



Rugby NorCal

Quarterly Board Meeting (BOD) Meeting Packet #32

Date: May 30, 2018

Time: 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Location: Teleconference

May 30 BOD Programming:

President's Report – Jon Straka

Another RNC regular season is in the books, with RNC 7s right around the corner. Congratulations to all teams who participated and won their divisions in the post season. Also, congratulations to Danville, Jesuit, and Granite Bay for all finishing in the top of their respective brackets at the Boys National High School Championships. Danville finished first in the Club Bracket, Jesuit 3rd in the Single School Bracket, and Granite Bay 4th in the Club Bracket.

The RNC 7s season has been shortened to finish before the Rugby World Cup 7s, with championships being held in mid-July.

At the beginning of last year, I set forth some goals for the season through a newsletter to the membership. Here, I'd like to briefly restate those issues and follow up with a progress report.

1) CMS Roster Compliance: Roster Compliance (ID's, verified pictures, etc.) took a big step in 2018. Still, it seems that most rosters are not checked. CMS is not being used to its full capabilities. We as an organization should be able to track who is scoring tries, penalty kicks, etc. I'd look to the men's and women's club level games as examples of how this can be implemented.

2) Junior Youth and Middle School Rugby: After talking with a number of coaches and players at the MS level, I believe the schedules and whole setup needs to be restructured. Each club should have one (1) team per division at U10, U12, and MS. Bigger clubs should not have to travel with 3-4 sides to play another with 1-2. Like soccer, clubs with numbers for multiple sides should have one team that competes in an RNC division (D1 or D2). The rest of the players (less experienced and developed) should be playing 7s in-house or against other recreational sides from neighboring clubs.

3) All-Stars/High Performance: Academies are continuing to develop players and provide opportunities, but they should be working closer with RNC to communicate those opportunities to the membership. Coaches also need to be more responsible for promoting these opportunities.

4) Coaching and Referee Development: We still don't have a strategic plan for developing our pool of coaches and referees. The problem seems to be that many coaches don't feel they need to take the time to be a better coach, unwilling to take advice to heart. Referee abuse also continues to be a problem.

5) Club Development: Clubs need to be constantly held to a higher standard in order to attract serious athletes and greater numbers to our sport.

6) RNC College Pathway: College need to get more serious about recruiting and making information about their programs more accessible. Also, clubs and RNC could provide showcase events for college coaches.

I hope that we as an organization have taken positive steps this past year in the areas mentioned above. Still, more help is needed and people with great complaints and great ideas about how to fix some of these issues are invited to join the board and its committees for the 2019 season.

Executive Director Report – Marti Blum

High School Championships

High School Championships was a great success! To mimic Jon and preface JD's report; Congratulations to all of our division champions! I had a lot of fun watching some of the amazing match-ups and all of the hard-fought battles.

This year we changed the set-up of the complex, since last season we didn't have full size regulation pitches due to the locations of the light posts at SSC. We had three full size pitches this year, and two smaller pitches. Thank you to all of the clubs who allowed us to borrow equipment to set up the fields! Thank you to all of the clubs who came to play, thank you to the referees who have been officiating HS matches all year and came out to Stockton to ref some of the best rugby in the country!

Thank you to all who participated and made it a great event! If anyone has any feedback, JD has been asking clubs for some feedback about the HS season, but if you have any HS Championship site/facility feedback, it would be greatly appreciated.

Culture

As briefly touched on in some previous BOD calls and in some of our club meetings, Rugby NorCal is working on creating a program to increase the culture of coaches, players, parents, and referees across the region. Culture across Rugby NorCal is lacking. Rugby's Core Values are Integrity, Passion, Solidarity, Discipline and Respect. We need to do a better job as a region to mirror and exemplify these values across all of our clubs, all grade levels, all competitions, etc. We have seen a drastic increase in referee abuse, red/yellow cards, inappropriate language and actions, misconduct, etc., and it is unacceptable and not what the culture of rugby is all about. Culture and competition are not mutually exclusive and can coexist within every club, within every coach, player, admin, and create a better, more competitive community, while upholding the values of rugby.

