



**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 11A (10:00 AM) and 11B (7:00 PM)**

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Video Conference Meeting

**1. Call to order**

**Present Members Meeting 11A**

CUSA – Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal  
LSA – Frank Spadavechia  
EMSA – Mario Charpentier  
EDSA – Mike Thome, Brad Odsen  
SASA – Chris Spaidal  
SPDSA – Debbie Ballam  
Airdrie – Melissa Collinson  
EIYSA – Dan Curtis  
RDCSA – Ado Sarcevic  
CMSA – Sue Cress  
CASA – Tammy Olson  
CWSA - Rosie Johnson  
NWPSA – Darren Snider

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Danny Bowie,  
Dave MacEachran

Life Member and Edmonton Soccer Association:  
Adrian Newman

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

**Present Members Meeting 11B**

Big Country - John Brazelle  
Sunny South - Paul Anwender  
CWSA - Jacquie Hertlein  
FMYSA – Macky Singh  
CMSA – Susan Cress, Lyle Waldren  
Lakeland - Cheri Wolgien  
SPDSA – Dave Friesen

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Adam Berti,  
Maureen Keough

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



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## 2. Canada Soccer Report (*Tammy McNutt*)

### a. CSA Annual Member Meeting

i. Saturday, November 21, 2020

- Agenda and documents to be received by Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Tammy will share key information post meeting.

### b. Administrator Meeting Highlight's

ii. National Marketing Campaign will be launched in 2021

- Will focus on getting players back into the game and not expected to be released until the National Team program resumes.

iii. Indoor Return to Play Guidance expected

- Will include additional information and reference tools.

iv. The National 2020 Outdoor Player Participation Average of the 6 PSO's who reported

(AB, SK, MB, ON, NB, NS) is 26% of the last outdoor season.

- Alberta's approximately 27% Outdoor Player registration correlates closely with this average.
- Some PSO's such as ON and QC have had restrictions put back into place due to escalating COVID-19 cases,

## 3. COVID-19 Update (*Tammy McNutt*)

### a. Current Environment

#### i. AHS October 8th update:

- To address the spike in numbers in the area, Edmonton Zone residents and visitors have been asked to follow additional voluntary public health measures to contain the spread of COVID-19.
  - Individuals in these areas should limit the number of cohorts they participate in to 3:
    - Core household
    - School
    - ONE other SPORT or social cohort
  - Impacted communities:
    - Beaumont, Devon, Edmonton, Evansburg, Fort Saskatchewan, Gibbons, Leduc, Morinville, Sherwood Park, Spruce Grove, St. Albert, Stony Plain, Thorsby, surrounding villages and businesses
- The GoA is appealing to Albertans' sense of community responsibility to combat the increase in numbers.
- It is important for our association to pay close attention to how the GoA is handling this as the indoor season progresses as additional measures may be put into place, possibly regionally, if the situation does not improve.

#### ii. Alberta Soccer Community Response:

- Be PREPARED for regional restrictions
- Adjust soccer programs to SUPPORT voluntary restrictions.
- ENCOURAGE individuals to limit cohort participation
- ADHERE to Return to Modified Games & AHS Guidance



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- Important to remember that Alberta is still only in Stage 2 and Stage 3 still includes physical distancing measures.

### iii. Importance to Full Adherence to AHS Guidance

- Alberta Soccer's September 20th insurance renewal included new contagion exclusion clauses meaning:
  - There is no coverage for COVID-19 related illnesses
  - If someone contracts the disease at an Alberta Soccer event and sues the association there is not legal coverage available
  - Our protection is in ensuring our **duty of care** which is based in following Alberta Health Services guidance alongside Canada Soccer and Alberta Soccer Return to Play documents.
- Prior to the renewal we did not have this exclusion, but most other sports already had this in place except for Hockey (and Ringette which has been able to piggyback onto).

### Comments/Questions (11A):

**Adrian Newman (LM):** BC government has provided an indemnity for all PSO's.

**Shaun H:** I will confirm with BC Soccer this is the case, but suspect if it is, it has something to do with the control the government BC has over it's public insurance program. Alberta does not have this type of insurance program.

