



# ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION

*The Governing Body of Soccer in Alberta*

9023 111 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5B 0C3

Ph: 780 474 2200  
Fax: 780 474 6300



## **Members Bi-Weekly COVID-19 Update** **Meeting Minutes for 2A (10:00 AM) and 2B (7:00 PM)**

Monday, April 13, 2020

Video Conference Meeting

### **1. Call to order**

#### **Present Members Meeting 2A**

LSA - Frank Spadavecchia  
Sunny South - Paul Anwender  
CMSA - Susan Cress  
CUSA - Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal  
CWSA - Jacquie Hartlein  
CASA - Tammy Olson, Jason Blake  
EIYSA - Dan Curtis  
EDSA – Mike Thome  
SASA - Chris Spaidal  
NWP – Christine Donovan, Darren Snider  
BRSA - Rob Russell  
Canal Links - Henry Faucher  
Airdrie - Melissa Collinson  
RDSCA - Ado Sarcevic  
Red Deer College – Diane St. Denis  
ASA Life Member - Adrian Newman  
ASA BOD - Shaun Hammond, David MacEachran, Phil Michailides, Julie Beschell, Adam Berti, Steve Cupit  
ASA Staff - Shaun Lowther, Geraldine Ratcliffe, John Clubb, Carmen Charron, Matt Thomas, Tammy McNutt, Jordan Stewart, Franc Cioffi, Jeannie Hawksworth, Claire Paterson

#### **Present Members Meeting 2B**

MHSA – Rob Cavicchia  
CMSA - Susan Cress  
CWSA - Jacquie Hartlein  
EIYSA - Dan Curtis  
Foothills – Peter Mundy  
BCSA – John Brazzale  
Fort McMurray - Aaron Bessong,  
Lakeland - Kristy L'Hirondelle, Wayne Roach  
BRSA – Rob Russell  
SPDSA: Debbie Ballam  
Red Deer College – Diane St. Denis  
  
ASA BOD - Shaun Hammond, Danny Bowie, David MacEachran, Maureen Keough, Adam Berti, Julie Beschell, Steve Cupit, Phil Michailides, Public Director  
  
ASA Staff - David O'Neill, Franc Cioffi, John Clubb, Carmen Charron, Claire Paterson, Tammy McNutt, Jeannie Hawksworth, Jordan Stewart, Matt Thomas



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## 2. March 30, 2020 Survey Summary report (presented by Shaun Hammond)

- Top 3 vectors for support: Areas on which ASA must focus their support for Districts;
  - Reduced player fees
  - Decision on Provincials
  - Flexibility in District Programming
- Other concerns were communication, tournament Sanctioning and referee education.
- Members also inquired about staffing and HR. ASA is now starting a District working group to share ideas.
- Format for Provincials: will be dictated by when the suspension is lifted.
- The main concern for Districts was regarding finances -all aspects: administrative, players, referees and coaches.

## 3. Ongoing Actions by ASA

### i. Updates from ASA, CSA and Government of Alberta (GoA).

#### a. ASA:

- Continuing online course/content development – making headway with referee certifications and collaborating with CSA for coach education.
- QuickStart scenarios have been developed and mapped out, depending on when they suspension may be lifted (covered in further detail in 3.iii)
- Correspondence with Minister of Sport in Alberta; received a generic response from our submission from 2-weeks ago. ASA will continue to pressure the GoA for support, stressing that their support will be critical for the survival and continuation of operations of Districts.
- The BC Government have provided emergency funding for BC Soccer to continue their operations.
- ASA is joining an advisory group of recreational organizations, who will be advising the minister. This is a low-level advisory group, and ASA will have a voice at the table.
- HR committee formed to address staffing within ASA, who will review the levels of activity of all staff with regards to the programs we are offering.
- “Future” scenario planning initiated (covered in 4.) for all of 2020.



