



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

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Video Conference Meeting

**1. Call to order**

**Present Members Meeting 10A**

CUSA – Patti Neufeld, Raj Uppal  
LSA – Frank Spadavechia, Arlene Paiha  
EMSA – Mario Charpentier  
EDSA – Mike Thome  
SASA – Chris Spaidal  
SPDSA – Debbie Ballam  
Airdrie – Melissa Collinson  
EIYSA – Dan Curtis  
Battle River – Rob Russell  
RDSCA – Ado Sarcevic  
CMSA – Sue Cress  
CASA – Tammy Olson  
Canal Links: Henry Faucher  
GPSA – Claude Bolton

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

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

**Present Members Meeting 10B**

MHSA – Rob Cavicchia  
Sunny South - Paul Anwender  
CWSA - Jacquie Hertlein  
Canal Links - Henry Faucher  
Tri-County – James Wolters  
Lakeland - Cheri Woligen

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

ASA Staff: Tammy McNutt, Carmen Charron,  
Jeannie Hawksworth, Claire Paterson, Matt  
Thomas, John Clubb



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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.
- Next meeting on Thursday with the following priority agenda items:
  - Return to Play assessment from all provinces and territories including registration numbers, successes, challenges, etc.
  - How do PSO/TSO's intend to manage CSA fee levy i.e. – pay in full by deadline of November 30<sup>th</sup> or choose alternate option to accrue and pay penalty to decrease impact on cash flow through Winter to next Spring.
  - Discuss how PSO/TSO's are addressing the referee shortage which is of deep concern across the country.
    - CSA is also reviewing this situation.
- SH has not received much input or feedback from the other President's about the membership revitalization initiative - how best to promote and bring back players, coaches, and referees back to the sport.

## 3. Interim Executive Director (*Shaun Hammond/Tammy McNutt*)

### a. Update on Transition Process

#### i. Tammy McNutt named Interim Executive Director.

#### ii. Quick focus/immediate priorities on key items:

- Connecting with Stakeholders (Internal & External)
  - Establishing lines of communication with all stakeholders
  - Met with staff last week and will connect with Districts over the next few weeks.
- Return to Play Guidelines
  - Will review against new AHS Guidelines and update accordingly including how to move into indoor programming safely.
  - Staff are assisting with this.
  - Attended recent SPAR meeting and spoken with Hockey AB and Marvin Dobish at Alberta Sport Connection.
- Indoor Member Fees & 2020-21 Budget
  - Aware of concerns raised at last member meeting re: suggested Indoor fee and will be looking into that.
  - Will be working closely with Jeannie and the Finance Committee on finalizing 2021 budget plans.
  - Focus on long-term cash planning to carry association through this situation.



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- Fall Special General Meeting
  - Review of member survey results to be done by BOD and Advisory Committee to set date and format.
- Alberta Youth Soccer League
  - Quick review to be done with BOD of foundational work to finalize plan for inaugural year.

#### 4. Government of Alberta (*Tammy McNutt*)

##### a. Updated AHS Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation – Stage 2 (Sept. 3)

##### i. SPAR webinar on September 4<sup>th</sup>

- Cohorts
  - Size – 50 remains the limit for the duration of Phase 2.
    - AHS based this number on risk management and contact tracing requirements.
  - Participation in multiple cohorts
    - INTENTION of the Guidance from the ministry is that individuals participate in ONE sport cohort or mini-league at a time.
  - Researched various sport organizations guidelines to learn current 'industry standards' for risk management practices around participation in multiple sport cohorts.
  - Will take learning to Risk Management Committee, Insurers, Legal and the BOD to determine if we have any options and the language that should be used to ensure clarity.
- Contact Tracing
  - Individuals are NOT required to inform club / coach / team if they test positive with COVID-19.
  - AHS will conduct investigation and contact clubs / coaches / etc. if they deem necessary.

#### Questions 10A:

**Claude Bolton (GPSA):** Can/How can these guidelines be 'policed'?

**Tammy M.:** There is no way to possibly do this and the onus is on the individual to do the right thing. If it is reported that someone is participating in multiple cohorts remind them of the recommendations followed by a request to choose one.

**Mario Charpentier (EMSA):** If individuals are not required to inform us, why are we required to ask the questions?

**Tammy M.:**

**Tammy Olson (CASA):** What about players participating in individual sports or activities?

**Tammy M.:** The guidelines are for cohorts specifically. An individual's participation in an individual sport (where they maintain physical distancing) would not be counted as a cohort activity.



