



**BRITISH COLUMBIA
SECONDARY SCHOOLS'
RUGBY UNION**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 31, 2017
Abbotsford Rugby Club
31929 Mercantile Way, Abbotsford BC

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. Walter van Halst (Commissioner) was in the chair.
2. Twenty four member schools were represented as follows:

RE Mountain	North Delta	Robert Bateman
Brentwood	Earl Marriott	Shawnigan Lake
Carson Graham	WJ Mouat	South Delta
Collingwood	Lord Byng	St. Georges
DW Poppy	Lord Tweedsmuir	St. Michael's University
Elgin Park	McMath	Handsworth
Esquimalt	Claremont	Yale
Glenlyon Norfolk	Oak Bay	West Van

This constituted a quorum of registered member schools.

3. New business was called for and the meeting agenda was adopted.
4. Jordan Abney, Executive Director of BC Schools Sports ("BCSS") was introduced.
5. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of May 25, 2016 we approved.
6. No items were identified as "Business arising from Minutes of 2016 Annual General Meeting."
7. Ian MacKay provided a brief overview of the finances. Given the loss last year, Gary Johnston questioned the appropriateness of providing medals for every flight of the tournament. Gary

moved (seconded by Adam Roberts) that only the AAAA and AA top flight should be provided medals. Greg Byron suggested that the motion be amended to also include medals for the AAA first flight but not the AAA second flight or the AA second flight. Gary did not accept that amendment.

Following a lengthy discussion, the motion was DEFEATED.

Following the defeat of the motion, the financial statements for the period ending June 30, 2016 were approved and accepted.

8. New Business:

Resolution 1: Junior Boys Provincial Championship First Round

Whereas the Jr. Boys Rugby Provincial Championship has expanded this year to 8 teams and the current format allows for the Zone Champions of the Lower Mainland, the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island Zones to all have a home game in the first round (1/4 Finals) of the tournament but does not provide the same opportunity for the Zone Champion of the Okanagan Zone, and whereas the challenges related to weather, time of travel and cost of travel faced by teams in the Okanagan are much greater than those faced by teams in these other three Zones, MOVED by Greg Seed (Salmon Arm) and seconded by Dave Marfleet (Kelowna Secondary) that from now on all 4 Zone Champions will have a home game in the ¼ Final Round of the Jr. Boys Provincial Championships. The motion was DEFEATED.

Resolution 2: Standardized Zone Championship Dates Moved Back One Week to after Victoria Day

Whereas the challenges related to weather in the early part of our Spring Sport Season of Play are unpredictable, and whereas there is a desire from many schools to reduce the risk of injury by playing too many games in too short a time span, and whereas Spring Break occurs during our Season of Play and the Stadium Series has become a vital part of our Provincial Championship Qualification and Ranking process, MOVED by Doug Primrose (Yale Secondary) and seconded by Moreno Stefanon (West Vancouver Secondary) that the Standardized Zone Championships at the Sr. Boys and Jr. Boys levels for the Fraser Valley, Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island and the Okanagan Zones be moved back by one week and occur no later than the Wednesday immediately following the Victoria Day long weekend, and that all schools understand this much shorter timeline will require significant changes to the operation of the Provincial Championships, such as the cancelation of the Chicken BBQ, earlier timelines for submitting AGM resolutions, a much different process for ordering T-shirts and several other changes such as the Tournament Organizing Committee requires. The motion was amended to indicate that the zone competitions must be completed one week prior to the first day of the tournament in Abbotsford. The amended motion was CARRIED.

