**Rugby Arizona SYRO**

**Special General Meeting of the Executive Committee**

**Draft Meeting Minutes**

**Date**: Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2020

**Time**: 6:30 pm

**Location**: Zoom Meeting

1. **Call to Order**: President Taylor Miller called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Roll Call**: Members of the board in attendance.

-Taylor Miller (President)

-David “Elf” Thomas (Vice President)

-Yvette Speers (Treasurer)

-Angela Wagner-Gabbard (Secretary)

**Roll Call of Membership Present and Team Represented:**

-Fitu Pauga- Management Team Member- Youth Commissioner

-Tricia Quiroz- Management Team Member- High School Girls Commissioner

-Jeff McIntyre- Management Team Member- High School Boys Commissioner

-Hal Morgan Tempe Rugby Club

-Deirdre Colao Member at Large for Bobcats

-Rob Speers Phoenix Firebirds Rugby Club

-Glen Baugmath East Valley Eagles RFC

-Jeff King Sahuarita Spartans RFC

-Sam Kelly Eclipse Rugby

-Roy Hulsey- Cienega Bobcats

-Barry Gabbard Tucson Roosters

-Kona Fotu Red Mountain

-Jack Van Rensburg- Black Mountain Rugby

-Jeremy Parentau (Non-voting member of Scottsdale Wolves)

-Stephanie Shoemaker Glendale

-Harmen Tjaarda Scottsdale Wolves Rugby Club

**Absentees:**

-Steve Ciarfalia- Brophy Rugby Club

-Kevin Harris- Northern Arizona RFC

-OJ Hawea- Red Mountain Rugby

-Mark Marrero- Tucson Blackbirds Rugby Club

-Mike Webber East Valley Eagles RFC

-Mike Frugone Eclipse Rugby

-Bo Manusina Glendale Coyotes

-North Valley Scorpions Allision (Alli) Crosby

-Zach Neveleff Salpointe Catholic Rugby Club

**Guests Present:**

Roll call for any guests:

-Andy Avery Southwest Rugby Referee Society

Taylor Miller verbally confirmed that we had a quorum of the executive committee present. He also thanked Andy Avery of the SW Rugby Referee Society for attending tonight’s meeting.

1. **Update on SW Rugby Referee Society:** Andy Avery spoke regarding the lack of support by USA Rugby for the referee society. An ongoing poll issued by the referee society will determine whether or not the referees will strike on the issues of finances and/or lack of support from USAR. Andy said he is hoping it will be resolved by this November. The referee societies are currently at an impasse with USA Rugby.

Yvette Speers wanted to know where that leaves youth rugby. Andy said we will have to see where we are sitting in that time frame and to see if there is another avenue where refs could still support youth rugby.

Taylor asked what percentage of referees want to support youth if USA Rugby’s issues are not settled. Andy said he doesn’t know yet. Hal asked for clarification. Andy said there will be no referees until things are settled in negotiations with USA Rugby and the referee societies.

Taylor said that we are completing negotiations with USA Rugby and are getting written confirmation from USA Rugby that we are in stage 5 so we can play. Andy verified this.

1. **COVID Return to Play:** Taylor said he is a friend to rugby and is not an enemy of any opinion. He asked that we hold at least two votes tonight (one for the budget and one for return to play for fall 7s in November). He said we are hopefully planning for Fall 7s in November.
2. **SportLomo:** Taylor said that the executive committee has been working diligently with USA Youth and High School Rugby to get the bugs worked out in SportLomo. He offered thanks to Elf for working on that. He said the Executive Team has been working on this behind the scenes and is making some decisions.

Kona from Red Mountain asked if we are moving ahead this fall with 7s.

Rob Speers of Phoenix said they want to play. He said their kids will play touch if that’s all there is. He said they will play 7s if offered. Rob said their kids just want to play so they are in for whatever is available.

Hal Morgan of Tempe said that they are opening registration on Oct. 15, 2020, and are starting practices in November. Return to play plan has been submitted to Taylor. Tempe will adjust to the fluid situation. Tempe is poised and ready to play.

Glen B. of East Valley Eagles said that East Valley is ready to return to play. If we have COIs in place, the Eagles can get fields. He is not sure how many kids they will have. He also said he is not sure what rugby is going to look like but the Eagles will put together whatever they can.

Jeff King of Sahuarita said his team wants to proceed with the fall season. He said their sticking point is that they are a school team. He has been bugging the superintendent and that Sahuarita is currently on hybrid learning. After Oct. 12, 2020, (fall break), they should be allowed to kick off rugby practices. Jeff said he meets with the superintendent this week to discuss things.

Sam Kelly of Eclipse said that they had quite an interesting situation where they thought the City of Phoenix was going to become an issue but they are now good to go. He said Eclipse would be starting practices next Tuesday. He said the club’s survey had 33 responses covering about 39 kids. Almost all were ready to go whether they play touch or tackle. He said they are 95% ready to go.