### iv. Be Prepared

- 50% of respondents of Fall Member Survey have plans to adjust their programs if AHS adds further restrictions.
- 45% of respondents DO NOT.
- If more restrictions are put into place there will be little notice so it'll be important to prepare for quick adjustments that could occur during the season.
- Shared Knowledge from Districts about their pivot plans:
  - **Brad Odsen (EDSA):** Can't really speak to this unless/until we know what the restrictions might be.
  - **Chris Spaidal (SASA):** Adjust programs to similar set ups as what we operated before moving to Phase 2 (Modified Games stage)
  - **Adrian Newman (LM/ESA):** ESA has guaranteed all leagues and bookers that full credits will be given for future Covid-19 mandated closures, if any.
- Alberta Soccer Office is doing the following:
  - Bi-weekly meetings of Risk Management Committee
  - Weekly internal staff review of RTP protocols
  - Contracting communications support to achieve better, more efficient communications to members
  - Determining roles & responsibilities to achieve support
  - Working on 'What If' scenarios so we can be prepared to pivot as needed



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## b. Alberta Soccer Return to Play

### i. Staff Committee

- An internal staff committee has been formed that will meet weekly to review guidelines and member questions/feedback.
  - Updates will be brought to the Rick Management group for their input.
- An FAQ was produced by this committee and released on September 30<sup>th</sup> to support Alberta Soccer Return to Modified Games.
  - This is a living document that will be updated on a continuing basis as required.
  - The FAQ can be found on the [Covid-19 Update page](#) on the website.
  - 3 most frequent questions being asked are related to cohort management: The answers are taken directly from AHS's guidelines:
    - Can a team participate in more than one cohort/mini league? **Answer:** No
    - Can we use trialists or call-ups who are not part of the sport cohort/mini league? **Answer:** No
    - Can we play exhibition game with a team outside of our sport cohort/mini league? **Answer:** No

### Comments/Questions (11A):

**Sue Cress:** Can we please have a discussion on our next call about referee recruitment and retention? With requiring two referees and mandating a field layout, further stress is being placed on a limited pool of referees.

**Tammy Olson (CASA):** CASA needs some help with this as well

**Carmen Charron:** This will be discussed with Tammy and Dave post meeting and all Districts will be informed.

### Comments (11B):

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** It would be helpful to have the courses offered multiple times throughout the winter.

**Dave O'Neill:** Yes, courses can be offered at any time during the season and this has always been the case. You just need the facility and the students.

### ii. Alberta Soccer Return to Play – AHS Change

- Update to health questionnaire effective October 8, 2020
  - If an individual has any of the first 5 symptoms on the checklist (Fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, runny nose or sore throat) they are now required to self-isolate for 10 days until they have a negative COVID-19 test OR are no longer experiencing symptoms before the 10 day time period ends.
    - The Return to Play Guidelines will be updated with this important change and linked to the AHS guidelines.

### Comments/Questions (11A):

**Mike Thome (EDSA):** In the past were the RTP Guidelines approved by the BOD, and reviewed by the Insurance Provider and/or Canada Soccer before release and now just being done by staff?



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**Tammy McNutt:** If updates meet or exceed AHS guidelines there is generally no issue with the RTP. If there is something outside of minor or questionable changes it is brought to our Sport Consultant and/or Insurance Broker for review. The Risk Assessment Committee and BOD also review on the big impact changes such as the screening questionnaire changes.

**Pearl Doupe (CUSA):** Will the updated RTP include Indoor specific guidelines? Something like the pregame script currently in there for spectators is not feasible for Indoor.

**Tammy McNutt:** Yes, we will be looking at this to ensure this is addressed.

**Debbie Ballam (SPDSA):** What are ASA's guidelines when a player tests positive? Does the rest of the team have to isolate if they were in contact within the last 14 days? This has been very confusing and contradictory to what is posted on AHS and when you call AHS.

**Tammy McNutt:** AHS investigates once a positive test result occurs, determines who is a close contact and then contacts them directly. If someone voluntarily discloses their positive test result, a District may decide to take quicker action and close the team and/cohort group for 14 days. The majority of the members who responded to the survey did not want us to exceed the AHS guidelines regarding contact tracing but we will continue to look at this.

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** Is the field layout for referees you provided mandatory as this will not work in some facilities as described? Are these just suggestions?

**Dave O'Neill:** For the referees to be excluded from the cohort (2 referee system) this layout would have to be followed. If this is not possible, a single referee on the field would have to be included in the cohort. Trying to achieve a way to allow referees to do more games to help with numbers. Districts that need more direction or assistance with this should contact me.