Resolution 3: Moving the 4 Top Ranked Teams in AA Rugby into a Separate Division, Similar to the AAAA

Whereas for 2 years now the top 4 teams in AAA Rugby have been moved into a separate AAAA Division to ensure a better competitive balance amongst teams, and whereas for many years now the AA Division has been dominated by 4 schools, three of which are independent and do not have geographically defined catchment areas, and whereas the Commissioner and President of the BCSSRU explored the possibility of creating such a new Division with the Executive Director of BC School Sports and were informed that there are not enough AA teams or enough strong AA teams to expand the Provincial Championships to 20 AA teams, MOVED by Gary Johnston (Esquimalt Secondary) and seconded by Peter Atkinson (Oak Bay) that beginning in 2018 following the conclusion of the AA Zone Championships, the winners of the Lower Mainland, Fraser

Valley and Vancouver Island AA Zone Championships plus a AA Wildcard team form a 4 team AA Division similar to the AAAA Division and,

that because we cannot add 4 teams to the AA Provincial Championships, that the next best 8 teams in AA Rugby form a new single A Division, so that a total of 12 AA teams will take part in the Provincial Championships instead of 16 as we have at present.

The new 4 team AA Division will operate just like the AAAA Division, with a Semi-Final round on the Thursday of the Provincial Championships and a Bronze Medal Match and Championship Final on the Saturday of the Provincial Championships. The new 8 team A Division will operate just like the 8 team AAA Tier 1 and AAA Tier 2 Divisions, with Quarter-Finals on the Wednesday, Semi-Finals on the Thursday and the Championship Final and all placement games from 1st to 8th taking place on the Saturday.

The motion was DEFEATED.

Resolution 4: Tony Whitham Coaches Choice Award for Referee Excellence

Whereas both on and off the field Tony Whitham was an exceptional servant of BC High School Rugby in many, many capacities and a true rugby gentleman,
and whereas there is already a Most Sportsmanlike Team Award in both the AAA and AA Divisions, which is selected by the referees,

MOVED by Chris Turpin (Gleneagle Secondary) and seconded by Walter van Halst (Lord Tweedsmuir) that beginning this year in 2018 all schools in the BC High School Rugby Championships be given one write-in vote on the Saturday morning of the tournament which is cast by secret ballot for a Tony Whitham Coaches Choice Award for Referee Excellence. The winner should best exemplify Tony Whitham's knowledge, accuracy, professionalism and sheer love of the sport of Rugby Union.

The motion was CARRIED.

Resolution 5: Stadium Series Three Year Calendar for 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Whereas we have had a Three Year Calendar for the BC High School Rugby Provincial Championships for many years which is posted on our BCSSRU website,
and whereas Coaches, Referees, Zone Representatives, the Stadium Series Committee, the BCSSRU, Host Schools, City Officials, BC School Sports, the BCRU and other key Stakeholders all benefit from the ability to avoid scheduling conflicts and reduce the risk of injury by being able to plan in advance,

MOVED by Ian Hyde-Lay (St. Michael's) and seconded by Stephen Rowell (Robert Bateman) that the BCSSRU adopt the following Three Year Calendar for the Stadium Series:

2018:

Round 1, Primarily Lower Mainland, Friday, April 6th and Saturday, April 7th, 2018.

Round 2, Primarily Vancouver Island and the Okanagan, Friday, May 4th, 2018.

2019:

Round 1, Primarily Lower Mainland, Friday, April 5th and Saturday, April 6th, 2019.

Round 2, Primarily Vancouver Island and the Okanagan, Friday, May 3rd, 2019.

2020:

Round 1, Primarily Lower Mainland, Friday, April 3rd and Saturday, April 4th, 2020.

Round 2, Primarily Vancouver Island and the Okanagan, Friday, May 1st, 2020.

The motion was CARRIED.

Resolution 6: Avoiding Conflicting Kick-Off Times between Sr. and Jr. Boys Provincial Games

Whereas the expansion of the Jr. Boys Rugby Provincial Championships has been a very positive development for our sport,

and whereas in some schools the Sr. Boys Rugby Coach is also the Jr. Boys Coach and there are often parents with sons playing on both teams,

MOVED by Stephen Rowell (Robert Bateman) and seconded by Moreno Stefanon (West Vancouver) that where possible, when both a Sr. Boys team and a Jr. Boys team from the same school advance to the Provincial Championships, that the Tournament Organizing Committee reschedule the Jr. Boys game to avoid conflict with the kick-off times and larger schedule of the Sr. Boys Provincial Championships.