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## b. CSA

- President's Forum meeting held on April 6<sup>th</sup> – the meeting focused on PTSO's activities and their financial concerns.
- Online coaching seminar, delivered by John Herdmann, was very well received, with over 1,000 participants. Next session scheduled for May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020
- Ongoing referee development work with PTSO – keeping referees engaged with quizzes,
- Ongoing coaching development work with PTSO – online
- CSA asked all Provinces to submit a robust financial report, for them to understand the different PTSO's financial situation.
- This request came short notice, therefore only seven (7) PTSO's submitted the requested data to CSA. However, it was enough data to show that organizations will not be able to submit their CSA levy fees this year.
- CSA has not decided on a reduction or deferral of their player levy, yet.
- CSA recommended and encouraged all PTSO's to request financial aid from their local governments. All PTSO's have followed through.
- BC Soccer has received their full grant, with an additional "crisis" grant from the Government of BC. Shaun Hammond used this information in his follow-up with the AB Sport Minister.

## **ii. Decision on Provincials (Outdoor)**

- This will depend entirely on when social distancing requirements will be lifted.
- ASA will follow AHS requirements and work with members to address the restart.
- CSA has shown to be receptive to the idea of a "regional approach" to lifting suspensions.
- There may be regional challenges even within Alberta (e.g., City of Calgary has closed playing fields until June 30).
  - In these cases, the ASA may permit Districts with fewer restrictions (or lifted restrictions) to start their (modified) seasons.

**\*Request to Districts: Please communicate to ASA if there are any field/facility closures in your Municipality/Town, and the end-dates of those restrictions.**



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### iii. QuickStart scenario developments

The ASA has developed three (3) QuickStart scenarios:

- June 15<sup>th</sup> restart: very optimistic scenario. Would allow us to run \*almost\* an entire season, with tournaments and festivals in between regular league games. However, this is a very unlikely scenario (i.e.: Field closure by City of Calgary (June 30<sup>th</sup>))
- July 15<sup>th</sup> restart: most likely scenario, however, we may have AHS restrictions attached, such as; no large groups, no contact sports, etc.
- August 15<sup>th</sup> restart: probably last date for any type of meaningful season (playing games, tournaments and festivals, etc. at a local level).

All these scenarios have been developed assuming a full lift of social distancing measures. Another concern is that GoA/AHS may *partially* lift these measures, posing a new challenge to what in-person programs we can deliver.

### 4. Scenario Planning

- The ASA BOD has already developed different scenarios for the outdoor 2020 season.
- The following is a result of brain storming sessions by the ASA BOD.
- The ASA recognizes that we will most likely have to shift into a *new normal*. The following are considerations that will determine what the *new normal* will “look like”, in terms of programming.

#### **Problem statement: What will ASA 2021 look like?**

##### **Current issues - 2020**

- Public health dictum
- Bleak economic picture
- Financial unknowns – CSA player levy, GoA grants, local economy, etc.
- Provincial Competitions for 2020 (outdoor and indoor)
- Multiple “back to play” scenarios
- Traditional program offerings?
- How will ASA staff support the new scenarios?

##### **Future Issues -2021 and beyond**

- Economic picture – how will the GoA deal with the fiscal deficit?
- Demographic changes – outmigration of families due to 20%+ unemployment in AB, which would affect the entire soccer universe: players, referees, coaches, volunteers, etc.
- Wide range of Districts, whose financial and demographic situations are highly varied.
- Non-traditional program offerings: **flexible and member driven**, to suit each District and Community’s needs.
- It will not be business as usual



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## **Potential Approach – The ASA is creating 2 teams to address these challenges**

### **Team 2020**

*Will focus on the health crisis and its current effects*

- Continue crisis management approach
- Communicate with members
- Refine options and delivery over time
- Address immediate financial issues
- Manage HR & costs – manage ASA's cash flow and outputs
- Continue to lobby the CSA and GoA for financial aid

### **Team 2021**

*Will focus on scenario planning for the new normal*

- Develop scenarios -i.e. 75% return to play, population decline or migrations (affecting different Districts and the Province as a whole), economic hardship, etc.
- Shift the paradigm: systemic approach across the Province
- It will NOT be a case of ASA vs District
- For example, the Referee program relies on the RDC and DRA's -none of whom are Board Members. Therefore, this program is highly reliant on District's capabilities.
- Assume a zero-base start-up (blank page -no money, no programs).