### c. Alberta Soccer Return to Play – Heritage Funds

- Total monies received = \$268,750
- The Finance Committee determined what they feel is most effective and equitable way to distribute the funds after significant discussion of options as follows which has been reviewed and approved by the BOD:
  - 30% to be allocated to communications and marketing to support return to play.
  - 70% to be allocated to Districts
    - Will be distributed through an application process.
      - Applications will be reviewed by staff with final approval by the Finance Committee.
      - Simple 2-page application for required information (checklist) and use of proceeds.
      - Reporting will be required after use of funds so that this can be included in Alberta Soccer's post funding report required for this support.
      - Application to be published by Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.
- A flat base amount was calculated to a maximum amount dependent on the size of District as per their 2019 voting numbers.
- Criteria:
  - Funds are meant to cover pandemic response costs and/or rebuild the organization back up to start-up capacity.



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- The funds need to be used for pandemic emergency response measures:
  - Direct Expenses (not already covered by another government program) i.e. PPE, cleaning services
  - Staff (but not for wages covered under CEWS)
  - Replace lost revenues due to pandemic response

## Comments/Questions (11A):

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** I am concerned about another level of bureaucracy. Is there a more efficient way to fast track the money to the membership? If you are basing this on a formula it may create a lot of additional work.

**Mario Charpentier (EMSA):** Should the 70% of the Heritage Funds be simply distributed based on registered players numbers (up to a max of 10K players, to make it fair for all Districts)?

**Jeannie Hawksworth:** The application will be a very simple form and we have to ensure that we are doing our due diligence that the funds are used appropriately. After much determination, the Finance Committee felt this type of distribution would provide the most meaningful support for all members.

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** How did Alberta Soccer end up with just this amount? It's a very disappointing amount when you think of the size of our association.

**Jeannie Hawksworth:** I'm not positive but I think there was a base amount of \$40,000 for our size of association and then additional based somehow on what is normally received from the ASC Development Grant.

**Shaun Hammond:** The full grant did not just go to sports associations; it also went to Arts and Recreation Associations.

## Comments/Questions (11B):

**Susan Cress (CMSA):** How does that amount benchmark to other sports like hockey?

**Tammy McNutt:** I have only attended one SPAR meeting so far so have not been privy to what's been shared previous to that. I will contact our Sport Consultant to find out.

### d. Updates to Federal Financial Assistance

- Announced extended support measures but no details
  - Wage Subsidy (CEWS)
    - Freeze current % to mid-December
    - Extended to June 2021 but no details on %'s
  - Loan Program (CEBA)
    - Additional \$20,000 available, with \$10,000 forgiven if paid by December 31, 2022
    - \$40,000 was available previously if you were eligible so potentially if you received that and the additional now available and pad back before the end of the year, \$20,000 would be forgiven.
  - Commercial Rent (CECRA)
    - Changes to eligibility criteria
      - Based on revenue decrease
    - Extension to June 2021 but no detail on %'s
      - Expect decreases in the %'s from January to June
    - Funds will now be going direct to tenant not landlord



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## **e. Alberta Soccer Return to Play – Revised Indoor Fees**

- The BOD has approved an \$8.00 flat, per registrant fee
  - No new player fee
  - No team fee
- Will be presented for member ratification at next General Meeting
- The recent membership survey results were evenly split between those wanting a tiered and those wanting a flat fee.
- The flat fee was chosen to simplify reporting and administration time.
- About \$3 less per player on average than what fees were in previous years.

### **Comments/Questions (11A):**

**Mario Charpentier (EMSA):** Does the \$8.00 fee apply to U5 and U7 as well?

**Tammy McNutt:** Yes, it does.

### **Comments/Questions (11B):**

**Jacque Hertlein (CWSA):** Dave - what is your contingency plan for referees? And is there an opportunity to increase the number of introductory courses?

**Dave O'Neill:** Our goal was to figure out a way to get referees out of the cohort system so that they would be able to do more games to address shortage. A severe shortage of referees was anticipated as the number of referees in Outdoor was low and was the reason for the August brainstorming call with Districts, DRA's and Assignors, etc. This shortage is being experienced by all sports during the pandemic. We approached the SPAR group to confirm that the ideas put forward by the RDC would be acceptable and received a positive response. This approval was contingent on the physical distancing that could be incorporated and the use of a mask or buff for brief interactions when physical distancing is not possible.

Alberta Soccer has been in contact with officials several times over the summer, surveying them on their interest/comfort in returning at this time. In June, 60% of respondents said they were interested in officiating, but the number of those who completed the requirements for outdoor is significantly less.

As of today, only 12% of officials (compared to 2019-20 minus Minis) are eligible to officiate after completing one of the required webinars (5 were offered) and waivers. This is about 300 in total.

- Officials can still view the recording to meet the webinar requirement.

