



**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 9A (10:00 AM) and 9B (7:00 PM)**

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Video Conference Meeting

**1. Call to order**

**Present Members Meeting 9A**

MHSA – Rob Cavicchia  
CUSA - Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal  
EMSA – Mario Charpentier, Dragos Niculescu  
EDSA – Mike Thome  
SASA – Chris Spaidal  
SPDSA – Debbie Ballam  
Airdrie – Jamie Dorgan  
CWSA – Jacquie Hertlein, Sandy Sangster  
EIYSA – Dan Curtis  
Battle River – Rob Russell  
RDCSA – Ado Sarcevic  
CMSA – Sue Cress  
CASA – Tammy Olson  
FMYSA – Macky Singh

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

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

**Present Members Meeting 9B**

LSA – Frank Spadavechia  
NWPSA – Christine Donovan  
Big Country – John Brazzalle, Neil Spenceley  
Tri-County – James Wolters, Pam Wolters  
EIYSA – Dan Curtis  
Foothills – Peter Mundy  
SPDSA – Debbie Ballam  
ASA Life Member: Adrian Newman

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Dave MacEachran,

ASA Staff: Shaun Lowther, Carmen Charron,  
Jeannie Hawksworth, Claire Paterson, Matt  
Thomas



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

### a. Presidents Forum

#### i. CSA Update

- There have been no calls since the last member meeting.
- There have been some correspondence/survey requests to gather information on the status of Return to Play programming by PSO's and how the roll out is going.
  - BC – Training only
  - AB, MB, SK – Training, Cohorts, Mini Leagues
  - ON – Depends on where you reside
  - QC – Return to Regular play but maintaining physical distancing when not on the pitch.
  - Atlantic – Modified games and rules to minimize interactions between players and balls
- Particular attention being paid to Quebec who have returned to regular play.
- PSO's have also been surveyed about their willingness to proceed with the Data Sharing Agreement with the majority now in support and a few, including PEI are wanting to hold off until next year.
- CSA structured the 2020 fee (based on 2019 numbers), forgiving 2/3, and 1/3 due from PSO's.
  - For AB this will be \$330,000-\$340,000
  - Due by end of November, but PSO's can defer payment, the latter choice would also include an interest charge
  - QC may be able to manage this as they are back to full programming, but other's such as ON and their Regional (COVID-19 status) differences will find it difficult.
  - Shaun will be asking the Forum what the general feeling is regarding the provincial financial picture.

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

#### i. CSA Update

- Canada Soccer has launched their new website which is much cleaner and more interactive than the old one.
  - Includes an interactive Canada Soccer Club Licence holder directory so interested parties can search for a club in their area.
- A Coach Education Platform is in development which will house all information related to online Community Stream and Licencing Courses.
  - This platform will launch in 2021
- CSA's blended learning initiatives (in-person & online), accelerated by the COVID-19 situation, have proven successful and they are looking to expand on these types of offerings.



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- Recently CSA also revoked their suspension of in person courses i.e. community, C & B1 for coaches and Refresher and Entry Level Courses for referees, provided provincial health guidelines are followed.
- August 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to submit letter of intent for new National Youth Club Licences, but no new applications expected out of Alberta at this time. BC, ON and QC expected to have applicants.
  - October 31<sup>st</sup> deadline to submit all the required documentation for applications.
- CSA also has a National Club Licencing platform in development which will house all related documentation.

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

#### a. Back to School Announcement

##### i. Cohort Size

- No decision has been made either way on increasing or decreasing sport cohort sizes.
  - Cohort size to remain as is until more evidence is available to make an informed decision
- Sue Cress has a contact in Calgary who indicates there will be high school sports offered there.

#### b. Heritage Funding

- The G of A is close to making an announcement on the Federal Government Heritage Funding.
- The Distribution Plan is currently on the desk of Minister Aheer as she wanted clarification on a few items.
- A requirement of the funding will be to pass some of the money down to Member Districts who then may choose pass some or all down to their members.