The bottom line is that there will need to be substantial collaboration between the ASA and Districts to define/share capabilities and capacities and identify risks and opportunities.

## **5. Try-outs & Open Contact Period (presented by Shaun Lowther)**

CURRENT Policy on Player Movement states:

From the Indoor to Outdoor period, youth players may only be contacted during the Open Contact period; defined as “the day after Youth Indoor Provincials to April 10, Annually”.

*(Paraphrased -for the complete text please review the PPT presentation or the [Policy on Player Movement](#) (page 3) on the ASA website)*





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\*2020 TEMPORARY Indoor to Outdoor Rule:

**Redefinition** of the **Open Contact period** to “*the day after the regularly scheduled date of Youth Indoor Boarded Provincials, to 7 days after the resumption of Soccer Activities, as determined by Canada Soccer, Alberta Soccer and the Local District*”.

***\*Please contact Shaun Lowther with any feedback, concerns or issues with regards to this rule***

**6. Formation of District Working Committee on Communications & Business Continuity**

ASA will reach out to Districts to determine participants for this Committee.

***\*Please contact Shaun Lowther via email if you would like to partake in this committee***



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## 7. Comments / Questions

### Survey Summary report questions

Shaun Hammond addresses five important questions that came up in the post-meeting survey from March 30<sup>th</sup>.

- Big Country suggested that referee registration and refresher course fees should be deferred or waived for 2020. Many of our young referees cannot afford \$65 right now, specially if they are not having any games to recuperate their investment. The ASA will review this matter at this weekend's Board meeting. The ASA will look into bridging certification so that referees can keep their certifications valid through 2021.
- Sunny South asked when is the deadline for Districts to decide whether they can run a 2020 outdoor season? Based on CSA communications, they will confirm the status of Nationals by the end of June. This will confirm what type of season can be offered by Districts.
- Has ASA joined other sports organizations in their request for funding from the GoA? Yes; the ASA has engaged other sports (volleyball, hockey, basketball, rhythmic gymnastics, synchronized swimming and athletics, amongst others), and are jointly working with these sport organizations to lobby the GoA for funding and financial support.
- District mandates to cancel their outdoor seasons – The ASA will not mandate whether a season will proceed. The final decision on outdoor season delivery will be up to the Districts. ASA will support any modified programming or scheduling that the Districts would like to pursue. If Districts need to extend
- Clarity of outdoor/indoor fees in order to forecast District fees. The ASA is examining a formula or approach to determine pro-rated fees, or fee deferrals. This will be dependent on the CSA's decision regarding levies, and if the GoA provides financial support/grants. These will affect the outdoor fees, as will the proration of fees if only a portion of the outdoor season is delivered. We realize that there is going to be reduced programming, so the fees will need to fund only this reduced delivery of programming.
- The prospect for traditional Provincials is low if we are not able to start up on June 15<sup>th</sup> or July 15<sup>th</sup>.



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## 2A Meeting (10:00 AM)

### a) Questions submitted via chat

- Adrian Newman (ASA Life Member): Will ASA also consider easing restrictions community by community? What AHS restrictions can members live with and start playing? i.e. wearing disposable gloves, masks, etc.

Shaun H. (ASA): ASA will certainly look into lifting suspension per region/community within the Province. With regards to AHS restrictions/recommendations, those are wise ideas and we will have to work with our referees, coaches and parents on how to best implement them.

- Henry Faucher (Canal Links): If we lose the outdoor season, could we start an Indoor season early and have it extended? Or could we do a Fall Season, then a Winter Season?