RWC 7s and Equipment Share

If any clubs have new or clean equipment that they would like to share with the National Teams coming to NorCal for the RWC 7s, please send me some clear photos of your bags, pads, vests, etc. Preferably we'd like equipment that is not torn, ripped at the seams, taped up, as we need to present this equipment to National Teams. We will properly tag your equipment and return it to you at the end of RWC 7s. Even if you are in Sacramento and want to offer your equipment, we will most likely rent a van and pick up equipment as needed.

RNC AGM

The Rugby NorCal AGM is set for August 18, 2018 at the Courtyard Marriott in Fairfield, CA. This will mirror our AGMs over the past few years, with sessions in the morning about CMS for Admins and Registrars and a speaker for Coaches and Referees, and whoever else wants to attend. After the two morning breakout sessions, we will begin our AGM. Since we are giving over two months notification of this event, it will be mandatory for at least one individual from every club to attend the 2018 AGM. We will be discussing a lot of information for the 2019 season, as we have been gradually implementing new policies that will be mandatory for the 2019 season, i.e. coach lanyards, player paperwork/waivers in the CMS, etc.

Medical Invoices

Invoices for Medical/ATCs will be sent to clubs by the end of the week. I apologize for the tardiness of all of these medical invoices, the season got the best of me, and I will make sure that the invoices are sent to all clubs by the end of this week. Thanks for your understanding!

Operations Manager Report – Christina Gein

7s Season

Six tournaments:

- June 2nd Gridley (HS & MS girls)
- June 9th Danville
- June 17th NO TOURNAMENT - Father's Day
- June 24th Dixon
- June 30th Silicon Valley
- July 6th Gridley Girls
- July 7th Gridley
- July 15th Dixon Championship Tournament

7s Season Lanyards

No one is allowed in technical zones without a lanyard (coaches or admins)

Contact Christina to get lanyards for your coaches and admins cgein@rugbynorcal.org

Player Registration

New players are always welcome for the 7s season. Any new player who did not register for the 15s season, must register to participate in 7s. Players who want to participate in 7s but whose clubs do not have a 7s team are allowed to temporarily transfer to another club for 7s season to participate.

Referees

Referees are needed for summer 7s tournaments!!! Please contact Christina if you are interested in refereeing or referee coaching. We will have some referee coaches available at most of our tournaments, so new and developing referees are encouraged to come to our 7s events and receive some referee coaching and mentoring! 7s is a great way to start your referee career and even develop and grow your skills.

Rugby NorCal Summit

Date and Location TBD – (Most likely in Walnut Creek in October)

One-day event for all coaches, admins and referees with various workshops, break-out sessions and speakers. Potential player track as well. Keep an eye out for future information to register

Coaching and Refereeing Certification Courses

Contact Christina if you would like to host a course

Education Weekend: opportunity to host ref and coach course as well as a player clinic, strength and conditioning workshop and touch judge course. Contact Christina for more information.

VP-Competitions Report – Jason Divine

NorCal Championship Winners

- NorCal Premier – Danville Oaks
- NorCal Girls – Land Park Harlequins
- NorCal D1 - Elsie Allen Lobos
- NorCal D2 – Napa Stormers
- NorCal Premier Open – Jesuit B
- NorCal JV – Jesuit

Playoffs

- 32 Varsity, 11 JV and 4 freshman teams participated in the playoffs
- 22 Varsity and 10 JV teams continued to May 5
- Problems with format and seedings: Forfeits, Travel
- Losers play-on format vs End of Year Tournament?
- Quarter Finals vs Final Four format?

Regular Season

- Did varsity teams have enough matches? Yes
- Did JV teams have enough matches? Yes
- Should we end the season earlier? Yes
- Spring Break April 13, 2019
- Parity & Safety Issues = D2 schedule

Referees

- There is a shortage of referees
- Scheduling mid-week matches
- Scheduling club referees

All-Stars

- RNC to Boise
- Academies and Select Sides
- RNC needs more All-Star coaches

VP-Operations/Girls Committee Report – Karen Chance

The season wrap up for RNC VP Operations

- Working on a strategic plan for RNC including player recruitment, sponsorships and general operations. Marti, Christina and I will be spending 4 days meeting with Audrey Billingsley of Rugby Idaho in June and also contacting other SRO's to see how they have successfully integrated the sport into the schools.

