



Alberta Rugby Union

11759 Groat Road NW
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6

Rugby Alberta AGM Saturday December 02nd, 2023

MINUTES

Chris Cooke calls the meeting to order at 10:20 am virtually

Motion: Approval of the Agenda: Ian Cambell and Andrew Petti

Summary: As captured by AI "READ"

The meeting began with a welcome and a request for attendees to mute their devices. Technical difficulties with the slide presentation were encountered, prompting Chris Cooke and an unknown speaker to discuss the issue. Darcy McKay reminded everyone to mute themselves to avoid any background noise.

Sandy Nesbitt then gave a land acknowledgement to recognize the traditional territory of many Indigenous peoples. Chris Cooke clarified the voting structures and quorum requirements for the meeting and provided an overview of the agenda items to be discussed.

MOTION: Approval of 2024 operating Budget. Approved unanimously.

MOTION: Adoption of 2022 AGM Minutes. Approved unanimously.

Board Reports: Chris Cooke reported on the activities taken by the Rugby Alberta team in 2023, focusing on capacity building, governance activities, and continued execution on rugby events. The team expanded its staffing in key areas, developed a new code of conduct, and formalized its relationship with an independent third party organization to

assist with investigations. Chris Cooke provided an update on the successful events held by Rugby Alberta, including the Arc Sevens, Arc Fifteens, and Westerns tournaments, as well as the launch of a new Rugby Alberta series.

Darren Andruko discussed the financial statements, reporting that the financial condition of the Alberta Rugby Football Union remains strong, with revenues of \$660,000 and expenses of \$661,000. The 2024 budget reflects an increase in cost associated with rebuilding staff to a pre-pandemic level and a net investment of about \$40,000 to continue to subsidize clubs and programs. Pete Rowe, the president of the Calgary Rugby Union, reported on the successful year for the union, highlighting the great staff, board members, volunteer coaches, club members, players, and parents who contributed to the success. Chris Cooke, Ultan Peters, and Andrew provided updates on the progress and challenges faced by the Alberta Junior Rugby Association, Rugby Alberta, and the Match Officials Association in growing the game and increasing participation.

MOTION: Accept the Board Reports. 1st – SR Men, 2nd - Matt Squires, Approved unanimously.

Staff Reports: Peter Houlihan discusses the huge growth in the youth tournaments. We had a U19 girls team that played CRC Nationals and placed 2nd. Great success for the rep programs. The numbers are slowly getting better. Thanks Sandy, C-Sue, the board, Breanne and our summer students over the years. Sandy Nesbitt Joined RA late in August. Witnessed ARC 15's and Westerns and both were really great tournaments! Sandy will be focusing on building strength through collaboration with emphasis being placed on communication with our board, Rugby Canada, stakeholders and members. We are revamping our website and it will launch in January 2024. The board has approved the 2024 budget and have applied for various grants. Would like to see our membership increase closer to 6000. Members this year was around 4800 not including high school.

Adoption of Bylaws: Chris provided notice previously of a special resolution to immediately resolve our old Bylaws and replaced with the current Bylaws updated by an outside professional. There are no significant changes. Membership and membership categories are not changing, or responsibilities/rights. Just updated wording. No changes to meeting, general or special, or the voting structure. There has been some content added around "virtual" because that is something that never happened in 2011. Governance of the society has no changes, just modernizing language. Composition of the Board, it's been a struggle at times to get people interested to be on the Board because of specific titles. A more broad perspective that can reflect on individuals expertise and not scare off volunteers that don't want to pursue "sponsorship". No changes to the structure. No fewer than 5 members and not greater than 12. The next step if this is passed today will have the bylaws sent to be registered by Service Alberta.

Oliver McKay brings up relaxing the law of accepting import players at the AWP/AC level so we can grow our sport. Chris responds that imports are not part of the Bylaws, it is a Rules and Regs issue. Our Bylaws are about the governing of our society.

