



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 8A (10:00 AM) and 8B (7:00 PM)

Tuesday, July 7, 2020

Video Conference Meeting

1. Call to order

Present Members Meeting 8A

MHSA – Rob Cavicchia
CUSA - Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal
EMSA – Mario Charpentier
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
CASA – Tammy Olson
Lakeland: Cheri Wolgien

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Danny Bowie

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

Present Members Meeting 8B

LSA - Arlene Paiha
Lakeland: Darlene Larocque
Sunny South – Paul Anwender
NWPSA – Daren Snider, Christine Donovan
Canal Links – Henry Faucher
Tri-County – James Wolters, Pam Wolters
Foothills – Peter Mundy
ASA Life Member: Adrian Newman

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Dave MacEachran,
Danny Bowie,

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



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2. Canada Soccer (*Shaun Hammond*)

a. Presidents Forum

i. CSA Update

- Forum very quiet with main focus by all on working through flow CSA plan for 2023 registration.
 - President/District feedback collected in many provinces, including Alberta, makes it very clear that registration is not as straightforward as CSA believes as there are circumstances where players withdraw after registering.
 - Still concerns around what information CSA will collect and what they will do with it.
 - Members will be updated on any developments.
- **ASA Districts are asked to inform ASA about their summer registration status** to assist with forecasting to be worked on for the Indoor season if we reach the Return to Play stage. This will also give an indication of how much work there will be to re-engage players who do not participate in Outdoor.
 - EMSA indicated they started at 50% of last year and increased by 5% once cohort system started.

b. Executive Directors Committee (*Shaun Lowther*)

i. CSA Update

- Committee has been very quiet with main focus of all on Return to Train/Play programming.
 - Majority of country still at the Return to Train stage. AB, QC and PEI are the only ones at Return to Modified Play.
- Memo will be sent to Districts today regarding discipline related to spitting that occurs in Phase 2 – Modified games. (*Dave O'Neill*)
 - Spitting directly at a person is and continues to be a red card offence.
 - FIFA and CSA have informed all provinces that is outside their authority to modify the Laws of the Game to allow red card sanctions for spitting - not directly a person.
 - ASA had included this as a Red card offence in the Rules of Play for Modified Games because it was felt this is a serious health concern during the COVID-19 situation.
 - ASA will be revising the Rules of Play for Modified Play for instances where spitting - not directly at a person, occurs to:
 - 1st - Verbal warning
 - 2nd - If continues, a yellow card will be awarded for Unsportsmanlike Conduct.
 - 3rd - A second caution for Unsportsmanlike Conduct to be given = Red Card
 - Referees will be informed of this change.



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- A Sport Coalition of 5 larger sport organizations have been advocating for more funding from the federal government, particularly to support grassroots programming.
 - An update on the status of this request was expected from Peter Montopoli (CSA) today but has been delayed and will be shared when received.

3. Government of Alberta (*Shaun Lowther*)

a. Cohorts

i. Guidance for Cohorts

Lot's of questions coming in related to cohorts, so this information was reviewed:

- When interacting with individuals **not in your cohort**, individuals should maintain a distance of two metres or wear a mask when closer than two metres with others.
- Under Stage 2 of relaunch, other types of cohort groups are available to Albertans:
 - Sports teams can play in **region-only** cohorts of up to 50 players/coaching staff/referees (mini leagues). **See "Regions, Travel & Spectators" below for more details on this.**
- Sports and performing cohort numbers do not include parents or spectators or **coaches who ARE practicing physical distancing when interacting with players and officials in a cohort.**
- It is recommended if possible that households with sports, performing, and/or childcare cohorts consider having a smaller core cohort, given the total number of close contacts between all groups.
- Participation in only 1 "Organized Sport" Cohort is permitted for players, officials **and coaches who ARE NOT practicing physical distancing when interacting with players and officials in a cohort.**

General Guidance :

- Outdoor activities are better than indoor. For indoor sports, consider conducting training outside while the weather is nice, if possible.
- Physical distancing of 2m (3m for high intensity workouts) is better than cohorts.
- Daily Screening and Participant Tracking are requirements of organizers. Records should be kept for at least 2 weeks.
- No shared personal items (towels, water bottles, shared snacks).
- Reduce the number of shared items /implements if possible.
- Clean shared items often.
- Clean common touch points often.
- Communicate and practice hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- If first aid is required, the responder should be wearing a mask. If non urgent care, the athlete should wear a mask as well.