#### c. Standards-Based Leagues (2021 AMSL/AYSL)

- An application can be made to the G of A to lift travel restrictions within Alberta for standards-based leagues.
  - Special dispensation has been given to other sports who have applied.
- Cohort restrictions and AHS COVID-19 protocols will need to be adhered to.

#### Question:

**Chris Spaidal (SASA):** Is there anything planned yet for the AYSL indoor portion?

**Shaun Lowther:** Not at this time.



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## 4. Return To Modified Games (*Members/Shawn Lowther*)

### a. District Updates

#### 1. Sunny South

- Did not attend

#### 2. Medicine Hat

- Mini leagues for Rec teams, Training/Inter-Squad games for Club teams, looking at setting up exhibition games

#### 3. Lethbridge

- 5 week summer program for house league with U5-U7 1 x week, U9-U17 2 x week.

#### 4. CMSA

- Medium level uptake on recent cup competition, no mini leagues.
- Some issues with clubs skirting the rules and offering training and club cohorts simultaneously
- After 14-day cohort break, looking at offering 6 game cup competition starting Aug 28th or beginning of Sept

#### CUSA

- Inter-squad play for participating teams as zero interest in game-based play. Determining programming to start in September.

#### CWSA

- First round of Mini League very successful and just completed, Mini League 2 starts at end of August and expected to be full.

#### 5. CASA

- No Mini leagues, only 3 communities participating in training only.

#### 6. Big Country

- Only 2 clubs (Cochrane) offering modified programming and no issues so far.

#### 7. Foothills

- 4 Communities running cohorts programming, soon completing and then 14-day break to reset and have cohorts play against Calgary teams and/or leagues for next round.

#### 8. EMSA

- Will try running Mini Leagues (11 v 11 x 3 teams) in September for Tiers 1 -3

#### EIYSA

- Inter-squad and training only currently, meeting soon to discuss possible Mini Leagues

#### EDSA

- Offering 7 v 7 Mini league in September over 4 days and then 11 v 11 is starting in mid-September after 14-day break so cohorts can play new teams



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## 9. SASA

- Inter-squad for community teams, had to be creative with older age groups because of decrease in numbers
- Club teams may be entered in EMSA Fall league, but not if 11 v 11 for U11/U12.

## 10. Tri County

- Only Ft. Saskatchewan and Ardrossan participating.
- Phase 1 programming through the end of July and now offering Phase 2 programming.

## 11. NWC

- Did not attend

## 12. Lakeland

- Did not attend

## 13. NWP

- Of 17 clubs, only 1 offering programming for about ¼ of their numbers
- 1 small camp offered
- Indoor programs minimal traditionally so associations focused on programming for Outdoor 2021 including coaching and referee courses.

## 14. Ft. McMurray

- Ran a four-week Grassroots program, still figuring out what to offer for Indoor

## 15. Battle River

- No programming this summer.

## 16. SPDSA

- Ran eight -week cohort program for outdoor
- Planning for indoor: cohorts with play & practices, may modify for older age groups (Rec) and still figuring out the plan for Phoenix.

## 17. ADSA

- Phase 1 programming for Community teams and moving to cohorts for the last 7 weeks which will include a training component and 7 v 7 games.

## 18. RDCSA

- 6 weeks Community stream programs of 1 practice/1scrimmage game per week in each cohort group. Competitive youth teams are just training and playing inter squad games.
- Adult leagues are playing mini- games. 2 cohorts in each gender so 16 teams between the both genders with 10-12 players per team.

## 19. Canal Links

- Did not attend



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## **b. Reporting of Suspected/Positive Cases within Cohorts and Protocols**

i. Several enquiries about protocols for Suspected/Positive cases from Districts

ii. Information received from the G of A

- AHS will provide revisions to the AHS Guidance which will clarify this.
  - An individual will be under no obligation to inform other sport organizations or participants of their status.
  - AHS will contact the sport organizers if it's likely the exposure occurred during an activity.
  - The only action an organizer will be required to take is to remove symptomatic participants from the activity and ask them to return home and contact AHS.
  - Maintaining the person's privacy is key.
- Expect to receive a formal notification by the end of this week/early next week.
- ASA Return to Play Protocols will be updated with this information when received and be circulated to Districts.