- Coordinating logistics for taking 150+ RNC players to the Great Northwest Challenge in Boise Idaho; 5 Girl's teams and 4 Boy's teams. We have 4 teams from the Bay Area attending through academies with the Sharks out of SFGG and Barbarians out of Pleasanton. Rugby NorCal combined will have approximately 250 players attending the RCT.

Girl's League

- 16 HS teams and 8 MS teams competed this season.
- Competitions Season went well Girl's HS and MS schedules.
- We still have clubs struggling with numbers for the HS and I am working on a recruiting strategy for the clubs to implement for the 2019 season.
- The Girl's 9th Annual KOT was a success with Kahuku Hawaii joining us and 8 college coaches/ recruiters attending.
- The 2nd Annual RNC Girl's Tournament went very well. 3 out of the area HS teams and 1 MS team attended. South Bay from San Diego won the HS Championships and Fallbrook took the MS championship. The hope is to turn this tournament into the West Coast Nationals for both divisions. Most west coast teams did not attend the NIT.
- Planning to send out invites this summer for the next season.
- Middle School had their championships at the Girl's tournament with Elk Grove taking 1st and Amazons 2nd.
- Girls HS Championships; Harlequins 1st place, Amazons 2nd and BOD 3rd.

VP-Junior Youth Report – Steve Drew (presented by Marti Blum)

2018 Season

Supersites in Sac area

Improved team match ups and amount of game time for players, also made scheduling easier
Needs to improve Cost Share of Supersites

Increased weights for U12 and Middle School lights by 8 pounds

Trying to make Lights division more sustainable for the league
Still would've liked to see more Light teams and U8s in the Sac area

U10/U12 and Middle School Jamborees in Elk Grove

Was able to bring U10 and U12 back to same day.
Middle School went great but need to look at better turf or grass fields for the older players.

2019 Season Work List

Supersites for Bay area

Would like to meet with bay area teams to workout possibilities

Making Middle School Competitive with Standings

Middle School playing one match per team with 30-minute halves. Instead of multiple teams in a day.
Standings Leading to a playoff.

Possible ending season by first week of March for all divisions. Keeping same amount of games but decreasing the self-schedules weekends.

We lose a lot of kids and coaches to baseball as we move later into March

Disciplinary Report – Marti Blum:

Red and Yellow cards are up by 14 from the 2017 season. Up 10 red cards and up 4 yellow cards. 61% of all cards this season have been high or dangerous tackles. The stats for three consecutive years in regards to percentages of cards being issued for high or dangerous tackles, 56% in 2016, 65% in 2017 and 61% in 2018, speaks for themselves, and change needs to happen. In addition, and this will be discussed more at the AGM, but 62% of injuries in both 2017 and 2018 were caused during the tackle.

We need to make sure our coaches know how to properly teach and enforce the correct and safe tackle technique, and ensure that referees are properly officiating the tackle. Everyone is encouraged to seek out additional information and online courses on the proper technique and teaching points about the tackle, and continue to reinforce proper tackling during practices and matches. We can try, again, to have a safe tackling clinic, however, when we tried before, only one individual registered. Again, mimicking Jon, coaches need to take some time for self-reflection, and spend time becoming a better coach for the youth of our region.

Due to increased referee abuse, we will be cracking down on all allegations of referee abuse and misconduct. We only know about issues (referee abuse or not) when you tell us about it! We cannot be at every location, every weekend. So please, if you see something, say something.

Central Valley RDO Report – Nate Dalena:

Sacramento Valley RDO Report – Nick Freitas:

Last Quarter Update

Added six new schools teaching rugby in their PE curriculum. Two in Citrus Heights, two in Granite Bay, two in Antelope. All teachers trained in Rookie Rugby curriculum and said they will continue to teach rugby in PE.

Two spring break camps at YMCA and Rancho Cordova teen center. Will be running summer programming with both this summer.

Summer Programming

Weekly Rookie Rugby with Rancho Cordova Parks and Rec - July, 8 - Aug, 18

Monthly Rugby Clinics with River City Jr Rugby - June 17th, July 22nd and Aug 19th - 9am-12pm

Three Day Summer Camp with Rio Linda Parks and Rec - July 18 - 20

Bay Side Church summer camp - TBD

Other Items on the Table?

Adjourn!

Additional Handouts/Attachments: YTD P&L, YTD Balance Sheet