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Cohorts / Mini Leagues:

- Cohorts are options for sports that are unable to physically distance.
- A cohort is defined as a closed group of no more than 50 individuals who participate in the same sport or activity.
- Groups of 50 people may train and play together in a cohort or mini-league.
- Cohorts or mini-leagues include all personnel (players, coaches, officials, volunteers) not able to physically distance. Coaches may coach multiple cohorts ONLY if physically distancing.
- Each mini-league can be comprised of multiple teams, to a maximum of 50 people. Within each mini league, game play can resume between teams. Game play between teams must be limited to teams within the same cohort/mini-league.
- Mini-leagues allow sport teams to return to a safe level of play, and will help to mitigate risk of widespread transmission by limiting the number of athletes that come within close contact.
- Teams in different mini-leagues should not play each other.
- Athletes are asked to participate in only 1 cohort at a time.
- Cohort duration – through the end of Stage 2, or earlier with 2 week break from cohort.
- Changing cohorts does not require quarantine or isolation - rather, the individual can't join another cohort for 14 days since their last involvement with their previous cohort.
- Players should physical distance where possible, when not playing (training, practice, sidelines).
- It is recommended that mini-leagues be supervised by a responsible person whose role is oversight, maintenance of the group and a liaison with the facility.
- If using cohorts, this should be communicated clearly to your participants, along with the expectation that individuals are only participating in one sport/performance cohort.

Regions, Travel & Spectators:

- For Stage 2 of Relaunch, activities should be restricted to local community opportunities within the same geographical region (e.g., within a county, town or quadrant of a city).
- Participants should not seek sport, physical activity and recreation opportunities in other regions, or outside of the province.
- Cross-jurisdictional, or inter-regional, play should not occur at this stage.
- Seek sport opportunities in your own community. This means your neighborhood, town or municipality.
- Albertans should only participate in cohorted sports and physical activities within the zone where they reside; at this time, do not mix (or engage in play) with cohorts from different zones/regions within Alberta (inter regional) or outside of or out of province (cross jurisdictional).
- Spectators (excluding parents and guardians where necessary for player support) should be kept out of participant spaces (e.g., fields of play, courts).



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- Up to a maximum of 200 seated spectators are allowed, provided a distance of 2 metres between attendees from different households/cohort families is maintained.
- It is strongly recommended that all spectators wear masks, especially in an indoor setting.
- Cheering and yelling is strongly discouraged at this time as it presents a high risk of spreading droplets.

ii. AHS Zone Map

- Alberta is divided into five health zones: South, Calgary, Central, Edmonton, and North. A map of the five zones can be found at <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/zone/ahs-map-ahs-zones.pdf>.
 - The ability for cohorts to be comprised of regionally based communities allows flexibility, especially for Rural Districts when creating Mini leagues if needed.

It is critical every effort is made to comply with all guidelines to avoid being pushed back a phase or worse, to a full suspension of activities.

b. Key Date August 1st, 2020 for Public Announcements expected on 2 Decisions

i. Decision on Return to School Guidelines

- Several Formats being considered, for example:
 - **Cohorts**
 - 4 Semester/Term System
 - 2 days per week in-person, 2 days online
 - Wednesdays would be a deep clean of the school and then cohorts would switch activity Thurs/Fri.

ii. Decision on Possible Cohort Size Increase

- An increase is not definite but is being advocated for by Alberta Soccer.

