



Alberta Rugby Union

11759 Groat Road NW
Edmonton, AB T5M 3K6

**AGM Saturday December 10th, 2022
MINUTES**

AGM: Sean Hofstetter

Call to order at 10:11am

Land Acknowledgement: Chris Cooke

Moment of Silence: Sean Hofstetter

Moment of silence to honour Dave Robinson and others we have lost in our community this year.

AGM Clarification of Voting Structure/Quorum: Sean Hofstetter

Please see attached form sheet of voting allocations.

AGM Changes to the Agenda:

Sean provides clarification of voting structure for those just joining us. Is there any new business or changes to the agenda?

None. 1st Steve and Kim (Clan) 2nd Matt Jarvis (SARFC)

Adoption of 2021 AGM Minutes: 1st Darcy McKay (Clan) and Chris Cooke (SARFC)
2nd Sandy Nesbitt (VP) and Peter Rowe (President CRU)

BOARD REPORTS – (all official reports attached)

PRESIDENT – Sean Hofstetter

Our Rules and Regs are in the final stages. Expect the special AGM to take place in early 2023. Roll out of our Safe Sports policy Suite the defines athlete protection standards that will apply to all members of Rugby Alberta. We have contracted a third party investigation/dispute resolution firm. Will touch base on that more a little later. We did the return of our provincial representative program in 2022. Alberta Regional Championships in 7's, 15's and teams participated in the Western Canadian Championship in 2022. Exploration with the western provinces is ongoing for holding this championship in Alberta for 2023. Peter Houlihan has accepted the role of Executive Director of Rugby Alberta. We added Breanne Morgan as a Rugby Development Officer in 2022 based on a partnership with Rugby Canada, which partially funds that position. Christi-Sue continued to manage the financial administration of Rugby Alberta and several contract staff supported the Rugby Alberta team. We will be posting a new full time position early in 2023, which will take us back to pre-pandemic staffing levels. Sean will be stepping down and Chris Cooke is in line to take over (today's vote pending). Sean gives many thanks to Sandy, whom after 22 years on the board, is also stepping down.

VICE PRESIDENT – Sandy Nesbitt

Sandy has nothing but fond memories and great friendships. Collectively we have brought Alberta to the forefront of rugby in Canada with our membership numbers, youth and our success getting players all the way to the national team and so many other success stories. He has taken part with Maria Sampson and The Rugby Canada Nominations Committee. Thanks her for her leadership. Sandy will continue on this project in the future. Thank you to the staff for their hard work. He's confident with the leadership of Chris and Peter that our game is in great hands in Alberta.

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE – Chris Cooke

We were able to hold many of our programs this year. Chris presents the draft of our audited Financial Statement to be reviewed. The decrease in assets was money (\$250,000.00) we held on behalf of Rugby Canada for the Mens 7's at Commonwealth Stadium last year. They did not complete their report that would grant them the funds until 2022. Revenue is largely unchanged. We received our usual amount of grant funding. Casino revenue was divided by half and applied to our budget the year prior and the other half to this year. Our next casino is scheduled for June 2023. Rugby Alberta provided funding to programs than just pay to play to cut costs for participants. Staffing is low so we need to increase salaries and benefits for the upcoming season.

Motion to approve 2022 Audited Financial Statements: 1st Sandy Nesbitt 2nd Steve and Kim and Alexa Fleming (Pirates)

Motion to appoint auditor Metrix Group LLP for 2023: 1st Alexa Fleming 2nd Sandy Nesbitt and Peter Rowe

DIRECTOR AT LARGE – Alexa Fleming (Rules and Regs)

A relatively quiet return. Still waiting for the updated rules and regulations from Annabelle. 2023 will be Alexa's last year on the board. She has served 3 consecutive 2 year terms. If anyone is interested in taking on this role at the end of the 2023 season, please consider representing your sub-union on their Rules and Regulations committee in the upcoming season.

Sean mentions the discussions of an automated form for submission. These web based forms are more thorough and notify all parties involved.

DIRECTOR AT LARGE – Janna Slevinsky (High Performance)

Return to rugby for all ages. Several competitions all across Alberta and BC. Spent time with the Canada 7's and there is lots of anticipation with Alberta.

It has been a great experience to be a part of the Rugby Alberta Board. I am sad to report that she will not be running for this position again as she has already relocated to Ontario.

PRESIDENT OF ERU – Simon Healy

After 6 years on the ERU board, Simon will not be seeking re-election. The last two years have been a challenge. Member numbers are still lower than pre-COVID, but had a good season regardless. ERU is financially stable. The sale of Ellerslie Rugby Park has been approved. To get to this decision the ERU developed and approved the Field Use Agreement which ensures all clubs will have a place to play in the future. ERU has been working on Discipline Policy, Field Use Agreement (as mentioned) revised job descriptions and revision of the current Bylaw (from 1991).