## **5. Financial Update (Jeannie Hawksworth)**

### **a. Financial Snapshot**

- Bit of a stagnant position with a bit of a decline in cash flow.
- Activity levels and costs though October 2020 consistent with April – June
  - Limited, virtual programming.
- July 31, 2020 cash position = \$1,434,000

#### Cash Inflows:

- Wage subsidies for April-June salaries received in July.
  - August wage subsidy will be received in September.
  - Accessed over \$104,000 in CEWS to date and anticipate a total of \$178,000 to end of program.
- August includes referee registration refunds as a negative program revenue.
- ASC grant installment received today.
- Anticipating 50% of 2020 indoor and outdoor membership fees in October which will bring the association back up into a neutral position.

#### Cash Outflows:

- 7 employees still on 25% reduction in hours through October 2020.
- CECRA has covered rent costs April - October 2020
  - Annual property tax rent adjustment expense anticipated in October
- Annual costs for web systems and insurance premiums (net of premium rebates) due in September/October.
  - Paid in advance for coming year.



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## 2020-2021 Budget Update:

- Staff have been working through 4 unique budget plans
- In conjunction with quick pivot strategies to move between scenarios according to external factors.
- Focus on supporting District grassroots programming:
  - Broad reach
  - Diverse inclusion
  - Player retention
- 4 Scenarios planned for to ensure the association is prepared for all possible scenarios:
  - Worst Case – Total Sport Shutdown
    - Assume tighter restrictions are re-imposed and soccer activity will be prohibited for some time
    - Limited to no District activity allowed, no Provincial level funding
  - Pessimistic Case – Mandatory activities required to support District programming.
    - Assumes cohort system will stay in place and teams/clubs/leagues can operate similar to outdoor 2020 through indoor and outdoor 2021
    - No provincial level programming except as necessary to support Districts in their activities.
      - Referee refresher and conversion courses as required to certify officials for district leagues.
  - Middle Ground Case – Mandatory activities with some value-added programs
    - Assumes cohort system through indoor 2020/21 and outdoor 2021, but registration numbers and District/member demand is sufficiently high enough to offer some Provincial level programming.
      - Community stream coaching courses
      - More referee development courses
      - Virtual coaching circle sessions
  - Optimistic Case – Increased outdoor programming
    - Assumes regular league play with travel and tournaments will be allowed in time to constitute a relatively 'normal' 2021 outdoor season.
      - Increased coaching and referee development courses
      - In-person coaching circle visits, development of video repository

## Indoor fees:

- Proposed 2020-21 indoor registration fees

Youth players returning from outdoor 2020	\$4
Youth players new from outdoor 2020	\$4 + 2020 outdoor fee
Senior teams returning from outdoor 2020	\$75



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Senior teams new from outdoor 2020	\$275
Senior drop-in players returning from outdoor 2020	\$4
Senior drop in players new from outdoor 2020	\$15

- Indoor registration fees will be payable by January 31, 2021
- For youth players new from outdoor 2020, the 2020 outdoor fee includes the reduced CSA levy fee and including the \$4 fee would be maximum \$17 per player (oldest age group.)

## Membership Reporting

- Currently in the process of migrating our membership/competitions web systems.
  - A new data template will be provided.
  - The current Goalline upload site is available only until September 10<sup>th</sup>
    - If possible, members are asked to upload their outdoor registration numbers on Goalline before September 10<sup>th</sup>.
      - If submitting after September 10<sup>th</sup>, data will be uploaded to a SharePoint site and new login information will be provided as required.
- 2020 outdoor membership reporting is due September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
  - Districts are encouraged to do this earlier where possible as it assists with planning.
- Districts will be provided an estimation tool this week and are asked to complete and return it by August 20<sup>th</sup> to assist with the planning/budgeting process.

