR provides a 2-tiered membership option:
 - \$1300/team, \$45/coach, and \$20/player, or
 - \$160/team, \$45/coach, and \$65/player
 - USA Rugby provides a single membership option:
 - \$150/team, \$65/coach, and \$32/player
 - USA Rugby provides the most economical option, regardless of club size, though if you do register with NCR, option 1 is best for clubs with 26 or more players.

	20 Players	40 Players	60 Players
USAR	\$ 790	\$ 1,430	\$ 2,070
NCR #1	\$ 1,700	\$ 2,100	\$ 2,500
NCR #2	\$ 1,460	\$ 2,760	\$ 4,060

- Marty Bradley (SCRC) – A complete move to NCR would make our teams ineligible for USAR post season events. While USA Rugby provides little assistance, it does offer greater autonomy than we would otherwise experience under NCR (playoff competition, eligibility, discipline). Competition wise, there would be no changes to what we do currently if we realign. Also note that USA Rugby’s standard insurance/liability policy does not cover events with non-USAR teams, while NCR’s does.
- Marty Bradley (SCRC) – Our DII teams, especially, need to take a hard look at our national realignment options. Under USA Rugby, a DII 15s playoff/championship is unlikely this fall. We were lucky to convince a Rocky Mountain Conference team to travel and play last fall, though that scenario is unlikely to repeat itself. It cost the SCRC \$3000 for our team to participate in the championship event, plus we had to agree to pay \$1500 of the opponent’s cost just to get them here, an offer we would likely have to repeat. It was a great event and Auburn represented us well, though it is unsustainable long-term. If postseason play is a driving factor for our DII teams, we should take a serious look at NCR and consider the increase in annual registration expense. I have

asked NCR to provide us with details on what their playoff format will look like this year. I do know they have already booked the Tennessee Rugby Park for the Nov 19th weekend – last year that was the quarterfinal and semifinal round and then the finals were in Houston the second weekend of December.

- Marty Bradley (SCRC) – If our DII members collectively decide that post season is important enough to move to NCR then they can decide to do that, and it would not affect the status of SCRC DI. Our DI members can choose to remain with USA Rugby regardless of what DII decides, though with 4 of our 8 DI teams already associated with NCR for various competition options, we should have a conversation on the merits of staying with USA Rugby vs migrating to NCR as a competition.
- Q – Chris Carter (GT) – Does NCR still allow a handful of scholarship teams to play DII that really should be playing DI?
- A – Based on conversations I have had with NCR officials over the past month, it looks like they have almost finalized the division of teams between School Supported (Varsity) and Club. The DI & DII Varsity teams now have their own competition. ([NOTE: Big Rivers Rugby Conference is NCRs newest DI conference](#)) They will all go into a DI Varsity playoff and there will be a DI and DII Club playoff. NCR is currently realigning most of their conferences due to an addition of teams and the shift of varsity teams out of traditional club conferences.
- Q – Chris Carter (GT) – Does it make sense to explore expanding DI to include the DII sides? I think most of us last year could compete with most of the DI sides.
- A – Happy to explore consolidation, though that would need to be a decision made collectively by the DII teams.
- Q – Chris Carter (GT) – Would the implementation of a promotion/relegation system (movement between SCRC DI and DII divisions) benefit the competitive nature of the conference?
- A – This policy was originally used when we reorganized the conference into different divisions. Unfortunately, in practice, the Top DII team never wanted to leave DII and the bottom DI team never wanted to move down, making the policy irrelevant. Therefore, the policy was discontinued.
- Q – Nick Prather (AU) – What if the winner of the conference just plays whoever gets second in the MAC? It'll end up being Louisville or western Michigan who are both good sides and better than anyone coming out of the Rocky Mountain.
- A – That would work, though it would not be a DII playoff, so it would be referred to as a bowl game. If playoff rugby is important for our DII teams, the only option is to migrate to NCR. If it is not important then we stay with USA Rugby.
- Matthew Colson (AL) – If DII moves, not also moving DI seems like a delay in the inevitable which could confound things for member clubs. I cannot see the logic in moving one and not the other. As such, should DII move to NCR and DI not move, we are having discussions at Alabama about moving to DII within SCRC to take advantage of this transition to NCR. We are not having discussions on leaving the SCRC regardless of the outcomes of these decisions. However, the more time that passes and the more conversations we have with NCR reps, the more the move looks to be a wise decision for Alabama. On a related note, there are teams housed within Alabama which are already members of NCR but play in a, perhaps, inferior conference. Namely Troy, Spring Hill, and Alabama-Birmingham. If growth is a goal of this conference, these teams might be obvious selections for expanding the SCRC under the NCR body.
- Gary Anderson (KY) – Does the NCR have a policy regarding Consortium agreements?
- A – There is a section which outlines the necessary academic and geographic connectivity, though there are restrictions on the number of consortium players who may be rostered. Many of their policies are holdovers from NSCRO, written to benefit small colleges, so it is unclear how they would interpret a DI program exploring this option. ([NOTE: NCR Eligibility Policy Handbook](#))
- John Roberts (SC) – During our last call, several coaches expressed a desire to experience both 7s championship events to enhance our perspective on the value of each organization before making a realignment decision. Having participated in both events, I can easily say that the USA Rugby event in Atlanta was better managed and a more enjoyable experience for the players. (Troy Hall of Clemson agrees). It was less expensive on travel, food, and accommodations, and it had the benefit of being on a college campus. Fortunately, we had the resources and the will to do both events this

year, so it was great that we had that option to register separately as needed. ([NOTE: side-by-side comparison of the USA Rugby 7s Championship \(R7CC\) and the NRC 7s Championship \(CRC\) provided by Alex Goff of Goff Rugby Report](#))

