

Ph: 780 474 2200 Fax: 780 474 6300



Members Monthly COVID-19 Update Meeting Minutes for 12A (10:00 AM) and 12B (7:00 PM)

Tuesday, November 10, 2020 Video Conference Meeting

1. Call to order

Present Members Meeting 12A

CUSA - Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal

LSA - Frank Spadavechia

EMSA - Mario Charpentier

EDSA - Mike Thome, Brad Odsen

SASA – Chris Spaidal

SPDSA – Debbie Ballam

EIYSA - Dan Curtis

RDCSA - Ado Sarcevic

CMSA - Sue Cress

CASA - Tammy Olson

CLSA - Henry Faucher

CWSA – Jacquie Hertlein

MHSA - Rob Cavicchia

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Danny Bowie

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

Present Members Meeting 12B

Sunny South - Paul Anwender

CWSA - Sandy Sangster

Tri-County - James Wolters

Lakeland - Cheri Wolgien

CMSA - Lyle Waldren

SPDSA - Dave Freisen

Cochrane Soccer – Neil Spencely

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

Life Member and Edmonton Soccer Facilities: Adrian Newman

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

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2. Canada Soccer Report (Alberta SoccercNutt)

- a. CSA Annual Member Meeting
 - i. Saturday, November 21, 2020
- Agenda for the meeting will include:
 - 1) Presentation of Credentials
 - 2) Roll Call
 - 3) Moment of Remembrance
 - 4) Approval of Scrutineer
 - 5) Approval of Agenda
 - 6) Approval of the Minutes of the preceding Annual General Meeting (May 4, 2019)
 - 7) Report of the President and General Secretary
 - 8) Report of the Audit and Finance Committee
 - 9) Approval of the Canadian Soccer Association Financial Statements
 - 10) Appointment of the Auditor
 - 11) Admission of Members
 - a. Atletico Ottawa
 - 12) Election of the President-Elect
 - 13) Election of Directors
 - 14) Ratification of the Independent Directors
 - 15) Elections of Members of the Judicial Bodies
 - 16) Next Annual Meeting of the Members
 - 17) Adjournment of Annual Meeting

Alberta Soccer Presidentammond:

- The President's Forum requested no bylaw changes be presented and Canada Soccer agreed to hold off with any until 2021.
- A Candidates Forum took place this week and Candidates were able to share their credentials, and interest in running. Some of their presentations were very good, and some not so good.
- Two people are running for President; Nick Bontis (current VP) from Ontario and Florin Butuicu (sp?) from Quebec. The former is known to Alberta Soccer President. but the candidate from Quebec is not. Anyone who may have knowledge of his experience or wanting to share an opinion about them is asked to reach out to Shaun before the deadline for him to cast his vote which is November 19th.
- Re; Agenda Items 13 & 14 There are no Directors, nominated or independent, from Alberta or NWT so Alberta is not directly affected.

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3. COVID-19 Update (Alberta SoccercNutt)

a. Government of Alberta

i. Mandatory & Voluntary Restrictions

- As of November 9th, all communities on the Enhanced List are asked to follow the Mandatory & Voluntary Restrictions:
 - Mandatory 15-person limit on indoor and outdoor social and family gatherings where people are mixing and mingling (does not relate to organized soccer events)
 - Voluntary Limit cohorts to 3 and wear a mask in all indoor work settings, except when alone in a workspace like and office or cubicle
- Map which shows the status of communities can be found at this <u>link</u>.
- What does this mean for Alberta?

RESPECT – Ensure individuals who wish to reduce their cohort participation to align with Voluntary measures are respected and able to do so.

REGIONS – Stay informed with what is happening in your region. Right now, we are assuming that additional restrictions will be imposed regionally IF they occur.

RESTRICTIONS – We should all be prepared for possible short-term restrictions to soccer program(s).

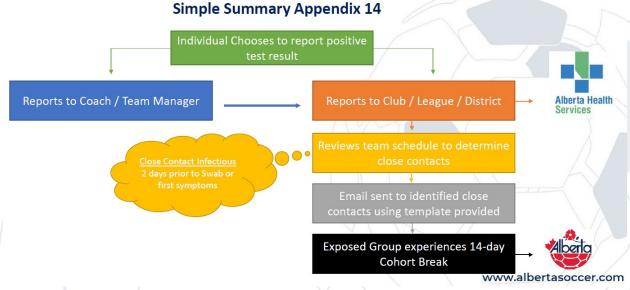
ii. Changes to Contact Tracing

- As of November 6, AHS will only directly notify close contacts of positive cases of COVID-19 in three priority groups;
 - Health care workers
 - o Minors (parents will still be notified by AHS if their child is exposed at school), and
 - Individuals who live or work within a congregate or communal facility
- Individuals are asked to voluntarily notify their own close contacts and inform event organizers. Previously this was done by AHS.
- Who is a close contact?
 - Close contacts are defined as anyone that was within two metres of a positive case of COVID-19 for more than 15 minutes, even if a mask was worn during that contact.
 - A close contact is ALSO someone who has had direct contact with bodily fluids of a person who has COVID-19 (e.g., was coughed or sneezed on), or who provided direct care for a person who has COVID-19.
 - For sports that involve close, sustained or intermittent and repeated contact, all members of the teams playing each other are considered close contacts when there is a case on a team.
 - Anyone who falls into any of the above categories is considered a close contact of a confirmed case of COVID-19.

