



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

Tuesday, June 23rd, 2020

Video Conference Meeting

1. Call to order

Present Members Meeting 7A:

ACAC – Diane St. Denis
Airdrie – Melissa Collinson
Battle River – Rob Russell
Canal Links – Henry Faucher
CASA – Tammy Olson
EDSA – Mike Thome
EIYSA – Dan Curtis
LSA - Frank Spadavecchia
NWPSA – Darren Snider
RDCSA – Ado Sarcevic
SASA – Chris Spaidal
SPDSA – Debbie Ballam
EMSA – Mario Charpentier, Dragos Niculescu
CUSA - Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal
CWSA – Jacquie Hertlein
Lakeland: Cheri Wolgjen
Sunny South – Paul Anwender

ASA Life Member: Adrian Newman

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

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

Present Members Meeting 7B:

CASA – Jason Blake
Foothills – Peter Mundy
LSA - Frank Spadavecchia
MHSA – Rob Cavicchia
NWPSA – Christine Donovan
Sunny South – Paul Anwender
Tri-County – James Wolters, *Pam Wolters*
Grande Prairie – Claude Bolton
Lakeland – Wayne Roach

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

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



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



2. Canada Soccer (Shaun Hammond)

a. Presidents Forum

i. CSA Update

4 questions presented:

1. National Soccer Registry

System by which CSA intends to gather NSR information was presented to PTSSO Presidents. CSA proposing dual registration whereby participants register with and pay CSA directly then register at their local level. Conversation did not go well. Alberta response being drafted – proposal does not seem feasible, as not all Albertans register in any online system. Most members are concerned this is a non-starter.

CSA believes this is still 2 years out so they may be able to make progress.

FIFA is trying to track soccer players from age 12 through the system to ensure the transfer fee at the professional level is appropriate

CSA seems to be requesting significantly more information that is required for this FIFA process. Likely that many parents will be unwilling to provide all of information requested by CSA.

CSA is proposing that anybody registering online with them will be able to opt out of commercial messaging – not convinced this will be good enough. 2 types of communications 1) soccer messaging from CSA; 2) commercial messaging from vendors/sponsors the registration information has been passed onto – not OK.

EDs have presented response to CSA with these issues. SL will discuss later.

2. Recruitment / Retention / Restart of soccer across the country

There hasn't been enough work done so far promoting return to play. Early indications out of ON and other provinces is that registrations to date (in this return to train/modified play) are very low. Particularly at the adult level. ON indicated ~30% return from last season. ON has opened up by health region (which does not match their soccer regions) so they are struggling with this staggered opening approach.

Shaun asking our members to please give us an indication of what their retention rates are like in this current registration cycle to help gauge our status in the Province overall and to help craft our messaging to help promote registrations.

- a. **EMSA** – 50% drop in registrations so far
 - b. **CASA** – sitting at 10% registration
 - c. **SASA** – 70% community; nearly 100% club but at reduced fees
 - d. **EDSA** – 31% registration
3. State of Return to Play – most provinces are sitting at Phase 1 (return to train), some are opening up to return to play. Some east coast provinces are going to full play, but modified game rules to incorporate physical distancing and touching the ball. Other districts are forgoing the outdoor season altogether. Very inconsistent across the country. Largely due to differing rules applied by different Health authorities across the country. Quebec rules have opened up the most, so we are



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



closely watching what happens there. Other Provinces have opened up for games with modified rules – 11v11 / futsal hybrid rules.

4. CSA has discussed Nationals, no formal announcement on a decision yet. Circled back to NSR – FIFA asking for ages 12 and up; CSA asking for all ages, so still some certainty around what that will look like.

Questions (6B):

b. Executive Directors Committee (Shaun Lowther)

i. Nationals Competition

- a. Earl Cochrane indicated yesterday that we should get communication around a decision on 2020 Nationals this afternoon after the CSA Board meeting. Shaun L will send out email and update this at this evening's meeting.

b. All U15, U17, Men, Women and Masters 2020 National Championships have been CANCELLED

- ii. ED's have submitted concerns to CSA regarding NSR proposal: no termination agreement, data points being requested (more than FIFA, and some sensitive information)

3. District Working Committee on Communications & Business Continuity (Chris Spaidal or Steve Cupit)

June 17, 2020 Meeting Update

- a. **Chris Spaidal** –discussion around; SASA and SPDSA ~50%; parents are conflicted – many parents only want to participate if there's physical distancing training; some parents want games.

There is great concern for what may be happening in the indoor season, as facilities are starting to come back online mid-July.

- b. Steve Cupit

Continued with discussion about engaging membership and trying to get players to register.

Discussed referee development – it's taking place and referees can get trained online.

Discussion about fees, etc. and rules that districts can add on top of the Alberta Soccer guidelines in their return to play plans.