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**Jacque Hertlein (CWSA):** Do they define exactly what they are stating a cohort is - or how many in a family...you have school, work, adult sport and kid sport?

**Tammy M:** There are 3 guiding documents from AHS that address cohorts, the Order from the Ministry, Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and Recreation document and the Guidance document for cohorts. We reference the latter two for our purposes. The GoA's messaging is a bit convoluted in that they say 'should limit the number of cohorts' rather than stating clearly that a participant must only be in one sport cohort at a time. They have indicated the key is looking at the intention behind the language which is to limit participation to one sport cohort at a time.

## **b. Heritage Funding**

### **i. ASA received \$268,750 in funding from the Heritage Fund on September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

- Will be reviewing conditions for use (very specific guidelines) and distribution of these funds with the Finance Committee and will follow up with members upon completion.

## **5. Return to Play Guidelines (Tammy McNutt)**

### **i. Indoor Updates**

- Working with department staff, Alberta Soccer will thoroughly review Phase 2 – Return to Modified Games – Updated July 22, 2020 for changes related to items such as:
  - Changes to AHS Guidance for Sport, Physical Activity and recreation – Stage 2 (Sept 3)
  - Including by exclusively:
    - Sport cohorts as they relate to school re-entry, including school sport teams
    - Sport cohorts as they relate to multi-sport athletes
    - Cohorts and referees
    - Contact Tracing responsibilities, specifically related to AHS responsibilities vs. district/club/team responsibilities
    - Contract Tracing and privacy rights of participants
- **Referee Program Specifically (David O'Neill)**
  - Concerns here and across the country on the impact COVID-19 has had on referee programs across the country.
  - Priorities:
    - Player safety
    - Player enjoyment
    - Referee engagement
      - 60% of respondents to June survey said they were interested in officiating but currently only 25% eligibility compared to last year at this time and can't afford to get any lower.
  - After reviewing what other sports are doing, updates to AHS guidelines, consulting with the Risk Management Committee, being creative and making some minor modifications we are 99% sure we can get referees out of the cohort numbers safely and help alleviate some of the shortage anticipated for Indoor programs.
    - Non-boarded:
      - If 2 referee system, off field at touch line and appropriate placement at bench and spectator areas and are not included in cohort.



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- If 1 referee - must be on the field so looking at ways in this situation they could be outside of the cohort but might not be possible.
- Mask or buff to be utilized where physical distancing during temporary interactions can't be maintained.
- Game sheet management to be done by teams.
- Boarded:
  - Were looking at possibly modifying field to provide a designated 'lane' for the official to utilize after brainstorming at August 27<sup>th</sup> meeting with assignors, DRA's and District admins.
    - Concerns raised by some Districts that this would make it almost a Futsal game, so it was shelved.
  - If 1 referee - must be on the field.
  - In most cases the official is running up and down the field along the side already and/or can maintain social distancing in most instances.
    - May modify rules so that in cases where there is too much congestion play can be stopped, distancing adjusted and then resumption of play can be done via a kick in.
  - Mask or buff to be utilized where physical distancing during temporary interactions can't be maintained.
  - Game sheet management to be done by teams.
- Survey result indicated many referees were not willing to use whistle masks, so this is not going to be considered as a requirement. Electronic whistles are available but will also not be required.
- The Referee Development Committee is meeting tonight, and members will be informed by Friday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> of all decisions made.

## Questions 10A:

**Raj Uppal (CUSA):** When can we expect a final decision from ASA in terms of referees so we know what the expenses will be for indoor programs?

**David O'Neill:** Basically none of our decisions (on referees) are going to impact your expenses. We are not going to mandate two referees in non-boarded. We are going to say that will be required to get your referees out of the cohort. And in boarded we are not going to mandate a referee and an assistant, you have an option of having a referee on the field and a volunteer in the box to run the time clock etc. Our decisions will affect referees mainly and a little bit about how the game is played. One of the things we are going to consider for boarded is that the referee will attempt to stay physically distanced at all times but if they have to interact they will use a mask or a buff. If play becomes congested the referee will have the ability to stop play, get out of there and basically restart play with a kick to the team that was in possession when play was stopped. That will probably be the extent of our modifications. None of that should affect your finances and expenses.

