

Southeastern Rugby, Inc.

**Annual General Meeting
Monday, April 23rd, 2018**

Open: 9:00 PM EST

Began: 9:10 PM EST

Roll Call

Commissioner – Marty Bradley

Secretary/Treasurer – James Farrar

Alabama – Ben Rogers / Shawn Dawley

Georgia – Christian Schoeberl

Kentucky – Gary Anderson

Ole Miss – Wesley Roberts

South Carolina – Christian Harrell

Tennessee – Thomas Lane

Not Present: Auburn, Florida, Mississippi State

Opening remarks

Overview of agenda provided by Commissioner Marty Bradley.

Resignation of the University of Florida

- The South Independent Rugby Conference (SIRC) has officially dissolved and will no longer host a competitive matrix. The Southern division, consisting of Florida schools, will be forming their own conference, with the University of Florida joining the mix. The Northern division is now in search of a new home, with several teams recently approaching the SCRC for membership.
- Florida's absence on the call is taken as confirmation of their resignation from the SCRC.

Officer Elections

- Commissioner
 - Gary Anderson (KY) nominated Marty Bradley
 - Jim Farrar (SCRC) motioned to close the floor of further nominations and accept the nomination of Marty Bradley by unanimous consent
 - Thomas Lane (TN) seconded the motion
 - With no objections, Marty Bradley retained his position as Commissioner
- Treasurer/Secretary
 - Gary Anderson (KY) nominated Jim Farrar
 - Shawn Dawley (AL) motioned to close the floor of further nominations and accept the nomination of Jim Farrar by unanimous consent
 - Christian Harrell (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

Financial Report

- **2017-2018 Fiscal Season**

- Beginning balance of \$13,500.
- Revenue = \$11,250
 - 9 member teams @ \$1,250 each
- Expenses = \$5,200
 - \$1,600 -- 15's Playoffs & Championship
 - \$0 -- All Star Competition
 - \$3,600 -- 7's Championship
- The lack of an All-Star event and significant savings from both championship events created a \$6,000 surplus for the year, resulting in an ending balance of \$19,500.

- **Proposal**

- Set aside \$12,000 from reserves to be used for the next four SEC 7s Tournaments that will be the qualifier for the CRC. \$2000 to the winner and \$1000 to be used towards hosting expenses.
 - The current situation facing the [Heart of America 7's qualifier](#) highlights the importance of maintaining an 'all SEC' CRC 7s qualifier, should we wish to avoid similar circumstances as we discuss membership expansion.
 - The SCRC CRC automatic qualifier is based on an SEC branded university advancing. Our current membership/championship requirements have ensured this arrangement.
 - Should we proceed with accepting non SEC teams into the SCRC, we will need to maintain our current 'all SEC' setup for the CRC qualifier, while providing a separate event, of equal caliber, for all members to advance to the USAR nationals.
 - This proposal ensures that the funding necessary for the 'all SEC' CRC qualifier is not subsidized by incoming non-SEC SCRC members who would not be eligible to participate.
 - This proposal does not prevent or restrict the collection of an entry fee for said event. In fact, a tiered approach separating SCRC and non-SCRC members may be preferred.
 - Should the SCRC CRC automatic qualifier status require audit or review at any point in the future, the conference leadership shall have the authority to enter into negotiations as needed to represent the collective interests of the conference, which may or may not affect this proposed action.
 - Without objection, the proposal was unanimously approved.

- **2018-2019 Fiscal Season**

- Treasurer Farrar will present a line itemed budget to the Commissioner for consideration and approval based on the decisions outlined during this call.

2018 Fall 15s Season

- Two 5 team divisions, with the top 2 from each division advancing, Matches begin ~Sept 15th
 - SCRC Semi-finals – November 03
 - SCRC Final – November 04
 - USA Rugby – November 17 & 18 / December 01
- East: Georgia, Kennesaw State, Kentucky, South Carolina, Tennessee
- West: Alabama, Auburn, Middle Tennessee State, Mississippi State, Ole Miss
- Survey for dates to be delivered the first week of May – ONLY ONE submission per team

2019 Spring 7s Season

- Two required events.
 - SCRC Championship (SCRC members) → USA Rugby National Tournament.
 - SEC Championship (SEC only) → Collegiate Rugby Championship
- Shawn Dawley of AL suggested additional events in the lead up. Open dates will be submitted in the survey to gauge interest and hosting opportunities for additional events. Based on response, scheduling and financial implications will be discussed further.

Membership

- Following the dissolution of SIRC, Commissioner Bradley received several membership inquiries. Using an extensive vetting process that ensured compatibility and competitiveness, only two programs chose to complete the application process for consideration:
 - Middle Tennessee State University
 - Kennesaw State University
- Commissioner Bradley fielded questions while providing a macro view of each applicant
 - Ben Rogers (AL) motioned to close the floor of further discussion and accept both applications by unanimous approval
 - Thomas Lane (TN) seconded the motion
 - With no objections, Middle Tennessee State University and Kennesaw State University were added to the SCRC as Full Members. Commissioner Bradley will follow up with both programs.

All-Stars

- Following the cancellation of this year's All-Star team due to a lack of participation, the Commissioner has requested a complete review of the current structure to determine viability going forward.
 - Wrong season? Wrong Date? Wrong event? Lack of overall interest?
 - Financially, All-Stars is an added \$300 per team when factoring membership dues
 - Open discussion commenced:
 - Harrell – SC is fully committed to 7s in the spring. All-Stars constitutes a 2 week break when they could otherwise be improving their game and advancing towards nationals.
 - Bradley – There are options to move it to Jan/Feb, either by heading North (weather) or heading South (Ruggerfest in FL-travel)
 - Dawley – Moving it to the Summer, we run into player displacement and jobs/internships
 - Bradley – Forego camp and base selections solely on coach feedback from fall matrix?
 - Farrar – As a conference we need to determine our end goal and ask ourselves if are we accomplishing what we initially intended by forming the All-Stars, or are we simply going through the motions
 - Anderson – As a coach and organizer, the experience has made a positive impact. Could our selections play our conference champions at a central location?
 - Harrell – Is Savannah the preferred site? Would there be interest in pursuing a top ranked program and combining everything into one weekend?
 - Bradley – Savannah was a means of getting our players in front of All South coaches for those who aspire to advance beyond conference play – this hasn't happened
 - Anderson – SEC vs FL? Capitalize on the new conference with an early partnership?
 - Bradley – Gary Anderson will head up Performance and research options available for final deliberation. In the meantime, we will assume a continuation of the All-Star program with an early spring date.

Contacts

- The [conference website](#) has been updated to highlight member contacts and our expanding social media presence. Teams are encouraged to send their information to the Commissioner by the end of May so that all updates may be reflected.

Being no further business before the group, the meeting was closed at 9:55 PM EST.