## **6. Indoor Plans (Shaun Lowther)**

### **a. Guidance Documentation**

- Alberta Soccer will not need to have 'Indoor Specific' Return to Play documentation approved by G of A, Canada Soccer or Insurance provider.
- The current Return to Modified Games documentation will be adjusted to reflect additional protocols and/or information that needs to be considered for indoor play.
- Adjusted documentation will be available by September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

### **b. Indoor Tryouts**

- Several Clubs/Districts have reached to ask about youth team tryouts.
  - In-season (Restricted Contact) – current rule
    - The period commencing with the start of league play, up until and including the last day of ASA Provincials (August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020)
      - League play beginning includes league scheduled pre-season games.
      - This will not include invitational tournaments after ASA Provincials.
      - This will not include exhibition games scheduled by Clubs/Teams.





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- ASA Provincials will normally be the end of Tier 1 to Nationals and the Youth Indoor Provincials weekend.
- Off-season (Open Contact) – current rule
  - The period commencing on the day after the last day of ASA Provincials (August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020) and ending on the last day before the start of League play.
    - This includes all teams, regardless of if they qualify for ASA Provincials and regardless if their league play leads to Provincials.
    - ASA Provincials will normally be the end of Tier 1 to Nationals and the Youth Indoor Provincials weekend.
- Districts are asked to provide their feedback to Shaun L. as soon as possible on what changes, or if any, should be made. Some ideas:
  - Off-season (Open Contact)
    - Start Date: Scheduled – last day of ASA Provincials August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 **August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020**
    - End Date: The day before the start of league play **or Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, (whichever comes first.)**
  - In-season (Restricted Contact)
    - The period commencing with the start of league play, up until and including the last day of ASA Provincials.
      - League play beginning includes league scheduled pre-season games **or October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 (whichever comes first).**
      - This will not include invitational tournaments after ASA Provincials.
      - This will not include exhibition games scheduled by Clubs/Towns.
      - ASA Provincials will normally be the end of T1 to Nationals (**Monday, August 30, 2021**) and the Youth Indoor ASA Provincials weekend (**Monday March 15, 2021**)
- Due to cohort restrictions, regular tryouts (with player to player contact) will be difficult to manage.
  - Some options/ideas:
    - No tryouts – place players on teams based on Coach/TD knowledge, cohort leagues developed by Districts
    - 1-week cohort tryout phase – followed by 2-week of training as teams are formed, cohort leagues developed by Districts
    - Clubs/Districts can do either/or
  - Districts are asked to provide their input on this as soon as possible as guidelines need to be developed.



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## Comments 9A:

**Mike Thome (EDSA):** Quarantine requirements post tryout could hurt kids who are cut.

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** Tryouts could all be done following Phase 1 guidelines to avoid quarantine issues for those players.

**Chris Spaidal (SASA):** Guidelines may have to be unique to regions to avoid issues.

### c. Back to Soccer Marketing Plan

- Canada Soccer will launch a marketing/communications campaign to get players back to the game only when Phase 3 is a go and restrictions have been lifted.
- ASA has engaged a marketing consultant and will develop marketing/communications campaign in collaboration with CSA and/or independently based on membership feedback and board approval on when the best time to make this investment should be.
  - Districts are asked to provide their input on if they feel this campaign should launch for indoor 2020/21, outdoor 2021 or both.

## 7. Comments / Questions

### 9A Meeting:

**Mario Charpentier (EMSA):** Is the indoor fee the same or reduced? With less players per team due to cohort restrictions (13 – 14 players as opposed to 16-20) ,70 % of players will have to play the Indoor + 2020 Outdoor fee. This could be a barrier to participation.

**Shaun L/Jeannie Hawksworth/ Shaun H:** The fee is the same as 2019/20 adjusted fee and the younger outdoor fee is inclusive of the reduced CSA levy we are required to play Canada Soccer. Alberta Soccer does not make any revenue from this. For youth the outdoor fee ranges between \$6-13 (max) which means the maximum the highest age group a new youth player would pay in total for indoor is \$17 per player.

The BOD is meeting at the beginning of September and will make a final decision on what the indoor fee will be. Districts may submit feedback on indoor fees so it can be considered when making this decision.