4. Return to Play (Shaun Lowther)

a. Stage 2 – Return to Modified Games

i. Referee Webinars

Meetings so far have been well attended. Good response and feedback.

1. Assignors, DRA's & Admin – Thursday June 18th, 2020

38 people on this meeting. 16 districts and 22 clubs/zones represented. Notes and link to recording of June 18 meeting was sent out on Friday June 19. Main outcome – Alberta



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



Soccer will collect referee waivers and referee and team feedback reporting required by Return to Modified Games regulations.

2. Referees – Monday June 22nd, 2020 & Thursday June 25th, 2020

400 referees were registered, and 358 referees attended June 22; 1 hour of slides on protocols, requirements, etc. 1.75 hours to go through ~200 questions regarding the requirements, referees responsibilities, etc. so Dave is now building FAQ for referees regarding the topics that were discussed.

138 referees are registered to attend the June 25, 2020 meeting.

ii. Cohort Update

1. Confusion on Cohort Regulations

GoA is in the process of putting together a document clarifying common questions on cohorts. This will be posted on BizConnect website once completed (this week). We will look at this new document, make adjustments if required, and send that out to all district members.

Particularly, travel rules are somewhat vague to allow for rural areas to have cohorts among different towns (despite geography of cohorts being otherwise restricted to limit travel as much as possible)

We will continue to adapt and modify our Phase 2 rules as Health authorities adjust their guidelines / restrictions / regulations (i.e. cohort sizes).

- b. Stage 3 – Normal Soccer, no restrictions, etc. i.e. there is no ‘Stage 3 Plan’ required, as it will just be back to business as usual once all Government restrictions are lifted.**

5. Comments / Questions

6A Meeting:

Adrian Newman: I would like to propose that ASA and districts join forces to launch a soccer promotional campaign on both digital media and local print media taking advantage of Postmedia current grant program where anything purchased will be doubled by them. Simple message. Soccer is back, safe and fun and lots of health benefits etc.

CUSA – Pearl: There was going to be a Q&A released following the June 10th webinar. Is it being released soon?

Shaun L: It is on our website, we will send it out to everybody who attended the June 10th webinar.

SASA – Chris: Can you elaborate on the cross-jurisdictional aspect please?

Shaun L: that's right in the guidelines; cohorts should be as local as possible, but if impossible as in rural areas there is a little flexibility, however in larger centres cohorts are to play within their region.

EDSA – Mike: What are your realistic expectations that we get to Stage 3 this summer?



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



Shaun H: 30-50%. People are still reluctant to break the physical distancing, so that makes the likelihood low.

Mike: I mean from a GoA standpoint.

Shaun L: AHS has no idea, they are monitoring the virus and talking with medical professionals

Shaun H: opinion – maybe 30-50% likely

CUSA – Raj: Why cannot ASA launch a provincial campaign to promote soccer instead of waiting on districts to see who wants to be a part of the campaign?

Shaun H: this is something that we will look at, using a Provincial campaign, but giving district contact information to get in touch with districts

EMSA: I'm sorry, we cannot advertise that we are ready when in fact we are not ready to play regular soccer...

Shaun H: yes. But is there a message that we can put out there to direct folks to register for our modified programs that districts are currently able to offer. If we take a look at what some of the rule changes are for Phase 3, can we look at modifying actual game rules (remove throw ins, corner kicks, etc.) to give us some sort of competitive play?

EMSA: We believe ASA should approach the GoA and ask why worship places, casinos and bars are open for regular business - and record Covid cases - yet soccer cohorts are limited to 50?

Shaun H: we'll monitor how cohort approach is going; if goes well we will look to approach the GoA to reduce restrictions to the cohort guidelines.

CWSA: When does spar group meet?

Shaun L: Next Monday.

Shaun H: thanks for patience with the up and down last week. Feel free to get in touch anytime, always interested in feedback. Interested in social media outreach. Don't want to go too far until we know which districts want to participate so we know where to direct participants.

6B Meeting:

Dave O'Neill: still getting feedback from districts on what programs will be operating. Not currently promising any games to referees as we are uncertain what will be offered. In terms of rules of the games, we are leaving it up to districts to make these decisions on how to operate some game play. Referees have reviewed 8v8 rules and feel this is a good set of rules aside from specifics on retreat line and offsides, to apply to any groups offering smaller sided games.

CASA: In CASA, team size will depend on individual club/association registration numbers. SL: absolutely that makes sense

Shaun H: any feedback, comments, questions, always feel free to get in touch. Reminder again to please get in touch and let us know about your registration numbers so we can react/plan accordingly. We have received response from GoA regarding our request for additional funding to help our organizations through this pandemic – they have denied our request, but we are still hopeful something will flow from the Federal Government's promised \$70M package for sports organizations.



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



6. Adjournment

6A Meeting: 10:30am

6B Meeting: 7:30pm

