



MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 10:07 AM

Agenda

1. AGM Call to Order (Chris Cooke) – 10:07 AM
2. Land Acknowledgement (Sandy Nesbitt) – 10:09 AM
3. AGM Clarification of Voting Structure / Quorum (Chris Cooke) – 10:11 AM
  - Met Quorum
  - 32 voting members

*Motion by: Stephen Saunders*  
*Seconded by: Matt Jarvis*
5. AGM Changes to the Agenda (Chris Cooke) – 10:11 AM
  - Calendar of events for the year for junior rep and CRC moving up
  - RA Schedule in a timely manner

*Motion by: Matt Jarvis*  
*Second by: Stephen Saunders*
6. AGM Motion to Adopt Agenda (Chris Cooke) – 10:13 AM
7. AGM Adoption of the 2023 AGM Minutes (Chris Cooke) – 10:14 AM
8. Board Reports – 10:14 AM
  - President's Report – Chris Cooke
    - o 2024 Recap
      - Largest ARC 15s tournament with 28 teams
      - Provincial Junior Club Championships PJCC
      - ARC 7s (January)
      - Provincial Finals
      - U16/U19/U19/Senior Wolf Pack
        - Introduced Senior Men's Wolf Pack (North vs South)
      - CRC (U19 Halifax)
      - Prairie Cup (Manitoba U16 Wolf Pack)
      - Safe Sport investigations done by a third party, ensuring looking forward working with Rugby Canada to ensure this value is uphold
      - Rugby Alberta and ERU and CRU Marketing campaign
      - 10% increase in registrations
      - Shout out to Dave Logan raising a discussion to increase awareness about sport and understanding what rugby is all about
    - o 2025 Opportunities
      - Rugby Alberta Governance structure – Goal: bring community into tasks/processes for 1-2 years without individuals requiring responsibility to be on a board
      - Committees
        - High Performance Wolf Pack
        - Safe Sport

- Work with sub unions to have sport working as cohesively as possible
- Rugby Alberta Rules and Regulations
- AC and AWP league management review
- Wolf Pack meaningful competition for all programs, potential tour-based approach as opposed to games
- Rugby Alberta Strategic Plan 2025-2030
  - High level idea of path forward and focus to the future
  - Operational plans: how we get there
  - 4 key pillars
    - Grow the community game
      - Match and official development
      - Growing the sport as opposed to focussing on athletes
      - Working on diverse communities (ex. Indigenous, marginalized)
    - Support our Teams to Develop & Win
      - High performance academies
    - Be a Leading Provincial Organization
      - P&P so we can operate effectively
      - Celebrating our sport across the sport, recognize people, impact on people and sport
    - Expand Financial capacity
      - Sponsorship, fundraising, marketing
      - Manage government relationships to build success
- Rugby Canada National Growth Plan
  - Launched in 2025 the strategy is focussed on building strong pathways and build meaningful community for lifelong belonging
  - 5 key areas
    - Athlete development pathway → pathway for all
      - Without coaches, match officials, club executives, volunteers this sport is not successful
      - How do we create this for all
    - Developing and ownership of non-contact rugby
      - Expand opportunities
    - Focus on youth development/school engagement
    - Continue to invest in women & girls to accelerate the women's game
    - Build capacity among provinces and clubs
      - Winter slows down the sport
  - Work that needs to continue

- 2025-26 Canadian Rugby Championships
  - U19 Canadian Rugby Championships, July 2025 in Calgary Rugby Park
    - Men and Women
  - Submitted a bid to Rugby Canada and were successful
  - Questions/Comments
    - *Danielle Weran: "Dates?"*
      - *Chris Cooke: July 20-27, more details to come once finalized*
    - *Kristen Schindel: "How can you provide more transparent information in people who are interested in rugby across the province?"*
      - *Chris Cooke: Provide more support and clubs in rural areas. Clear and transparent communication*
    - *Stephen Saunders: "One thing I always find the struggle is for communication is what amount of communication is right and where. From a club standpoint, we find the same challenges Kristen."*
      - *Chris Cooke: Finding the key balance between communicating and overcommunicating.*
- Director of Finance/Administration Report – Darren Andruko
  - Big year of investment – Spent money to promote our sport
    - Subsidized cost of programs of all clubs and events to keep costs down
    - Marketing program
    - Purchase new radios for officials, streaming equipment
  - 81K more than 63K budget to subsidized programs for players
    - Keep cost down
    - Revenues lower than expected (teams dropping out last minute)
  - Non-program related costs (keeping the lights on): 350K/year
    - 600K in cash at year end
    - Strong financial position
  - Successful audit by Metrics group
  - Questions/Comments:
    - *Stephen Saunders: "What portion of the player program expenses were senior?"*
      - *Darren Andruko: Breakdown after the meeting, take this for a follow up*
    - *Luke Demeter: "Further to the comments about communication raised earlier by Kristen...A tactical example on that theme: Rugby Alberta's YDO resources are out in the community introducing rugby intro schools etc. We see the metrics*

