



**ALBERTA SOCCER ASSOCIATION**  
*The Governing Body of Soccer in Alberta*

9023 111 Avenue  
Edmonton, AB T5B 0C3

Ph: 780 474 2200  
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**Members Bi-Weekly COVID-19 Update**  
**Meeting Minutes for 3A (10:00 AM) and 3B (7:00 PM)**

Monday, April 27, 2020

Video Conference Meeting

**1. Call to order**

**Present Members Meeting 3A**

LSA – Frank Spadavecchia  
MHSA – Rob Cavicchia  
CUSA -Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal  
CWSA - Jacquie Hertlein  
EMSA – Mario Charpentier, Dragos Niculescu  
EDSA – Mike Thome  
St. Albert – Chris Spaidal  
NWPSA - Darren Snider  
Airdrie – Melissa Collinson  
RDCSA – Ado Sarcevic  
Canal Links – Henry Faucher

ASA Life Member: Adrien Newman

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, David MacEachran, Danny Bowie, Julie Beschell, Adam Berti

ASA Staff: Shaun Lowther, Tammy McNutt, Carmen Charron, Claire Paterson, David O'Neill, Jeannie Hawksworth, Jordan Stewart, John Clubb, Matt Thomas, Franc Cioffi, Geraldine Ratcliffe

**Present Members Meeting 3B**

LSA - Arlene Paiha, Frank Spadavecchia  
MHSA – Rob Cavicchia  
Sunny South – Paul Anwender  
CASA – Tammy Olson, Jason Blake  
EDSA- Mike Thome  
Foothills – Peter Mundy  
Lakeland: Wayne Roach, Cheri Wolgien  
NWPSA – Christine Donovan  
BCSA – John Brazzale  
Fort McMurray – Aaron Bessong  
SPDSA – Debbie Ballam  
Canal Links – Henry Faucher  
Tri-County - James Wolters

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Julie Beschell, Danny Bowie, David MacEachran

ASA Staff: Shaun Lowther, Tammy McNutt, John Clubb, Carmen Charron, Jeannie Hawksworth, Matt Thomas, Franc Cioffi, Geraldine Ratcliffe



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## 2. Canada Soccer (Presented by Shaun Hammond)

### a. Presidents Forum

#### i. CSA Levy

- CSA provided information on the matter of reducing their player levy, on April 20<sup>th</sup>.
- Considerations:
  - The 2020 levy would be calculated at 1/3 of the full 2019 levy (\$9 x 2019 total registration) payable by November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. The remainder would be “forgiven”.
  - The 2021 and 2022 levy would both be calculated at the full 2019 amount
  - Although 2021 and 2022 registrations are unknown, they are unlikely to reach 2019 levels (AB had 100,000 registered players last year).
  - Additionally, each Member Assoc. (MA) was requested to ensure that the National Soccer registry (NSR) Data Agreement is signed on or before June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020; and to begin sharing demographic/registration data with Canada Soccer by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
  - In 2023, CSA would begin to collect fees directly from players.
  - CSA also required that MA's need to keep a reserve of 30% of annual operating expenses by 2023. Some MA's will have difficulty meeting the 30% reserve, especially if their reserve is depleted over 2020/2021 and registration numbers are slow to recover.
- President's Forum met on Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss a joint response to CSA's levy proposal.
- ASA reviewed the proposal and ran three scenarios (see presentation for details), and determined that the CSA proposal would result in a ~700,000 - ~\$900,000 increase in fees paid to CSA over a 4 year period (2010-2023), even assuming that registrations would be reduced over the next 4 years (2020-2023) and when compared to the current status quo levy allocation.
- ASA's assumption is that 2019 registration numbers do not recover until 2023.
- PSO's: none can meet the 2021-2022 fees based on 2019 figures.
- MA's oppose CSA's 2023 proposed use of the NSR to collect registration fees directly from players.
- A second meeting took place today, at 5 PM, between PSO Presidents and CSA, where Presidents communicated that the full levy for 2021 and 2022 is not acceptable, as is the direct payment of registrations fees to CSA via the National Soccer Registry.
- The CSA Board will be provided with financial analysis to be reviewed at a Board meeting on May 8 to discuss the 2020, 2021, and 2023 levy amounts and PSO's counterproposals.
- Several questions have come up from the CSA communication:
  - Why this proposal and why now?
  - What is CSA's long-term management goal?
- 78% of ASA's players (youth & adult) are recreational players, i.e.: do not participate in Provincial/National competitions. Therefore, we anticipate they may be unwilling to pay a levy



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directly to CSA, as they see no perceived value from CSA for this payment. This may drive players to non-sanctioned leagues and may drive down the number of formal registrations.

- This also avoids the Districts and ASA for access to the players, as CSA will access them directly.

## **b. Executive Directors Committee (presented by Shaun Lowther)**

### **i. Return to Play Protocols**

- CSA has asked all PTSO's to provide ideas on measures to implement once the restrictions are lifted.
- Shaun L. will send a survey to all Members. Please pass it on to Clubs and Teams.
- We would like to gather as many good ideas as possible.

### **ii. FIFA Funding**

- Announcement came in last week.
- Funds that were already in CSA's budget, the difference is that they are now able to access it early.
- However, FIFA has billions of dollars in their reserve.
- ASA along with other PSO's will urge CSA to ask FIFA if MA's can access their reserve funds.

## **3. Government of Alberta/Municipal Announcements**

### **a. Public Gatherings:** Maximum of 15 people

### **b. Closure of Fields:** Varies throughout the Province.

- City of Calgary: September 1st, 2020.
- Airdrie: August 31st, 2020
- City of Edmonton: opening fields on May 1st, to a maximum of 15 people at a time.

### **c. PSO Consultation**

- Sport Leadership Group have is planning to meet with the Minister responsible for Sport & Recreation – conference call meeting to be held this Friday, May 1st, 2020.
- This will give a sense of the GoA's response (e.g., grant funding available, if any). No plans have been communicated by the Government on a return to play for team sports.
- Saskatchewan and New Brunswick have announced easing of the physical distancing restrictions.
- In SK, return to recreational/organized sports, will be in Phase 4, in the late fall. Same timeframes for NB.



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- Based on this National trend, we don't anticipate having a full, traditional game format, by the end of the year.
- If the Provincial Government determines that organized sports can resume, Municipalities open sports fields, and back-to-play protocols are determined that follow AHS guidelines, Alberta Soccer will work with Districts to assist in implementing programming.
- ASA will have to confirm insurance coverage for any back to play protocols. The ASA Insurance broker has notified ASA that coverage will not be in effect until a directive from the Alberta Government to allow organized sports to resume is communicated.
- ASA has not received any confirmation from CSA on a Provincial/Regional lift of their suspension, but they have indicated that Regional conditions will be considered.

## 4. Alberta Soccer (presented by Shaun Lowther)

### a. Outdoor Programming

#### i. No ASA traditional Outdoor Programming

- No AMSL or AYSL. ASA will communicate with teams/Clubs.
- No Provincial Competitions
- However, ASA will not mandate Districts cannot run their own programs when the CSA suspension is lifted.

### b. Insurance

#### i. Online Sessions

- Players must be registered: those who played in the 2019-20 indoor season are still covered.
- Districts will be responsible to gather information from their Clubs and Associations.

### c. Referee Fees (presented by David O'Neill)

#### i. Course Fees

- All Entry Level and Mini referee courses have been moved to a holding date of December 31<sup>st</sup>. This keeps the course registration intact for any possible future use.
- All outdoor refresher courses were cancelled and are taking place online. Mention that even if no outdoor, these courses are needed as this year's Law changes will also apply in future years.
- Districts or hosts have the option to cancel any course and would be responsible for reimbursing any fees that they have collected.
- Please let David O'Neill and Carmen Charron know if you cancel a course, as Refcentre does not send us notification.



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- Reminder that if there is an indoor season and new referees are needed, they will have to take an Entry Level course before taking an Indoor Conversion.
- If a student had been approved by a host, the Refcentre account will still be usable for a future course in the same district. To take a course in a different district, the student would have to start the process again.

## ii. Registration Fees

- Any refunds will be processed on a written request only, based on the following scenarios.
- Reminder that the Referee Registration period is April 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup> (in the next calendar year).
- If a district (or zone or club in some cases) cancels their outdoor season and has no indoor season available – 100% refund with no admin fee is available.
- If a district (or zone or club in some cases) cancels their outdoor season and indoor is available – this is still to be decided by the BOD.
- If no outdoor or indoor soccer in the province – 100% refund with no admin fee is available.
- If a referee withdraws registration before any courses are cancelled – this is still to be decided by the BOD.
- Once a refund is issued, the referee's registration will be removed from the system, but can be reinstated at any time, with appropriate payment.
- When a referee's registration is removed, they are also removed from the List of Eligible officials. If assignors are diligently using the Eligible List, this will prevent referees from trying to obtain a refund and still referee.

## d. Coaching Courses (presented by Shaun Lowther)

- Community Stream online courses are free of charge
- Licensing Stream: All C-and B-courses have been cancelled.
- CSA will offer Youth License and Children's License online.

## e. Player Fee (presented by Shaun Hammond)

- Assumptions:
  - No outdoor season/registrations for remote/rural members
  - 50% registrations for City and Large Rural members
  - Rate calculated at 50% of average 2019 effective rate per group
- The fees presented in the PowerPoint presentation are for 2021 outdoor -not the upcoming indoor season.
- Under normal circumstances, ASA would be determining the indoor fee in April.
- We will be presenting proposals for indoor 2020-2021 fees by mid-summer.



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- Fee Structure:
  - Flat fee for youth
  - Per team fee for Senior
  - Drop-in Rate for Senior

Mike Thome (EDSA): Are these fees inclusive of the CSA levy? (During 3A Meeting)

Shaun H.: Yes, we will not be issuing any further bills to our members.

## f. Staffing (presented by Shaun Lowther)

- Releasing ASA staff members -permanent and temporary.
- ASA is also reducing hours of work.
- ASA will communicate the staffing situation to members by the end of this week.

## 5. District Working Committee on Communications & Business Continuity

- **Committee Members:**
  - Susan Cress, CMSA (Chair)
  - Paul Anwender, Sunny South
  - Melissa Collinson, Airdrie
  - Jacquie Hertlein, CWSA
  - Chris Spaidal, St. Albert
  - Debbie Ballam, Sherwood Park
  - Pearl Doupe, CUSA
  - Tammy Olson, CASA
  - Joan Van Wolde, Red Deer
  - Frank Spadavecchia, Lethbridge
  - ASA Board of Directors representative: Steve Cupit
  - ASA Administration representative: Shaun Lowther
- As per the Strategic Plan -an ASA "Administrative Lead" Committee to be formed to meet on a regular basis.
- Please send any suggested Agenda items to Susan Cress
- The first meeting will be scheduled this week.



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## 6. Comments / Questions

### 3A Meeting:

Mike Thome (EDSA): Just to confirm, there will be no ASA Provincials this summer?

Shaun Hammond: Yes, that is what we are anticipating.

Mike Thome (EDSA): With regards to CSA's collection of player fees in 2023, what is their rationale behind this?

Shaun H.: This came up out of left field, it was not discussed with any of the Presidents. All Presidents are very concerned with this process, as it would be bypassing Districts and PTSO's.

Mike Thome (EDSA): Who will be enforcing payment to CSA by players in 2023? Currently, CSA is reliant on me (EDSA), to determine which players are participating. I will need to know from them (CSA), if players have paid. It just seems very messy.

Shaun H.: I spoke to Ryan Fequet, our representative at CSA, and he said that CSA is looking into using the same processes and systems that Volleyball Canada and Hockey Canada use. There are challenges with getting and aligning the information.

Mike Thome (EDSA): Tammy Olsen asked this on our first conference call – has there been any discussion at the GoA level – for regional reopening of sport or whether this was a province-wide recommendation.

Shaun H.: First, we had to confirm that CSA would allow a Provincial approach to lift sanctions. We (ASA) have indicated to the powers that be, that ASA would also open “**safe**” programming on a Regional basis.

To clarify this statement the following conditions must be met:

1. Alberta Government approval to resume organized sports
2. AHS Guidelines compliance
3. Canada Soccer approval
4. Insurance Coverage
5. Municipality field availability

### Questions submitted via chat:

Adrien Newman: Will the new reduced 2020 fees be payable for indoor, if no outdoor registrations occur? I suggest CSA will have to move away from flat fees and go with tiered levies, otherwise they will lose huge registration numbers at U7's and below -who are currently subsidized by most Provinces and older players.

Shaun H.: To be honest, when we discussed this at the BOD, we thought this would be the same as a typical registration. If there is no outdoor season, then we will have to reevaluate the indoor fees.



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Adrian Newman: Has ASA considered allowing unstructured soccer, as training on half fields with under 15 people on the field at any time? Use the Bayern Munich approach to work in groups of 5, etc.? Later sanction a 5-6 a-side mini tournaments if AHS allow with the appropriate safety protocols.

Shaun H.: If there is a system or innovation to training in a safe manner, that meets the AHS guidelines, we are not going to say “no, you cannot do that”. We welcome all ideas on return to play modalities.

Jacque H. (CWSA): I would like to clarify, if there is no outdoor season, you are still requiring us to pay the player fee?

Shaun H.: We must gather a fee of some sorts, due to insurance purposes. Events will have to be sanctioned and players will have to be registered with ASA. We will gather additional information on the proposed fees, especially if Districts are looking to conduct some type of sanctioned event and provide feedback to the members.

Mario Charpentier (EMSA): *Inaudible. Shaun Lowther offered to talk to Mario one-on-one after the meeting.*

Melissa Collinson (Airdrie): Will there be an ASA representative on the Communications Committee?

Shaun L.: Yes, there will be.

Henry Faucher (Canal Links): Can you clarify how the CSA fee process works? The way that I understand it, players register and play in 2019. ASA collects the fees in 2019, then CSA collects that amount from ASA in 2020. Is this correct? Is it based on actual registrations?

Shaun H.: That's correct Henry, we report to CSA based on our outdoor numbers + indoor registrations = 2019. In other words, the CSA levy is calculated based on actual registrations from the previous year. I.e.: 2019 unique registrations x \$9 = 2020 Alberta Soccer Levy to be paid to Canada Soccer.

### **3B Meeting:**

#### **Questions regarding the CSA levy (asked throughout presentation)**

Aaron Bessong (Fort McMurray): Why can't CSA provide a relief package?

Shaun H.: It seems like CSA believes that PTSO's are rolling in cash. It seems like they haven't been listening to PTSO's when they've communicated their financial situation and distress.

Henry Faucher (Canal Links): Is this (the CSA proposal), influenced by the BC Government's decision to grant BCSA funds?

Shaun H.: I don't believe CSA has built this into their equation, because they haven't really dug deep into PTSO's economic situations.





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Shaun L.: BC Soccer's revenue comes mostly from their winter season on the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island – they are in a very different position than other PTSO's.

Peter Mundy (Foothills): Why has CSA gone down this road of wanting to collect the fees themselves, have there been issues with collecting fees in the past? I believe it is up to us, to represent our registrations. We should have an input on those. It's also kind of off that CSA is using this as a bargaining point to get what they want -it doesn't sit very well.

Shaun H.: The player levy is 35-40% of CSA's budget, which is wholly controlled by the PSOs. Other funding sources (FIFA, Own the Podium) are variable funding, depending on results. So, this may be CSA's attempt to help stabilize their funding year over year.

Mike Thome (EDSA): (This will be a) Reiteration of my question this morning. What happens to players who do not pay registration fees to Canada Soccer? Who ensures that the player can't register if they haven't paid their CSA fee? Does a National Soccer Registry apply to all FIFA members? I cannot imagine that FIFA is mandating the same standards and deadlines to all countries, including Zimbabwe, Bolivia and Kuala Lumpur.

Shaun H.: With regards to the CSA database and collection of fees -the NSR would help define and identify demographic information, which in turn would help facilitate FIFA funding. The assumption was that it was always the PSOs collecting the data, and then uploading it to CSA. The notion of direct payment to CSA is new to the Presidents. With regards to the FIFA mandate for NSR, CSA indicated (Fall 2019), that Canada is one of the last countries to comply with the FIFA mandate.

John Brazzale (BCSA): It seems rather underhanded that CSA would use this current crisis to resolve an outstanding issue. Instead, CSA should be coming to us with solutions to get us through this crisis including the financial burden. My question is: if we decide to go with the status quo for CSA levy would ASA be able to pay the levy for 2020?

Shaun H.: We deferred the collection for the fees from last year, all the way to October. I am not aware of any Province who is able to pay the total fee as proposed by CSA -including ASA's \$900,000.

Mike Thome (EDSA): With Edmonton fields opening on May 1st, how do kickarounds align to the suspension of activities by CSA?

Shaun Lowther: Any organized soccer is not allowed, i.e.: a team running a training session will not be allowed. But if a group of adults or kids, pick up a ball and start kicking it around, there's not much we can do about this.

Shaun H.: We will need clarification from CSA, on this matter. For ASA, the biggest concern will be insurance, in case any players get hurt.



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**7. Adjournment**

3A – 11:02 hrs.

3B – 20:11 hrs.

*Please provide us your feedback on these meetings, if the information we are providing has value to you or if we're missing information that you would like to have.*