Shaun H.: These are options we haven't considered/reviewed yet, but absolutely; we can look into them. Extending the indoor season will depend on facilities and their availability/restrictions. As Pearl mentioned, Calgary has already closed all their parks until end of June.

- Susan Cress (CMSA): What is the HR Committee about? Can you clarify?

Shaun H.: This committee will be looking at the level of staffing required for the level of activities we are doing/offering. We will be sitting down and working with staff to address this.

- Mike Thome (EDSA): Can we please get an operational update from Shaun Lowther, particular to staff and what they are working on during this downtime?

Shaun H.: Yes, absolutely, Shaun can provide that.

- Tammy Olson (CASA): Some regions even within the Province have a lower risk than others, will that be looked at as well?

Shaun H.: We will be guided by the AHS's recommendations and this is certainly something we will consider once restrictions are eased.

- Melissa Collinson (Airdrie): I think we also need to throw some more focus how to keep our members engaged (community outreach, keeping not just players engaged, but also coaches and PARENTS). Keeping parents involved and engaged will go a long way for a QuickStart.

Shaun H.: Absolutely agree, in fact, this is one of the points we raised with CSA. We need more marketing to keep interest alive. Ontario Soccer came up with the one-touch pass the ball challenge, which we have adopted, and it has become very popular. We need to keep everyone engaged -parents, kids and coaches.





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John Clubb (ASA) adds that he has been developing a parent presentation with Melissa (Airdrie), which is now ready to pilot.

- Adrian N.: Any feedback from CSA on last week's FIFA conference meeting with all MA's?  
Shaun H.: The President's Forum meeting was re-scheduled, from this afternoon to tomorrow (April 14<sup>th</sup>). This is a question that has come up at every past president's meeting: what is the guidance from FIFA; what is the discussion coming from Concacaf? We are putting a lot of pressure on CSA to communicate more with us and to tell us what is happening out there. I will take this question to tomorrow's forum.

## **b) Verbally asked questions:**

- Pearl Doupe (CUSA): Is ASA seriously going to move their fees? I disagree with (Shaun Hammond's) statement, that if we don't have a start date before the middle August, we won't be playing an outdoor season. I am confident that we (CUSA) can deliver a significant season between August and Thanksgiving; as our non-Provincial divisions traditionally play up until Thanksgiving. However, we need movement on the tournament (temporary player) fees. I think we will find members who are unable to pay team fees, but who will sign up for regional tournaments within Calgary. We will need flexibility on the \$20/player fee for every tournament, which will allow us to keep some of our fringe members engaged, who may not be working at the moment (and may not be working by August).

Julie Beschell (ASA): This is a really good point. We have been discussing the membership fee as an overall, instead of line-by-line. However, we can look into the line-by-line and shift some costs around in order to assist Districts as best as possible.

Tammy McNutt (ASA): Clarify that the guest player fees are only for players who are not regular members. I will get information specific to your question for the Board, for discussion at this weekend's upcoming meeting.

Pearl adds; we will have to be extremely creative on how we run programs. CUSA has already looked at a proposal which will not have any semblance to our previous outdoor season. We are in a game plan of moving from 2019 and 2021 with traditional programming, and 2020 is just about getting people playing. The more we can move cost around and be creative, the more success we will have -at an adult level; to keep people on the field.

Shaun Lowther (ASA): Totally agree, as we stated in the last meeting, the importance of this season is to get players playing the game. Provincials and Nationals are completely secondary. The approach we are taking is to get kids and adults enjoying themselves and playing the game they love.



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## **2B Meeting (7:00 PM)**

**a) No questions were submitted via chat**

**b) Verbally asked questions:**

- Aaron Bessong (Fort McMurray): Does the ASA have an insurance policy that could be applied at this time?  
Shaun L. (ASA) explains that the ASA has business interruption insurance, but only as it relates to property damage, not a pandemic.

## **8. Adjournment**

2A Meeting: 10:52 AM

2B Meeting: 7:43 PM

*Thank you for joining us today*