MOTION: Adoption of the new Bylaws: Chris asks if anyone is opposed to the new Bylaws? Because this is a Special Resolution we do not need a 1st and a 2nd. **Approved unanimously.**

Elections: Chris explains that he came in mid term last year to take over for Sean Hofstetter. The original term for President is up this year and it is off set with the Vice President role. He is willing to let his name stand for a new two year term, but is keeping the floor open in case someone else wishes to put their name forward for the position, keeping in mind that they must have been a Rugby Alberta Board member for at least one year. There is no response to that, so Chris will remain President for a new two year term. We are currently seeking 2 more Members at Large positions. Alexa Flemings term is up this year. Caroline Tindall is taking one of those positions and Alexa states that she will stay on as a Member at Large, but not for "Rules and Regulations". In the past 6 years that she has been doing that role, she has had two children and the time commitment is too high. Chris acknowledges they have had this conversation prior and the Board is committed to Alexa's role.

Vote on Auditor: Chris informs the participants that we do an audit annually and have used Metrix LLP for several years now. Darren Andruko speaks very highly of Curtis, and is confident in the process (this was Darren's first audit with Rugby Alberta)

MOTION: To use Metrix LLP Auditor for 2024 – 1st Paul Looker, 2nd Steve Saunders, Approved unanimously.

New Business: Ken Trumper would like rugby to get back to the "Player Pathway". As a whole, How can we grow the game on a National level? Chris Cookes response is We are committed to having more conversations with other Boards of our Stakeholders. Rugby Canada is launching a new Strategic Plan and we fully expect that the High Performance strategy will be a part of it. Rugby in Alberta is having meaningful competitions. 35% of the roster was from Alberta Prairie Regional competitions. Our alignment with Rugby Canada will be critical. We met the Director of High Performance in Calgary, (RC Meeting) his focus is on coaches and resources for all provinces at all levels. Exploring how we can maximize the game, including "touch" is critical but it needs to be structured and organized.

Rules and Regs is a big topic. We have a draft version but it needed an overhaul. The import rule needs to be addressed.....change and modify. It does need to be looked at closer, but there isn't one specific example all across the country. This will take time to get input from all stakeholders. We hope to get this handled before the 2024 season kicks off in April.

Action Items:

* Sandy Nesbitt will share the first quarter of the 2024 calendar of events.

- * Sandy Nesbitt will plan a summit in February for stakeholders to discuss event planning.
- * Chris Cooke will explore the passive sponsorship opportunity with a travel company.
- * Chris Cooke will form a partnership with a sponsorship consultant and explore potential opportunities for rugby clubs.
- * Chris Cooke will update the bylaws to clarify the voting process for board positions.

Meeting Adjournment:

Chris calls for an adjournment to the December 02nd, 2023 AGM at 12:07pm. 1st Matt Squire, 2nd Peter Rowe, **Approved unanimously.**

A reminder of our upcoming Rugby Alberta AGM this Sat at 10 am. Please register and register a delegate for each vote your club carries separately on separate devices (computer/tablet or phone) on Teams link:

Here is a list of clubs and number of qualified votes as well as status of Board Insurance payment to date. As always please ensure all Board insurance is up to date.

Club	Votes	BD Ins PD
Airdrie Highlanders	1	N
Banff Bears	2	N
Calgary Cobras	1	N
Antediluvians RFC	1	Y
Bow Valley Rugby Club	3	N
Calgary Canadian Irish	3	N
Calgary Hornets	3	Y
Calgary Knights RFC	1	N
Calgary Rams	3	Y
Calgary Saints	3	Y
Calgary Saracens	3	N
Canucks Rugby Club	3	Y
Chestermere Vikings Athletic Association	1	N
Clansmen RFC	3	Y
Drayton Valley Riggers RFC	1	N
Edmonton Pirates RFC	3	N
Foothills Lions	2	Y
Fort McMurray Knights RFC	1	Y
Grande Prairie Centaurs	2	Y
LA Crude RFC	3	Y
Leprechaun Tigers RFC	3	N
Lethbridge RFC	3	Y
Lloydminster Reapers RFC	0	N
NorWesters Athletic Association	3	Y
Red Deer Titans	3	Y
Rockers Athletic Club	2	Y
St Albert RFC	3	Y
Parkland Sharks RFC	2	Y
Strathcona Druids RFC	3	N

Chris Sandy Nesbitt