- Realignment Vote #1
 - Sam Parks (AU) motioned to close the floor of further debate and call a recorded vote to realign SCRC DII membership with NCR, discontinuing its current relationship with USA Rugby
 - Rick Cole (Memp) seconded the motion
 - With 3 votes in favor, 2 against, and 0 abstentions, the motion is approved

Approve the Proposal:

Auburn – Sam Parks
Georgia Tech – Chris Carter
Memphis – Rick Cole

Reject the Proposal:

Mississippi – Mark Erbstoesser
Mississippi State – Jason Posey

Not Present:

N/A

Abstain/Present:

N/A

- Realignment Vote #2
 - Marty Bradley (TN) motioned to close the floor of further debate and call a recorded vote to realign SCRC DI membership with NCR, discontinuing its current relationship with USA Rugby
 - James Farrar (SCRC) seconded the motion
 - With 1 vote in favor, 5 against, and 0 abstentions, the motion failed

Approve the Proposal:

Tennessee – Marty Bradley

Reject the Proposal:

Clemson – Troy Hall
Kennesaw State – Randall Joseph
Kentucky – Gary Anderson
Louisiana State – George Mercer
South Carolina – John Roberts

Abstain/Present:

N/A

Not Present:

Alabama, Georgia

2022 Fall 15s Season Update

- Tier 1: Alabama, Clemson, Georgia, Kennesaw St, Kentucky, Louisiana St, South Carolina, Tennessee
 - 8 teams divided into 2 brackets of 4 → play each within your bracket +2 crossovers → top 2 in each bracket play in DI SCRC Semi-Finals (W1 vs E2 & E1 vs W2) with the winners advancing to the Final
- Tier 2: Auburn, Georgia Tech, Memphis, Mississippi, Mississippi State, Valdosta St
 - 6 teams playing each other in round robin format → top 4 play in DII SCRC Semi-Finals (1 vs 4 & 2 vs 3) with the winners advancing to the Final
- NOTE: If a team cannot play home matches at all during home football games and your competition calendar is full of home games and then you ask for open dates to be during away football games, it doesn't leave much room to schedule home rugby matches. Because of these kinds of conflicts some teams are traveling to an opponent again in 2022 even though they also traveled there in 2021 – and many only have 2 home matches on their conference schedule. Feel free to reach out to your opponent if you want to reschedule a match that works for both teams including September 10.
- NOTE: This schedule is subject to change based on the possible addition of Middle Tennessee State following tonight's DII realignment vote.

Southeastern Collegiate	17-Sep	24-Sep	1-Oct	8-Oct	15-Oct	22-Oct	29-Oct	5-Nov	12-Nov
Alabama	At Kennesaw State		LSU	Open	At Tennessee (Fri)	Open	At Clemson	Kentucky	SCRC Playoff
LSU	At Clemson		At Alabama	Tennessee (Fri)	Open	At Georgia	Kennesaw State	Open	SCRC Playoff
Kennesaw State	Alabama	Open	Tennessee	At Kentucky	Open		At LSU	At South Carolina	SCRC Playoff
Tennessee		Open	At Kennesaw State	At LSU (Fri)	Alabama (Fri)		South Carolina	Georgia	SCRC Playoff
Clemson	LSU	Georgia		At South Carolina	Open	At Kentucky	Alabama	Open	SCRC Playoff
Kentucky			Georgia	Kennesaw State	At South Carolina	Clemson	Open	At Alabama	SCRC Playoff
South Carolina	At Georgia	Open		Clemson	Kentucky	Open	At Tennessee	Kennesaw State	SCRC Playoff
Georgia	South Carolina	At Clemson	At Kentucky	Open		LSU	Open	At Tennessee	SCRC Playoff
Memphis	TBD		At Miss State (Sun)	Open	At Auburn	Georgia Tech	At Ole Miss		SCRC Playoff
Auburn	Ole Miss (Sun)		At TBD	Open	Memphis	Open	At Miss State	Georgia Tech	SCRC Playoff
Georgia Tech	At Miss State	Ole Miss		TBD	Open	At Memphis		At Auburn	SCRC Playoff
Ole Miss	At Auburn	At Georgia Tech	Open		Open	At TBD	Memphis	Mississippi State	SCRC Playoff
Mississippi State	Georgia Tech (Sun)	At TBD	Memphis (Sun)		Open	Open	Auburn	At Ole Miss	SCRC Playoff
TBD	At Memphis	Miss State	Auburn	At Georgia Tech	Open	Ole Miss			SCRC Playoff
MTSU				Open			Open		

Being no further business before the group, the meeting was closed at 8:58 PM EST.