Districts were notified that Entry Level Courses had opened on October 6<sup>th</sup>. They did not open earlier until:

- Canada Soccer gave the go ahead at the end of August.
- Return to School Plan was released (which wasn't much of a plan in the end).
- Monitoring of the first month of in-person school for outbreaks and it seemed reasonably safe to open up courses.

Only 1 District so far (CUSA - who is organizing on behalf of the Calgary Districts) has requested Entry Level courses, 4 in total.

- The organizer contacted the 90 people who were previously registered for courses in the Spring and several others who expressed interest and only 9 people in total have signed up so far.
- It was very difficult to find facilities to run the courses in YYC, and in the end they are being held out of the CMSA office with a max. of 10 students per course.



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The RDC and DRA's are meeting this weekend to discuss options and another brainstorming session with Districts, DRA's, Assignors, etc. will be organized for next week soon so Alberta Soccer can continue to work with all stakeholders to address this problem.

## Comments (11B):

**Lyle Waldren (CMSA):** Dave are you sending two refs to one game or can the team's supply the person in the box?

**Dave O'Neill:** This is at the District's/League's discretion. We're not requiring that there are 2 referees. I'm assuming you are talking about Boarded Soccer if you are talking about a box. We did make some modifications to the rules to allow for a single referee with a volunteer in the box who is only allowed to work the clock with no stop time permitted at the end of each half. Penalty time would be running on either the score clock or the referees watch not the time clock and would be running time. Basically a 2 minute penalty would be 3 mins running time. And a 5 min penalty would be 6 mins running time and those players can't return to the field without the referee's permission. Games can also be run with no one in the box.

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** It would be helpful to have the courses offered multiple times throughout the winter.

**Dave O'Neill:** Yes, as many courses as you like can be offered at any time during the season and there are instructors are ready and available. You just need the facility and the students.

## 4. Fall Member Meeting (*Tammy McNutt*)

### a. Special General Meeting and Fall Planning Meetings will be virtual.

- Will give the members and staff an opportunity to get comfortable with a virtual format and online voting should either be used for the AGM or beyond.
- Save the Dates will be sent hopefully by the end of the week, but at minimum with four weeks notice.

#### i. SGM – late November

- Will be held mid-week in an evening and only include agenda items such as Rules and Regulations that need to be changed during the pandemic and to determine the voting numbers that will be used for the 2021 Annual General Meeting.

#### ii. Fall Planning Meeting

- Likely to be held over a single day, with multiple sessions so that there is better access for members

## 5. Next COVID\_19 Update Meetings

- Tuesday, November 10
- Tuesday, December 8
- Tuesday, January 12
- Meeting invitations will be sent.

## 6. Comments / Questions

### 11A Meeting:

**Pearl Doupe (CUSA)** A little disappointed on the announcement today (that took until today) about the \$8 per player fee. We sent out a communication on fees to our teams last Friday because, as I have started many times in recent communications to your office, our player registration starts today. We devised a discount code for our





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members for all of those who played in a cohort and already paid their \$15. They've been informed they are paying \$4 per player since there was no heads up that you were coming up with a new number. I suspect that we will have a lot of unhappy players with this change. I urge ASA to get more in sync with when programs are starting at the District level. In my eyes this is unacceptable having such a late change in the fees when it was discussed in August and this is the first comment back since. Members will not be happy to hear that they are not getting a discount now.

**Tammy McNutt:** Agree 100% that the fee structure is being announced incredibly late. It's part of our action plan regarding planning for external factors and looking at timelines when these types of decisions need to be made specifically to ensure our members have this information when they need it. My understanding that in August it was not an approved amount and some members were no in favor with it. This is why it was included in the member's survey that went out. The Finance Committee did not intend to create additional hardships with this flat rate, so if there were unintended consequences as a result, there can be some additional conversations around that.

**Mike Thome (EDSA):** Pearl has been asking for this for a long time. I have to reiterate that Pearl is starting her registration tonight – we are starting our play tonight So organizationally something needs to be looked at. There hasn't been much going on outside of COVID-19,, no Provincials, no Nationals and not much else to drop this in the not even 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

**Tammy M:** I understand, appreciate the comments and am willing to have some conversations outside of this call.

**Sue Cress (CMSA):** Can we get an update on CSA plans with central registration?

**Tammy McNutt:** I don't have an update at this time but will follow up with Canada Soccer.

## Closing remarks (*Tammy McNutt*)

- Thanks to everyone for their time and input.
- Please continue to contact Alberta Soccer with any feedback, comments or questions you may have.

## 9. Adjournment

11A – 10:58 hrs.

11B – 19:55 hrs.



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