Roy Hulsey of Cienega said that his team is set and ready to go. He said they don’t have a boy’s fall team but will have a girls team. He said they will have both in the spring and they will play either way (touch or tackle).

Barry Gabbard of the Tucson Roosters said that he knows the kids want to play touch. Due to numbers, the Roosters will probably combine this season. He said he doesn’t know about the numbers for the Roosters at this time. He said he needs to recruit.

Jacob of Black Mountain said the kids want to get back to playing rugby. He said they need to sort out a field and COI. After that, they can begin to practice and play. He said there may be issues with numbers. He is pushing to put together a full team.

Jeff McIntyre said that Stephanie had technical difficulties so had to get off the call at this time. He said that Glendale and Arrowhead are combining this season.

Harmon from Scottsdale Wolves said they are ready to go on Oct. 12, 2020, right after fall break. They have youth, boys, and girls high school teams. He is not sure of numbers yet. He said they will play whatever the group decides to play (touch or tackle).

Angela of the Tucson Thunderbirds said that they are ready to play whatever we can and is not yet sure of numbers.

Taylor said that there is a state-wide filed restriction of 50 people. That’s a challenge, but we can address that when we get there in December. He said RAZ recognize the seriousness of COVID and we are taking ever measure for precautions.

Angela clarified that the state has the say about the 50-person cap but there’s lax enforcement. Glenn brought up a concern about insurance not covering us if we go over that 50-person limit.

Taylor said RAZ is reaching out to Chandler, Mesa, Oro Valley, and other areas for fields. He said we will schedule a check in in a couple of weeks. What we have in place already:

-Return to Play Plan (sent to Tempe)

-COVID Waiver

-Precautionary Measures and Risks

-Needs all clubs to help with enforcement (COVID ambassador)

Taylor asked if there were any questions.

Glenn asked for clarification as to what we can do.

**Taylor proposed a motion that we all continue planning to move toward a fall 7s season in November/December with precautions in place and can modify plans as necessary based on COVID numbers.**

Glenn wanted to know if teams could practice. Taylor said clubs should check with their local municipality.

Jeff said each municipality is in a different place. Cities most advanced are Gilbert, Mesa, Chandler, Marana, and Queen Creek. He said there are three tiers. Each club needs to check with their local city for regulations.

**Harmen seconded Taylor’s motion.**

Votes were as follows:

-Hal- Yes

-Rob- Yes

-Glenn- Yes

-Jeff King- Yes

-Jacob- Yes

-Harmon- Yes

-Angela- Yes

-Sam- Yes

-Roy- Yes

-Barry- Yes

-Kona- Yes

**The motion passed unanimously**.

1. **RAZ Budget:** Taylor shared his screen so we could all look at the proposed RAZ budget. This is based on the idea that we will have a Spring season. He said that could also change if we don’t have referees for the fall. RAZ costs are expected to remain the same as last year in this projected budget. Some costs went up by $5 due to USA Rugby. Taylor went through the budget spreadsheet while screen sharing.

The total cost to register 2020-21 season is expected to be as follows:

-Youth $90

-High School $100

-Rookie Rugby $25

-Coaches and Refs $110

-Administrators $80

Barry asked about $500 for other expenses on the proposed budget. Taylor said it’s for an AGM venue, food, etc. if we have one.

Glenn B. asked about costs to register increasing. Taylor showed tab 2 of the spreadsheet and went over this year’s registration costs.

Yvette asked Taylor to go back to the field reservations. Benedict Sports Complex is very expensive. If we go down to Oro Valley it’s less than half the price so it’s significantly cheaper. If we don’t have many kids this fall, we may want to go to Oro Valley. At Benedict, we can only afford three matches.

**Rob Speers made a motion to approve the draft budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Harmon.**

Votes were as follows:

-Hal- No vote (left call)

-Rob- Yes

-Glenn- Yes

-Jeff King- Yes

-Hans Gregg of Sal Pointe (Arrived Late)- Yes

-Harmon- Yes

-Jacob- Yes

-Angela- Yes

-Sam- Yes

-Roy- Yes

-Barry- Yes

-Kona- Yes

**The motion passed unanimously**.

1. **New Business:** Yvette said the slide deck she sent out (she screenshared at this point) regarding grants RAZ is looking at pursuing. She asked the teams to let RAZ know if they have applied to any of the grants so we don’t step on toes. She said we want to apply for grants to help provide scholarships for low-income kids, clinics, girl’s rugby, help to keep registration fees low, etc. Angela will run point on grants. Tucson grants stay in Tucson, Flagstaff grants stay in Flagstaff, etc.

There were no questions about grants. Taylor said we are dividing and conquering duties as we have no executive director at this time.

1. **Adjournment**: There was a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. and it was seconded by Harmon. The meeting was closed at 7:52 p.m.