The motion was CARRIED.

Resolution 7: Exhibition Play Prior to the Start of the BC School Sports Spring Season of Play

Whereas rugby is a contact sport and there is always a desire to reduce the risk of injuries, and whereas there is a provision through BC School Sports for either one exhibition match or one jamboree with several school teams prior to the start of the BC High School Football season, MOVED by Jamie Overgaard (Lord Tweedsmuir) and seconded by Adam Roberts (Earl Marriott) that once approved by BC Schools Sports, likely in time for the 2019 Season of Play:

A school rugby team may meet another team or participate in a jamboree with several school teams on one (1) occasion between the date of the last provincial championship and the beginning of the BC School Sports Rugby Season. This should be done in conjunction with spring practice.

A provincial all-star team of student-athletes in Grade 12, under the direction and control of the BCSS Rugby Commission (BCSSRU) may compete at one (1) event with other all-star teams from outside the province of BC. This event is to occur between the BCSSRU Provincial Championships and the last day of school.

Jordan Abney clarified that we would require clearance from BCSS and there may be insurance issues to be investigated.

The motion was CARRIED.

Other New Business:

- a. Moreno Stefanon (West Van) proposed (seconded by Curry Hitchborn, Handsworth), to move the date of the BCSSRU AGM so that:
 - i. It precedes the BC Schools Sports AGM;
 - ii. It reduces the crowded schedule for coaches ; and
 - iii. It better accommodates schools that are not playing at the Provincials.

Tom Larisch (Collingwood) proposed an amendment that the process of the AGM and the Wednesday morning pre-tournament meeting be reviewed by the organizing committee.

The amended motion was CARRIED.

- b. Kyle Barry (DW Poppy) proposed (seconded by Mike Stiles, St Georges) that each team be provided by the BCSSRU a game ball for use in the Provincial Championships. Tom Larisch amended to indicate that it needed to be a Gilbert "Match" ball. The amended motion was CARRIED.
- c. Chris Blackman (St Georges) suggested that with the growing popularity of the Seven-A—Side (7's") game, the BCSSRU should be pursuing avenues to further develop the 7's game in high schools. The Commissioner took the comment under advisement.
- d. Adam Roberts (Earl Marriott) suggested that the BCSSRU consider a new position on the organizing committee to better organize the training/medical support. The Commissioner took the comment under advisement.

9. Discussion Items

- a. Tom Larisch spoke to the importance of "honouring commitments and playing with integrity" and encouraged all teams to complete scheduled games because forfeits and unplayed games reflect poorly on the sport, particularly in the eyes of the press.
- b. Walter van Halst noted that there was an upcoming meeting between BCSS, the BCSSRU and Shawnigan Lake School to improve competitive balance in AAA rugby. Walter promised that if any agreement was reached it would be voted on by the full membership of BC School Sports Sr. Boys rugby schools in good standing.

10. 2016 Honorary Awards

Doug Sturrock and Walter van Halst provided the background on this year's inductees as Honorary Members of the BCSSRU. Walter van Halst honoured Dennis Quigley and Doug Sturrock honoured both Gary Johnston and Rod Douglass (from Henry's Outdoor Chicken BBQ).

11. AAA and AA Ranking Chairs Election

The following were elected:

AAA ranking chair – Greg Byron from Yale

AA Ranking chair – Tom Larisch from Collingwood

12. Election of Officers

The following were nominated and voted in favour to occupy the following executive committee positions for the coming year:

- a. Walter van Halst – Commissioner
- b. Stephen Rowell – President
- c. Ian MacKay – Treasurer
- d. Ian Hyde-Lay – Vice President
- e. Kevin Ballard – Vice-President.

13. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm.