



**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 6A (10:00 AM) and 6B (7:00 PM)**

Tuesday, June 9th, 2020

Video Conference Meeting

**1. Call to order**

**Present Members Meeting 6A**

MHSA – Rob Cavicchia  
CUSA - Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal  
EMSA – Mario Charpentier, Dragos Niculescu  
EDSA – Mike Thome  
SASA – Chris Spaidal  
SPDSA – Debbie Ballam  
Airdrie – Melissa Collinson  
CWSA – Jacquie Hertlein  
EIYSA – Dan Curtis  
Canal Links – Henry Faucher  
Battle River – Rob Russell  
RDCSA – Ado Sarcevic  
NWPSA – Darren Snider  
? – Greg Howe  
ACAC – Diane St. Denis

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

ASA Staff: Shaun Lowther, Tammy McNutt, Carmen Charron, Claire Paterson, David O'Neill, Jeannie Hawksworth, John Clubb, Matt Thomas

**Present Members Meeting 6B**

LSA - Arlene Paiha, Frank Spadavecchia  
MHSA – Rob Cavicchia  
CUSA - Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal  
EMSA – Dragos Niculescu  
SASA – Chris Spaidal  
Canal Links – Henry Faucher  
CMSA – Sue Cress  
RDCSA – Ado Sarcevic  
Lakeland: Darlene Larocque  
FMYSA – Aaron Bessong  
Sunny South – Paul Anwender  
CWSA – Jacquie Hertlein  
EIYSA – Dan Curtis  
Lakeland: Cheri Wolgien  
NWPSA – Christine Donovan  
SPDSA – Debbie Ballam  
Tri-County – James Wolters, Pam Wolters  
Foothills – Peter Mundy  
ACAC – Diane St. Denis  
ASA Life Member: Adrian Newman

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Dave MacEachran, Danny Bowie, Julie Beschell, Steve Cupit, Maureen Keough, Adam Berti

ASA Staff: Shaun Lowther, Tammy McNutt, Carmen Charron, Jeannie Hawksworth, Matt Thomas, Claire Paterson, David O'Neil, John Clubb



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## Meeting 6B Update by Shaun Lowther about this afternoon's announcement by Premier Kenny on the early launch of Phase 2 on June 12<sup>th</sup> which allows for team sports to resume (with restrictions).

- Lengthy document provided by GoA with details and includes input by the SPAR group and AHS.
- Constructed to open up activities but control the spread of COVID-19.
- Was put on the Business Connect website but has been taken down since, likely for adjustments.
- Main development related to soccer is the introduction of cohorts within sport.
  - Up to 50 participants per cohort allowed and amongst themselves:
    - Physical contact permitted
    - Games and/or training permitted
    - No PPE required
    - No restrictions on age groups
    - Coaches, officials would need to be included within the max. 50 people (closely interacting with players).
      - Coaches who would not be closely interacting with players could be outside cohort but would have to physical distance from players.
    - Cohorts must only interact with each other for the duration.
      - If someone wanted to leave and join another cohort they would have to self isolate for 14 days first.
    - Each sport needs to determine what the cohorts would look like.
    - Cohorts can't be from completely different zones i.e. Sherwood Park/Edmonton, Okotoks/Calgary would be ok but Calgary/Red Deer would not.
- ASA BOD met briefly before the 6B meeting. They feel it is in the best interest of the association to review this recent document more thoroughly, then update the Return to Play Plan accordingly.
- Return to Train has been approved so anyone who has met all the requirements that can proceed as of this Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.
- The plan is to have Phase 2 ready to go for on or around June 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Questions:

**Adrian Newman (LM):** Good idea to have cohorts register rosters with districts.

**Shaun Hammond:** Yes, don't disagree with this.

**Jacque Hertlein (CWSA):** Are you taking adults into this consideration? Because most of existing Return to Train info is so heavily focused on youth, I want to make sure it pertains to adults as well.

**Shaun Lowther:** Yes

**Adam Berti (BOD):** Yes, Jacque. Raj (CUSA) and I brainstormed today that maybe 7v7 with rosters of 12 could allow for a cohort of 48 with 4 teams.

**Dragos Niculescu (EMSA):** Was cohort enforcement discussed by the GoA?

**Shaun Lowther:** The GoA did not say how this would be done. They do have bylaw officers who would be out, but no further info so far. Rosters would have to be created so that Districts can monitor on their end and the BOD has only discussed it very briefly before this meeting.



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**Peter Mundy (Foothills):** Will the updated document expected to be in place for June 19<sup>th</sup> require CSA approval?

**Shaun Lowther:** No, but we will provide it to them, so they are aware of the updates.

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** The way I interpret the Stage 2 document, because soccer can be played outside, the cohort restriction isn't necessary.

**Shaun Lowther:** Dr. Hinshaw was very clear on the SPAR call this afternoon that it is required for outdoor contact sport.

**James Wolters (TCSA):** How would parents be divided from the 'cohort' number though? Would they not have to be included in the total number given that they are directly in contact with the kids of the cohort number.

**Shaun Lowther:** They would not be included in the cohort numbers. They can be spectators provided they are social distancing and not on the field.

**Adrian Newman (LM):** No need to ban spectators now that limit of 100, but still good idea to restrict perhaps to max of 2 family members per participant.

**Dragos Niculescu (EMSA):** Do we know how long this will last?

**Shaun Lowther:** No, no idea.

**Susan Cress (CMSA):** Based on the documents provided, clubs in Calgary are ready to go for Return To Train on June 12<sup>th</sup>. If they want to do anything more than that i.e. cohort, they will have to wait until June 19<sup>th</sup> correct?

**Shaun Lowther:** That's correct.

**Susan Cress (CMSA):** Looking at the large picture, is it ASA's intent to release a new document for each phase? CMSA would rather see ASA just state that they will (automatically) align with whatever new guidelines the GoA releases to streamline the process. Governing bodies at this point should just need to issue a standard document outlining position on protocols and safety and that they will immediately just align with GoA updates. It takes too long to do it the other way and it's not necessary for ASA to develop supporting documentation with every update.

**Shaun Lowther:** We were not aware that the cohort restrictions would be included.

**Shaun Hammond:** All of the work and consultation to develop the Phase 1 has already been completed and we've moved past that. Outside of making sure our Return to Play guidelines align with the GoA's, we need to be careful that we are doing our due diligence for the membership in regard to our own liability. Patience is very appreciated as every effort is made to do this as quickly as possible.

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** Challenges that with respect. If waivers have been signed off, we've done our due diligence. We do not need to over-govern while we are trying to get everyone registered. The risk assessment has been completed. The only difference now is that kids and adults can now train within a small group environment. ASA could just state they will follow GoA Stage 1, Stage 2, Stage 3 and implement guidelines in a specific timeline i.e. two-week cycle to simplify the process and alleviate the pressure on everyone.



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## 2. Canada Soccer (*Shaun Hammond*)

### a. Presidents Forum

#### i. CSA Update

- The Provinces have been focused on getting Return to Train Protocols in place, reviewed and approved as required.
- Next scheduled President's Forum call is June 22<sup>nd</sup> and will have two main topics:
  - Member concerns regarding direct registration
    - Analyzing the process of how the money collected will go from player to CSA.
    - Information collection; what they want to collect, why, how it will be stored and used.
    - The FIFA directive is for ages 10 years and older to help them track players who enter the apprentice academies in Europe so they know how to manage player transfer fee sharing. Canada Soccer has expanded on that to include all ages.
  - Membership Revitalization
    - Recruitment; how do we attract players, coaches, referees back?
    - How to take advantage of the situation and grow the game.
    - Leverage knowledge and skills of the group to collaborate and share strategies.
- CSA has received approval from the federal government to hold their Annual General Meeting and must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, format is still to be determined.
  - Once date is set, President's will have a better idea of what they expect to propose for Bylaw changes.
  - There will be no banquet or workshops.

#### Questions (6A):

**Mario Charpentier (EMSA):** Is the National Player Registration an already approved process and are we only looking at the details of implementing it? Can ASA let them know that the Alberta Soccer Districts are not in favor of it?

**Shaun Hammond:** No, it's not approved, and CSA is well aware that ASA is not in support of it at this time. There is still much to discuss, review and learn before approval would even be considered.

**Adrian Newman (LM):** Shaun, since CSA nominations are now closed, has the slate been disclosed, especially for President?

**Shaun Hammond:** It has not been disclosed but there is some talk that there are two candidates, the current CSA VP and a gentleman from Quebec. In addition, Bylaw amendments are usually circulated ahead of the AGM. There is a very robust review process during a pre- AGM meeting the President's have where they review all proposed changes. Then they indicate if they will or will not approve as presented and/or provide amendments which if made, they would then likely approve at the AGM.



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**Mario Charpentier (EMSA):** During the upcoming CSA AGM the PSO Presidents can propose changes to the Bylaws as well, not just the CSA BOD, correct?

**Shaun Hammond:** That is correct.

**Aaron Bessong (FMYS):** If approved, the National Player Registration will be for all players in the province irrespective of what level of play. Is this correct?

**Shaun Hammond:** Correct

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

### **i. Return to Train**

#### **1. Approved**

- BC, AB, QC, NB, PEI, MB - Return to Train Protocols approved
  - PEI is already running, BC this weekend and AB expected to do so, hopefully in Phase 2.

#### **2. Conditionally Approved**

- ON, SK, YK, NS, NWT, NL - Return to Train Protocols conditionally approved

### **i. Nationals Competition**

#### **1. Still under Review**

- The CSA Competitions Committee is expected to meet mid month and make a decision.

### **iii. Federal Funding**

- Curling, Hockey, Rugby, Skating, Soccer, Tennis collaborating for additional funding on top of the \$72,000, 000 already allocated from the Heritage Fund to NSO/PSO's.
  - The GoA is figuring out how much of that money will be given to each PSO.
  - There will be some rules around the use of the money including that some of it must go directly to Districts. ASA will advise how much when they have the information.
- Brought together due to Event Based Activity but will be using Community Sport as a key message to ask for support as the Sport Community is vital to economic recovery.
- First meeting held two weeks ago
- Consultants have been engaged to help create messaging designed to be successful in getting more financial support from the government.

### **Question (6A):**

**Pearl Doupe (CUSA):** Has AHS reviewed all 3 Phases of ASA doc or only Phase 1? When will Phase 2 be released to Districts to aid in our preparation?

**Shaun Lowther:** Only Phase 1 has been submitted as we do not know what restrictions will be required for Phase 2. It is expected Phase 2 would just require modifications to Phase 1 documentation and therefore be a quick turnaround.



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### 3. Government of Alberta (*Shaun Lowther*)

#### a. G of A - PSO Consultation on Return to Play protocols

- Alberta Soccer Return to Train deemed compliant to Government Guidelines
  - Will need to revise the document to include updates as per the Phase 2 announcements made this afternoon.

#### b. Phase 2 SPAR Meeting on Tuesday June 9<sup>th</sup> @ 2 pm

- A productive meeting in light of all the developments earlier in the day.

### 4. District Working Committee on Communications & Business Continuity (*Shaun Lowther/Sue Cress*)

#### a. June 3, 2020 Meeting Update

- The group continues to share best practices and resources.
  - May utilize Sharepoint in future.
- Collaborating on Risk Assessment.
- Discussing what the Indoor program may look like and entail.
- Focus on engaging the Grassroots base.
- Interest in engaging more than just the 5-6 Districts currently participating in the group.
  - Contact Shaun Lowther if you are interested in joining.

### 5. Return to Play (Presented by Shaun Lowther)

#### a. Return to Train Documentation

##### i. Feedback

- Lot's of feedback received.
  - FAQ document being developed to address the 60+ questions asked which will be shared with Districts ahead of the Return to Train webinar tomorrow night. *(This may be delayed due to the recent GoA announcement on Phase 2)*
    - Most common questions related to waivers, age groups and goalkeeper training.

##### ii. Working Document

- Much like the GoA Guidelines, this documentation will be adjusted based upon additional information and best practices.

##### iii. Webinar – Wednesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 6 pm

- Close to 500 people currently registered.
- Representatives from Canada Soccer, GoA, ASA's Law Firm and Insurance Provider and a Medical Practitioner with a Soccer background will be on the call to offer their perspectives.



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## 5. Comments / Questions

### 6A Meeting:

**Mike Thome (EDSA):** Does the CSA Assessment have to be submitted by teams before Return to Train or Return to Play?

**Shaun Lowther:** Return to Train

**Mike Thome (EDSA):** EDSA considers teams individual entities and it is unrealistic to expect that CSA or EDSA would be able to manage all the individual submissions of its 350 + teams. The submissions from other adult teams in all the other districts would increase that number substantially.

**Mike Thome (EDSA):** Will the waiver be required moving forward after the COVID-19 situation has improved or just while it is an issue?

**Shaun Lowther:** It's likely just during the current situation, but it's possible it could be updated to cover all contagious diseases in general beyond COVID-19.

**Debbie Ballam (SPDSA):** Can you explain how the decision was made on not allowing 2012 and younger in the modified training? With the new updates expected, is it possible that this will change? Can a district take out separate insurance on their own for the younger age groups?

**Shaun Lowther:** We were advised by our lawyers and our insurance provider that we should not include the youngest age groups in Return to Train because increased risk of transmission due to the difficulty in trying to maintain the social distancing requirement by those players. There has been some suggestions to split the U9 age group which is being looked at. The BOD would have to respond to the question around the purchase of individuals purchasing their own insurance for younger players.

**Mario Charpentier EMSA):** U10 or younger will just go out and do their own thing anyway without being registered. I don't understand how unsupervised play is allowed in playgrounds and soccer fields and we can't allow it for organized play which would have adult supervision. These kids will go play other sports which allow them to and they will not come back to soccer. BC allows it and also allows goalkeeper training so why can't we?

**Debbie Ballam (SPDSA):** Can we not do training with the parents? I agree with Mario, that kids are already out there playing without supervision and we want to put something in that is controlled. Can ASA be an advocate for these younger kids? I think we need to let the districts and parents decide.

**Shaun Lowther:** We are following the recommendations of our legal counsel and insurance provider to mitigate risk. We will bring this back to them for another discussion and advise the districts of the outcome.

**Ado Sarcevic (RDCSA):** Should the waivers be signed electronically? What are other Districts are doing?

**Mike Thome:** Would like to request clarification on what constitutes and electronic signature. Is the same as a digital signature? How do you ensure that it is the individual not a coach or other person doing it on someone's behalf? Does that negate the coverage?



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**Shaun Lowther:** The lawyers have said that ideally, waivers would be signed in person but that they may also be signed electronically. We will get further clarification on what can be accepted.

**Mario Charpentier (EMSA):** EMSA has loaded the waivers on the EMSA Portal and the parents can only access the waiver, and sign it using their individual email address as sign-in

**Dan Curtis (EIYSA):** This may be on the FAQ but in Phase 1 is it mandatory for each player to have their parent wait in car or social distanced during training in case of inclement weather or injuries which may result in removing the player before the **session** is over??

**Mario Charpentier (EMSA):** If the parents still observe social distancing, why can they not observe the same social distancing on the side of the pitch? Like 10', 20' away from the touch line...

**Shaun Lowther:** Parents can watch from a distance i.e. parking lot but can't be on the pitch.

**Darren Snider (NWPSA):** Is the assessment tool not completed at a CLUB level, not a team level?

**Shaun Lowther:** Yes, for youth teams. For adults, it is done by individual teams.

**Pearl Doupe (CUSA):** Do you have any comments on the USport decision?

**Shaun Lowther:** USport coaches are obviously disappointed but understand the reasons behind the decision. It's our understanding that ACAC is close to making a decision on this as well.

#### **6B Meeting:**

**Adrian Newman (LM):** Any update on risk assessment doc needed by every club/ team? It's a mess and too easy to fill out by anyone, so not possible to track who actually submitted it. It's unreasonable to expect individual adult teams to do this as some of the required information they may not even know and it's not necessary or applicable. It's creating a lot more paperwork when they are already having to do a lot of paperwork. CSA in their 5 points did not require it for every team.

**Shaun Lowther:** This is still required by CSA. Several CUSA teams have already submitted one and it does not seem to be too cumbersome to complete.

**Jim Wolters (TCSA):** Any thought on my late question from last call about the Youth Licensing Guidelines and whether this initiative has been pushed back.

**Shaun Lowther:** With all of the focus at this time related to Return to Play, this has not been looked at, but will need to be addressed at some point.

**Adrian Newman (LM):** Will goalkeeping be allowed under Return to Train as it's permitted in Phase 2?

**Shaun Lowther:** We will have to look at that but will take a cautious approach to modifications.

**Debbie Ballam (SPDSA):** I want to confirm that we can run programs at U4 to U8 now.

**Shaun Lowther:** Yes, the updated document will include this.

**Frank Spadavecchia (LSA):** Was there any mention about CSA going directly to players for fees?

**Shaun Hammond:** No, this is something they want by 2023, but there is still too much to discuss before any kind of approval would even be considered by the Provinces.





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**Adrian Newman (LM):** Of course, focus is on outdoors, but indoor facilities also are allowed to reopen. So planning needed for fall/ winter indoor programs.

**Shaun Hammond:** Yes, the indoor season will need to be looked at.

**Susan Cress (CMSA):** Thank you Shaun for all your hard work on this and how accessible you have been to me. I really appreciate how hard you are working for all of us.

### Closing remarks (Shaun H.)

- Link to Wednesday's webinar will be shared.
- Thanks to everyone for their time and input.
- Reminder that you can contact Shaun H or Shaun L at anytime if you have questions or comments

### 7. Adjournment

6A – 10:45 hrs.

6B – 19:45 hrs.