PRESIDENT OF CRU – Peter Rowe

CRU focused on being flexible in order to handle what may come in the way of numbers and other unknowns. Festivals each weekend and roll out a schedule every Thursday for minis. Junior levels is the most difficult age grade to run a robust season. Low enrollment, summer vacations and competition with both Maverick and Wolf Pack rugby also lowered player availability. There were noticeable issues with referee abuse and will be working closely on changing that. Most age levels are still not at the pre-COVID count except for senior players. The women are slightly higher and the men are slightly lower. We ran three divisions of men's and women's rugby successfully by embracing the "Game on" rules and the theme of flexibility. It was great to see the return of the Alberta Regional Championship and Western Canadian Championship. CRU was thrilled to host the ARC 2022 and the event was a remarkable success. Thank you Rugby Alberta. Calgary Rugby Park facility is back in the green since 2017. Thankful for the active board members and dedicated employees.

AJRA – Ultan Peters

He stepped into this position blindly, taking over for Catherine. Very thankful for the assistance from others. Had to refill the Rookie Rugby role as manager, for Peter Houlihan moved to Rugby Alberta. Steven will help build upon the success of previous years. Rookie Rugby has now been operational for four years. Junior numbers are still down since pre-COVID but the Rookie Rugby Program over the spring and summer saw over 7500 participants from Calgary, Edmonton, Red Deer and Lethbridge and is a huge success!

RAMOA – Andrew Petti

Numbers are up a bit, but still down about 20% pre-COVID. 24 course participants registered as match officials. Most of the 22 season was handled by a total of 81 match officials. There were challenges with SportLomo, loading games, allocations and notifications. Change over in sub unions, RA and RAMOA with all new people trying to learn at the same time. Working with Rugby Canada around courses for 2023. We need more frequent courses and we need more educators.

MOTION – Sean Hofstetter

Motion to accept Board reports 1st Ken Trumper (Druids) 2nd Ultan Peters (AJRA)

STAFF REPORTS – Pete Houlihan

Pleased to see decent return to play numbers. The increase in expo games is great, and would like to clubs offer that more often. ARC 7's and 15' went very well Breanne Morgan our rugby development officer is doing great work with schools and the Asperger's events. Thank you to the board and staff for all the support in his new role as Executive Director.

ALLOCATION OF EXCESS MEDICAL FUNDS – Sean Hofstetter

\$41,730.00 has been sitting in a GIC account since collected in 2006-2007. Components due to unknown amount of excess medical insurance was going to be at the time. RA believes this money should go towards a third party investigator. Bryan Ward of W & W Dispute Resolution Services Inc. They have worked with NSO/PSO including Cycling Canada, Pentathlon Canada and the Alberta Gymnastics Federation. How can we grow this fund? How do we fairly disburse? What should the cap amount be? All questions welcome.

Matt Jarvis: Is this on a "as need basis"? Sean: Yes, with a cap.

Kerry Rasmussen: I feel the club/players should be on the hook themselves for the fees. And coaching modules should be a requirement.

Sean Hofstetter: Risk management is crucial. The more training and awareness the lower the risk of incidents.

Nikki Cloutier: These funds should be used to reimburse coaches for getting their vulnerable sector checks.

Sean Hofstetter: NO, that \$15.00 fee should be added into their registration fees.

Steve/Kim: Are the requirements for coaching documented?

Sean Hofstetter: Not yet, but it will.

MOTION TO ALLOCATE OF MEDICAL EXCESS FUNDS – SEAN HOFSTETTER

24 Voters passed unanimously (See attached list)

ELECTIONS – SEAN HOFSTETTER

President – 1 year term because Sean is leaving mid cycle – Chris Cooke

1st Alexa Fleming 2nd Janna Slevinsky, Peter Rowe

Vice President – 2 Year Term – Paul Looker puts his name forward.

1st Alexa Fleming 2nd Candace McGowan

Director Of Finance – 1 year term, Chris is taking over as President for Sean.

Darren Andruko puts his name forward. He's a former player with the Druids.

Happy to bring his skills and energy back to Edmonton. 1st Chris Cooke 2nd Alexa Fleming, Simon Healy.

Member at Large – 2 year term. John Vavrek from Grande Prairie. Travelled most of Alberta and has management experience. 1st Chris Cooke 2nd Candace McGowan

Member at Large position still vacant. 2 year term. Peter Rowe nominates Rory McKeown. Rory acknowledges the nomination. 1st Peter Rowe 2nd Ian Campbell, Alexa Fleming.

NEW BUSINESS – Sean Hofstetter

No new business to address.

AGM ADJOURNMENT – SEAN HOFSTETTER

AGM adjourned at 11:44pm 1st Peter Rowe (President CRU) 2nd Sandy Nesbitt (Rugby Alberta), Matt Jarvis (SARFC)