**Raj Uppal (CUSA):** In Calgary, one of our non-boarded facility does not have enough space between field for referees to be socially distanced?

**David O'Neill:** Currently they don't, but we will take a look at it with them and see if we can make any modifications there. We are in phase 2 so it is still modified soccer, so while remaining flexible we are still going to have to do whatever we can to keep referees physically distanced if they are going to be excluded from the cohort. The alternative is have them included in the cohort and they will referee the game just like they did for the modified games in outdoor. We will follow up with you on that. We realize



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that there are a lot of different facilities around the province, not all as big as the dome we have in Edmonton so space might be an issue, but we need to be able to look at modifications where needed.

**Raj Uppal (CUSA):** So we are good to have one referee on the pitch then for non boarded?

**David O'Neill:** Yes, but if they are on the pitch they are going to have to be part of the cohort unless we can find space for them to move on the outside of the pitch, but I don't think that is going to be possible if the space is restricted and we can't modify it. We are looking further into that.

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** Any update on the use of younger officials for Indoor? Opening it up to them would help with our numbers.

**David O'Neill:** The rationale on limiting it to 18+ for Outdoor was that it was too high an expectation for a minor to manage all of the COVID-19 protocols and/or issues that may arise from them when they would often be working alone. The same concerns still apply for Mini Referees in indoor so they are not likely to be allowed to referee. We are looking at allowing 16 & 17 and possible 14 & 15 year olds to officiate however, provided they could be partnered up with an adult official. This will be discussed at the RDC meeting tonight and members will know by Friday what the final decision is.

## Question 10B:

**Jacque Hertlein (CWSA)** For non boarded and using two referees are they both getting paid the full fee?

**David O'Neill:** It is entirely up to the leagues what they want to pay officials. In this case, they are sharing the responsibility for the game so we would probably expect that they would be paid a bit more than half, similar to how most leagues would pay when one box/one on field referee are assigned.

## 6. Fall Planning Meeting (Tammy McNutt)

### a. Survey Results

- 61% of respondents were in favor of a Virtual Meeting
- 44% were in support of any of the dates presented
  - 22% in favor of mid-November – the highest % of the individual choices
- A working group has been formed including Mike Thome, Tammy Olson, Melissa Colliston, Adam Berti and Carmen Charron.
  - Will be meeting soon to look at past format and content of planning sessions, clarify what the purpose and intention of them is and how this can be improved for the FPM and AGM.
- Recommendations will be presented to the BOD and members will be notified when content and meeting date is approved.

### b. Voting Numbers

- Due to the varied impacts of COVID-19 on Alberta Soccer members, we would like the membership to consider a motion at the next General Meeting (whether Special Meeting (Fall 2020) and/or Annual General Meeting (Feb 2021) that would use the approved voting numbers from the February 2020 Annual General Meeting.
  - Not all members were permitted/able or chose not to offer Outdoor programming and this would make it more equitable for all.



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## 7. Comments / Questions

### 10A Meeting:

**Mario Charpentier (EMSA):** Online voting is no permitted if it does not specifically say so in your bylaws.

**Tammy M:** We will ensure that we confirm this with the Societies Act before proceeding.

**Mike Thome (EDSA):** We confirmed with Societies Act last week that unless it specifically says it is NOT allowed in your bylaws, online voting is permitted.

**Raj Uppal (CUSA):** We talked to Society up in Edmonton last week and got the same answer as Mike.

**Mike Thome (EDSA):** We will forward the confirmation to Tammy so it can be circulated to the members.

**Claude Bolton (GPSA):** Dave O'Neill and Matt Thomas have been great resources for GPSA. We've actually been surprised at how accessible they are. For Technical Direction at this time do we continue to reach out to Matt?

**Tammy McNutt:** I'll be having follow up meetings with the Technical Team and confirm with Districts early next week who should be contacted.

### 10B Meeting:

**Cheri Woligen (Lakeland):** Is there a date the updated return to play document will be released? Referencing Indoor?

**Tammy M:** September 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Jacquie Hertlein (CWSA):** Is it true that BC soccer cannot run modified games or training because they have no insurance?

**Shaun H.:** I will ask the BC President.

### Closing remarks (*Tammy McNutt*)

- Thanks to everyone for their time and input.
- Available at any time should you have questions.

## 9. Adjournment

10A – 10:47 hrs.

10B – 19:38 hrs.