*afterwards which is great but we (clubs, sub unions) generally don't know about these activities in advance in order to amplify the message and support the efforts.*

*If the ultimate goal is to attach ppl to clubs in local communities, we are missing an opportunity to provide the best "first impressions" to newcomers to our sport by not being aligned with RA, sub unions and local clubs."*

- *Chris Cooke: Making sure communicating in advance, proactively*
- *Danielle Weran "what were the expenses associated with sr men north vs south? 23k seems high for the series within alberta?"*
  - *Chris Cooke: Follow up item to provide more information after the meeting. Takes resources to run events (practice times, kit) and keeping costs as low as possible*

*Motion to accept financial statements: James Lord*

*Second by: Stephen Saunders*

- Sub Union Reports

- ERU – Dave Logan
  - Increased collaboration between CRU and ERU
  - Referees increase
  - Focus on representative programs
  - Strategic Plans
- CRU – Peter Rowe
  - Communications improving between sub unions
  - Rugby registrations improved in Southern AB
  - Height of registration: 2015
  - Improving grassroots and investing in meaningful rugby
- AJRA – Ultan Peters
  - Improve communications
  - Volunteer organization
  - Stepping down due to personal reasons, president and treasurer positions will be open
  - New Instagram!  
<https://www.instagram.com/albertajrugbyassociation/>
- RAMOA – Andrew Petti
  - Massive increase in officials officiating matches (~1670 total)
  - More tournaments
    - 38% increase in games
  - Better in putting games in SportLomo
  - 96 match officials registered
    - 81 of them did a match

- Northern Alberta registrations increased
  - Dave Logan: "ERU went from 22 to 33 referee registrations give or take."
- Will be sending a report for distribution later
- 2019: 103 match officials (peak), working to get back to that number – but we did officiate more games this year!
- 3 courses in the province: 27 officials went through it
  - Discussions about trying to bring more courses into rural Alberta (Grande Prairie, Lethbridge, Red Deer)
- Questions/Comments:
  - Erika Green (Red Deer Titans): "Red deer would LOVE a reffing course. I think we just don't know when or that it is an option to advertise it."

8. Staff Reports – 11:09 AM

- Executive Director & Director of Rugby Operations Report – Sandy Nesbitt presented
  - Rugby Alberta programs have experienced remarkable growth (nearly doubling in size in the last year)
  - ARC 7s doubled to 2 weeks, 16 teams compete. Men/women competitions overlap with university competitions to encourage participation, improve engagement, and inspire young athletes
  - 800 participants in Lethbridge area
  - New areas: County Warriors, Big Storm
  - North vs South AB: 3 events with men and women
  - Blue card pilot program
  - Age grade Wolf Pack programs U16 and U18 Prairie Cup
    - U16 girls went to BC as other provinces dropped out
  - Membership growth: 11%
  - Communications: great strides but not as fast as we would like
  - 2025 Calendar: CSG will be added, hosting CRCs

*Motion to accept all reports: Andrew Petti*

*Second by: Karen Vavrek*

9. Elections (Chris Cooke) – 11:20

- Vice President (2-year term) – Paul Looker
- Director of Finance/Administration (2-year term) – Darren Andruko
- Director at Large (2-year term): James Lord, John Vavrek, and Rory McKeown

*Motion to accept: Chris Cooke*

*Second by: Stephen Saunders*

11. Vote on Auditor – Metrix Group LLP (Chris Cooke) – 10:50

*Motion by: Chris Cooke*

*Second by: Shane Tevelein*



12. New Business (Chris Cooke) – 11:30 AM

- Danielle Weran: Junior rep schedule inquiry, questions about quick turnaround for ARC 15s especially with Stampede 7s, missing player pathway to national level
  - o Chris Cooke:
    - ARC 7s in January, Wolf Pack 7s selected based on ARC 7s
    - ARC 15s in June, U16, U18 Wolf Pack teams based on this
    - Senior Women/Men Wolf Pack teams selected after a series
    - Want to ensure teams have enough time to form, practice, and train
- Angie Tetley: Staying at U16 and U18 age grades? Sending a Wolf Pack A and B squad to Prairie Cup? Or Can Am series
  - o Chris Cooke:
    - Will have U19 Wolf Pack team as based on U19 Canadian Rugby Championships
    - Role and responsibility to help Saskatchewan and Manitoba Rugby to aid in their development
    - Canada-America series: not on the table depends on finances
- Danielle Weran: Coaches announced for CSG
  - o Chris Cooke: Take it in to follow up
- Shane Tevelein: Rugby Alberta Schedule getting out in a timely manner
  - o Chris Cooke: Top priority
- Kristen Schindel: Southern Alberta a lot of University of Lethbridge graduates there. Looking for more commitment and drive from Rugby Alberta

13. Adjournment (Chris Cooke) – 11:51 AM

*Motion by: Stephen Saunders*

*Second by: James Lord*

MEETING ADJOURNED: 11:53 AM