**Mike Thome (EDSA):** What is the Difference between Sr Drop in Player vs Sr. Team? They have seen some teams splitting due to cohort sizes.

**Shaun L:** Obviously these are unique times Mike and we need to adjust. The flexibility to decide what is better for your situation has been considered in this schedule. Whether to report new individual players or new teams would be at your discretion.

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** We moved to a flat fee per player drop-in fee as it was the best way to keep track

**Mike Thome (EDSA):** Not sure there is hope for an indoor season if the cohort sizes are not increased. It will take 2wks after school starts to assess the cohorts. Indoor registration starts September so building indoor based on what we know now about cohort sizes – planning the next 5/6 months based on the information we have currently and if cohorts stay the same size prob no indoor. If referees are to be in



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cohorts then player groups will be smaller dependent on # referees utilize (i.e. 11/12 players 6 refs) and those referees will only be able to referee that cohort. With non- playing personal wearing masks - Can teams have several coaches?

**Shaun L.:** Yes.

**Dragos Niculescu (EMSA):** Can we ask AHS why the double standard for isolation as right now if someone tests positive required to isolate for 10 days however for sports cohorts says 14 days?

**Shaun H:** The difference may be because of the testing window - 4 days for the test result to come back, then 10 days isolation.

## 9B Meeting:

### Adrian Newman (LM): Indoor Soccer Centers Update

- Ball Hockey has just completed a very successful 1<sup>st</sup> full month of summer program at the Edmonton Soccer Centres.
  - 80% participation by players
- AHS Guidelines in place including:
  - Health screening upon arrival
  - Pre-registration for contact tracing utilized to help with quicker 'check in' to building and cut down on lineups
  - Masks required
  - Lot's of signage posted
  - Limit of 1 spectator per player (unless they are not at maximum capacity after games start)
  - Lounge at ½ capacity and masks not required for there or concession when eating or drinking
  - Invested in disinfecting machine for janitors which allows for quick daily cleaning of all touchable surfaces including player boxes, handrails, etc.
    - Regular staff trained on cleaning procedures and do some cleaning during their shifts.
  - Invested in turf disinfecting machine and will clean those surfaces weekly (daily not possible).
    - There is a grant available that will help cover some of the cost.
    - Games were 45 mins in length allowing 15 mins for cleaning between bookings.
      - Meant that bookings could be down hourly so they did not have to go late into the evening.
- Doubled staff as they were needed to manage cleaning, capacity control, screening, etc. and covered this cost by charging a \$10 COVID-19 levy.
  - This is not covering any of the rental revenue loss.
  - No complaints about the fee.
- ESF created a Health and Safety plan which was 'accepted' by the City of Edmonton prior to the Outdoor season which was then modified for Indoor.
  - AHS did an inspection at one of the centres after opening and only had one minor critique about masks/physical distancing which was rectified.
- No cases of COVID-19 were reported.
- Second month set to start.
- Local leagues have all been informed of the protocols in place and reduction in rental rates until Thanksgiving.



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- Creativity has proven successful and a media release will go out tomorrow highlighting the initiatives taken and results.

**Shaun H.:** Congratulations to ESF management and staff for their efforts in making this such a success!

**Shaun L:** Adrian could you please create a report with details for ASA to share with the members that they can share with their members and facilities in their area?

**Peter Mundy (Foothills):** Could you also include information on the sanitizing machines and grant information if possible?

**Adrian Newman (LM):** Yes, I will do that.

**Adrian Newman (LM):** Will there be an app for the new CSA website?

**Shaun L:** I believe so but will confirm at the next ED meeting.

## 8. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 10 am & 7 pm

## Closing remarks (Shaun H.)

- Thanks to everyone for their time and input.
- Please ensure you provide all of the feedback that was requested as soon as possible.
- As always, Districts are encouraged to contact Shaun H or Shaun L with any concerns, comments or to share ideas and initiatives you would like distributed to the other Districts.

## 9. Adjournment

9A – 11:27 hrs.

9B – 19:43 hrs.