

Arizona Rugby Union Annual General Meeting

Date: Saturday August 2nd

Time: 11am

Venue: Draw 10

Address: 5444 E Washington St, Phoenix

Current ARU Committee:

President: Pieter Hugo

Vice President: Harmen Tjaarda

Treasurer: Tim Moran

Secretary: Greg Lim

VP of Youth Rugby: Rob Speers

Official Club Attendees

Camelback (Skyler)

Scottsdale (Mitch)

Red Mountain (Brandon)

Old Pueblo (Mike)

Phoenix (Steve)

Tempe (Sam)

Tucson (Matt)

Yuma (Justin)

Salt River (Klinton)

Northern Arizona (Ryan)

El Mirage (Ivory))

Not in attendance: Thunderbird and Prescott.

President's Report (Pieter)

Welcome clubs

Select side review

Congratulated playoff teams

Div II & III not merging

Common fields

 Opportunity for better scheduling in 2015

 Trying for Chaparral Park

Gino is now the President of SoCal

Disciplinary Committee – move in 2013/2014 to smaller group

Golf Tournament – funds used to support Tempe in Dallas (~\$500)

Financial Review

Opportunity for a union driven eCommerce sites

Need for continued referee recruitment

Vice President's Report (Harmon)

Disciplinary report

5 red cards (3 for foul play, 2 professional)
23 Yellow card
Ownership of discipline should be set at the team level – doing a good job to set the tone
Still concerned about dangerous play
Opportunity to bring in refs to talk to the clubs (Steve)
One open suspension (Tucson Magpies) through 2019 (5 years)
Significant need for referees needed to support growth
Discussion of B-side games/referees: home team required to provide referee and match report
Continuation of “paper” match reports – usually email in
Setting up a separate disciplinary committee for the youth

Youth Report (Rob)

2014 Youth tackle for the first time
Multiple levels of youth touch
Also introduced 7s
Added 2 clubs to the high school 15s division
Looking to push tackle down the age groups starting at U10
 Need to figure out how to group by age/weight
Discussion of “high school” rugby: school vs. geography
 Open enrollment is ok, moving forward looking to establish “recruitment zones”
About 120 kids in the youth, 300 in the high school programs

Rio Grande Update

New president (former coach of El Paso)
Looking to join the Arizona Union – they will play their own league and then have a competition with Arizona for the play-off spots.
Opportunity to support Rio Grande through friendlies and tournament participation

Referee Report (Sam)

Appreciate the support from the clubs in controlling sidelines
Every club has to have a certified referee
 If not ref, you should not play the game
 Please send players to the Sep 27 level 1 clinic
Please notify the referees by Wednesday if the game is moved/cancelled
Opportunity to reframe referee clinics as an opportunity for player development – better understanding of the laws makes better players
Youth rugby looking to create north/south games and all-star teams for youth to strive towards (Pat & Rob)

Member Status

Yuma has requested to become a full member (APPROVED BY ALL ATTENDEES)
 Good record
 Sponsors lined up
 Strong support from the Military base
 30 on roster
Salt River is looking to expand

Staying as an associate team
Tasked by the council to expand youth opportunities
Going to be sponsored by the Casino
El Mirage has request to become a full member (APPROVED BY ALL ATTENDEES)
For the last three years have run a local youth team – The Outlaws
40+ players (at least 25 fully committed)
Have a location at Dysart High school
Have a sponsor/bar set-up
El Mirage Nightmares

Items for discussion

Tournament discussion

Opportunity to support all tournaments from a union/larger rugby community perspective

Have union liaisons to help locally sanctioned events

Opportunity to use funds to help teams to go the other union's tournaments

Motion to start a tournament committee (APPROVED BY ALL ATTENDEES)

AZ Select-Side to division 1

Potential to be a year 1 associate member

Goal to be self-funded

Creation of separate entity (1/3 to be funded by the union)

Discussions:

Concerns regarding level of funding. Shared with group that the level is no different than the previous year

Concerns about making players choose between club and all-star team

Follow-up: proposal for organization structure, coaching structure, budget and number of games

Motion to move forward to proposal stage (APPROVED BY ALL ATTENDEES)

League Structure

Request for Phoenix to move to division III (withdrawn/on-hold)

Magpies want to stay in division III

Follow-up: bring proposals for league structure in conjunction with All-Star proposal

Motion to table until proposal for All-Star team is submitted (APPROVED BY ALL ATTENDEES)

Referee Fess

Proposal for increased referee fees

\$50 for A-Side, \$30 for B-Side

Motion to increase fees (APPROVED BY ALL ATTENDEES)

2015 Rugby World Cup Trip

Independent tour to RWC, hoping for participation from all teams

Motion to support as an AZ Union tour (APPROVED BY ALL ATTENDEES)

Women's Rugby

General update of philosophy to establish local league, with year-end play-offs in SoCal.

This will help mitigate travel for new teams

Establishment of an advisory board

Advisory board to help with general items like All-Star team

Arizona Rugby Union Awards

To create awards as a marketing vehicle

Motion to establish awards (APPROVED BY ALL ATTENDEES)

Certified Trainers

Certified medical professional required at all games to be supplied by the home team

If using Chuck's company, union to support 1/3 (\$150) per team per season

Motion to approve above items (APPROVED BY ALL ATTENDEES)

Executive Board elections

Vice President – Harmon and John Rouff (John: 7 votes, Harmon: 2 votes)

Treasurer (Tim by default, unopposed)

VP of Youth Rugby (Rob by default, unopposed)

Announcements

- Level 200 coaching clinic on Sep 20th (Contact Pieter Hugo for details)
- L1 Officiating Course on Sept 27th (Contact Rob Speers for details)
- Canadian 7s high school championship – looking for sites to host 7s championships
- Devil's cup – Dec 6th
- Flagstaff 10s – Oct 4th

Other

Common field discussion, we are planning on doing this again in the 2015 season. Sub committee will be Pieter, Rob, Ted, Sam Kelly and Brandon T or Tempe designee.

Action Items Recap

1. Set-up form for the committee with the following participants – ARU leadership, Chuck Tone (DSWAC), NAU tournament leadership team and Tucson and OP leadership. Point persons: Pieter and John.
2. Provide additional information including structure and budget with the goal for the AZ Select Side to play in SoCal Div I. Point person: Pieter due before Sept 15th.
3. ARU League structure. ARU leadership to present options for review and approval by Sept 15th.
4. 2015 WRC Tour – John R to provide flyer for website and email distribution to the clubs.
5. Advisory Board – Pieter to lead this initiative with support from the ARU leadership team.
6. ARU Awards – approval to publish and implement for the 2015 season. On point ARU leadership.
7. Certified trainer – Updated ARU constitution and distribute information to clubs. On point – Pieter and Greg.
8. Common fields – Sub committee need to be form. Rob and Pieter to lead.
9. Add referee recruitment information to the website