4. Managing Mini-Leagues (*Shaun Lowther*)

a. Revolving Cohorts

i. Dependent on Cohort Size = Number of Teams in a Cohort

- Scheduling to allow 14 Days between sets of games to allow a full league schedule.
- Could take schedules to G of A for Approval.

ii. Will need to be creative, particularly if cohort restrictions are still in effect for the Indoor season.



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An example of a revolving cohort schedule created by Shaun was shared:

8 Team Single Round Robin to Finals & Consolation 4 Team Round-Robin													
		Home	Away	Co-hort			Home	Away	Co-hort	Cohort X1		Cohort Y1	
Week 1	Game 1	Team 1D	Team 1A	X1		Game 1	Team 2D	Team 2A	Y1	1	Team 1A	5	Team 2A
	Game 1	Team 1B	Team 1C	X1		Game 1	Team 2B	Team 2C	Y1	2	Team 1B	6	Team 2B
Week 2	Game 2	Team 1D	Team 1B	X1		Game 2	Team 2D	Team 2B	Y1	3	Team 1C	7	Team 2C
	Game 2	Team 1A	Team 1C	X1		Game 2	Team 2A	Team 2D	Y1	4	Team 1D	8	Team 2D
Week 3	Game 3	Team 1B	Team 1A	X1		Game 3	Team 2A	Team 2B	Y1				
	Game 3	Team 1C	Team 1D	X1		Game 3	Team 2C	Team 2D	Y1				
Week 4	Training Week												
Week 5	Game 4	Team 1A	Team 2A	X2		Game 4	Team 2B	Team 1B	Y2	Cohort X2		Cohort Y2	
	Game 4	Team 1D	Team 2D	X2		Game 4	Team 2C	Team 1C	Y2	1	Team 1A	5	Team 2B
Week 6	Game 5	Team 1D	Team 2A	X2		Game 5	Team 1C	Team 2B	Y2	2	Team 2A	6	Team 1B
	Game 5	Team 1A	Team 2D	X2		Game 5	Team 1B	Team 2C	Y2	3	Team 2D	7	Team 1C
Week 7	Training Week												
Week 8	Game 6	Team 1B	Team 2A	X3		Game 6	Team 1A	Team 2B	Y3	Cohort X3		Cohort Y3	
	Game 6	Team 2D	Team 1C	X3		Game 6	Team 2C	Team 1D	Y3	1	Team 1B	5	Team 1A
Week 9	Game 7	Team 1B	Team 2A	X3		Game 7	Team 2B	Team 1D	Y3	2	Team 2A	6	Team 2B
	Game 7	Team 2D	Team 1C	X3		Game 7	Team 1A	Team 2C	Y4	3	Team 2D	7	Team 2C
										4	Team 1C	8	Team 1D
8 Team Single Round Robin to Finals & Consolation 4 Team Round-Robin													
Week 10	Training Week												
Week 11	Game 8	Seed 1	Seed 4	X4		Game 8	Seed 5	Seed 8	Y4	Cohort X4		Cohort Y4	
	Finals	Game 8	Seed 2	Seed 3	X4	Game 8	Seed 6	Seed 7	Y4	1	Seed 1	5	Seed 5
Week 12	Game 9	Seed 1	Seed 3	X4		Game 9	Seed 5	Seed 7	Y4	2	Seed 2	6	Seed 6
	Finals	Game 9	Seed 2	Seed 4	X4	Game 9	Seed 4	Seed 6	Y4	3	Seed 3	7	Seed 7
Week 13	Game 10	Seed 1	Seed 2	X4		Game 10	Seed 5	Seed 6	Y4	4	Seed 4	8	Seed 8
	Finals	Game 10	Seed 3	Seed 4	X4	Game 10	Seed 7	Seed 8	Y4				

5. Members COVID-19 Video Conference Survey (Shaun Lowther)

- a. Current Schedule
- b. Once per Month
- c. Other
- Districts are asked to email Shaun L with their preference moving forward and will be informed of the consensus.



