

USA RUGBY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING | March 3 | Boulder, Colo. BOARD VOTES TO ADOPT NEW STRATEGIC PLAN AND GOVERNANCE MODEL

BOULDER, Colo.— By a resounding vote of 25-to-1, USA Rugby’s Board of Directors approved to adopt a new strategic plan and a radically different governance model at its meeting here Friday.

The vote supports the Board’s unanimous AGM vote in November to seize change and grasp the opportunities facing USA Rugby, measured by five goals: 1. Sustain strong growth and participation in rugby in the United States; 2. Be in the top-10 of men’s rugby and top-4 in women’s; 3. Provide great, effective leadership; 4. Raise the profile and respect of rugby in the U.S.; 5. Generate the revenue to secure the future.

The new governance model will initially consist of a Congress, which will meet annually, of representatives from Territorial Unions. A nine-member Board that will consist of one Congress-elected member, two player representatives (one male, one female) and six appointed independent high-impact members whose professional and life experiences can help propel the organization, and the sport, forward.

The organizational model of USA Rugby will be aligned to implement the strategic plan and ensure the policies of the Board can be implemented within available capacity. The employees and Board will be charged with responsibility for developing and implementing the annual operational plans and establishing appropriate networks of volunteers and expert advisory groups to assist them in implementing the strategic and operational plans.

“Following on our initial steps taken last November, I was proud to chair a Board that issued a powerful message today in essence voting itself out of existence and in doing so put the organization above any personal or parochial interests,” said outgoing Chairman of the Board Neal Brendel. “A message that intends to deliver fundamental change in the strategic direction of USA Rugby as well as directing the implementation of a modern, streamlined governance structure suited for the commercial demands of the game and the expectations of our members.”

In addition to adopting a new strategic plan and governance model, USA Rugby’s Board of Directors also elected a new Executive Committee Friday, promoting previous vice-chair Bob Latham (Dallas/South) to chair and electing Frank Merrill (Atherton, Calif./Pacific Coast) as vice-chair, Tom Schmitt (Milwaukee, Wis./Midwest) its treasurer and Alex Magleby its player representative (Norwich, Vt./Northeast). David Pelton (Kirkland, Wash./Pacific Coast) and John McConnell (Arlington, Texas/West) will retain their roles as secretary and referees and laws representative, respectively.

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