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- EMSA, Lakeland, Foothills, Sunny South, NWPSA, LSA and Canal Links indicated a preference for a monthly meeting.
- Shaun Hammond noted that the intent in possibly decreasing the frequency of these meetings is to free up time for Districts who are busy working on programming.

5. Comments / Questions

8A Meeting:

Mike Thome (EDSA): AHS guidelines now say that coaches and game officials are part of the cohort.

Shaun Lowther: Game officials are but coaches do not have to be included in total cohort participant count if they are practicing physical distancing from cohort players and officials at all times. This allows them to coach more than one cohort, or coach in one and play in another.

Raj Uppal (CUSA): The COVID checklist for participants, can it be completed verbally or has to be on paper?

Shaun Lowther: It can be done verbally.

Pearl Doupe (CUSA): Can ASA confirm what the fee structure will be for Indoor?

Shaun Lowther: There is a Board meeting on Wednesday to discuss budgeting and this will be an agenda item.

Mario Charpentier (EMSA): What is the size of teams in this (revolving cohort) model?

Shaun Lowther: This example is teams of 12 with 2 officials. This could increase if the cohort size allows at a future date, hopefully August 1st.

Mike Thome (EDSA): To clarify, ASA does not expect to see any changes to guidelines before August 1st?

Shaun Lowther: No, but there is always the possibility that it could happen. If you consider past experience, anything is possible.

Jacque Hertlein (CWSA): FYI - We started our mini league with positive feedback – 63 teams and 16 cohorts.

Shaun Lowther: Great to hear it's been so well received and hope that it can continue through the summer.

8B Meeting:

Adrian Newman (LM): Have any mini leagues actually taken place in Alberta? Not in Edmonton for sure, there seems to be a lot of reluctance to do so as it's a lot of work.

Shaun Hammond/Shaun Lowther: Lethbridge and Medicine Hat have had games and CWSA reported a successful start to their Mini league with 63 teams and 16 cohorts at the morning meeting.

Adrian Newman (LM): Creativity is important. Concrete sports (i.e. Ball Hockey) have reduced roster size and players on field to maximize cohort/ mini leagues. Started with a 4-week schedule two game a



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week per team. Teams, fans appeared to very happy to just get back to some kind of play even with restrictions.

August 1st may be too late for Districts to find out about an increase in cohort size, then get teams registered and organize a league accordingly. Is it possible to find out if the GoA could announce an increase earlier which will come into effect August 1st so Districts can be prepared and ready to go sooner? If not, it might lead to Districts announcing a cancellation of their outdoor season.

If the cohort size doubles will there be a 2-week gap between the first period and the new one if they have already been playing in a cohort?

Shaun Lowther: I will ask and get back to you on the responses to both questions.

Adrian Newman (LM): SPDSA has banned any of their coaches in Sherwood Park from playing in a cohort in Edmonton.

Shaun Lowther: That's correct. If they maintain physical distancing as a coach then they would be able to play in a cohort in a Men's or Women's league. That's a decision they would have to make.

Adrian Newman (LM): Districts should be aware of the new GoA Recovery Grant Program to help offset reopening costs such as PPE. Unrestricted basically and easy to apply online for the up to \$5000 per establishment. <https://www.alberta.ca/release.cfm?xID=727037BAAE58F-C37C-BF0E-F69315C5AF8A9EE2>

Closing remarks (Shaun H.)

- Thanks to everyone for their time and input.
- Don't forget to let us know about your Outdoor registration numbers
- As always, Districts are encouraged to contact Shaun H or Shaun L with any concerns, comments or to share ideas and initiatives they would like distributed to the other Districts.

7. Adjournment

8A – 10:27 hrs.

8B – 19:30 hrs.