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- What does this mean for Alberta Soccer?
 - VOLUNTARY: Individuals do NOT have to disclose a positive COVID-19 test result. It is still their personal health information that they can choose to disclose or not disclose.
 - If they choose to disclose a positive test result, their privacy MUST be maintained in ALL communications.
- In response to the changes made to contact tracing, Alberta Soccer updated the Return to Modified Games to include a new Appendix:
 - APPENDIX 14: Guidance for Confirmed Covid-19 Case in Soccer
 - Includes Definitions, Responsibilities, Process, and Email Script for Event Organizers
 - Alberta Heath services may or may not be contacted. Members who have report conflicting experiences from very helpful to not helpful at all so Alberta Soccer does not require this.



*The Simple Summary of Appendix 14 does not include communication plans already in place by leagues/Districts.

- An online form has been created for COVID-19 positive test reporting and impact on programs.
 Recognizing that not all incidents may be reported, it will still provide some valuable insight into the effectiveness of our protocols and some idea of the frequency of cases.
 - Limited questions and should only take a couple of minutes to complete. Duplicated reports will be easily identified and removed form data.

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Comments/Questions (12A):

(EDSA): What is the purpose of reporting cases to ASA, it won't be accurate if you aren't getting all occurrences and it is only adding extra work for Districts. It's been put onto us now that the contact tracers are out of the picture. Unless your doing something actively with it, I would be happy to provide a monthly update not as each case happens.

Alberta Soccer.: Right now, we do not have a good understanding of how many COVID-19 cases have occurred in soccer. We knew we would have them and although this won't be totally accurate in regards to community transmission, it will have value. Other sports participating in the SPAR group have been collecting this information already and it has been recommended by our Sport Consultant as it may be needed for future conversations with the GoA such as advocating for increases to the size of cohorts if we know that our protocols have been working. If members want to report bi-weekly or monthly (if their cases are not frequent) that is acceptable. For teams that played each other, it should be fairly easy to identify them as close contacts. Districts and Alberta Soccer need to figure out what's reasonable if coaches and referees are close contacts.

(EDSA): I'm not comfortable making that decision from a liability standpoint and need better guidance from AHS. We're not the experts in this. EDSA won't be making increases to the cohorts regardless of permitted increases in cohort sizes until there is a vaccine, so it is not a good justification for me to do the extra work. This is all just voluntary reporting without AHS not connecting the dots, we're not going to know what the reality is.

Alberta Soccer.: AHS in their Nov 6th guidelines have said that event organizers are now responsible to inform close contacts based on the definitions they have provided so decisions need to be made based on that. I am getting emails on reports already anyway and it's just a few questions on the survey.

(EMSA): If we are sending you the information about a positive case, is ASA responsible for the tracing? **Alberta Soccer.:** No, we do not have access to what would be required to do that such as schedules/player/coach contact information so the leagues will need to do it.

Alberta Soccer President.: I do understand the workload on everyone and also that AHS is overwhelmed. From a different perspective from my experiences as a bureaucrat, if we don't do anything and try to get a sense of what is happening it would be very easy for the government to shut down sport before businesses as a response measure. The data could show it is not coming from within soccer. **Alberta Soccer:** Contact tracing is not much different then what Districts have already been doing after receiving reports of positive cases.

(CUSA): So, who is the event organizer? The local association who runs the league? **Alberta Soccer;** AHS has not defined this so we've identified it as the organizer who is responsible for the schedule the teams have, who attended, etc. so that would be the league. For programs in Phase 1 that might be different individuals, whoever is coordinating and keeping attendance for those events.

(CUSA): You to be careful to assume that the league is always responsible for reporting. it may be the team organizing social events, practices, etc. where the case does not impact the league participation of the team. So if the league reports this and the team and a player you could have 3 different reports, but are actually from 1 event. I'm concerned that it will not be accurate.

Alberta Soccer: We can only follow the guidance AHS has now put on us to the best of our ability. Our expectations for Members is only that they do what's reasonable considering the information they have been provided voluntarily by individuals.

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(EMSA): How are we going to know what information to submit when we don't all the people that have been affected by a positive case? What kind of data are you expecting us to submit?

Alberta Soccer. EMSA has been doing a really good job of managing cases when a positive test has been reported. We're only asking that you continue to report what you do know and no personal information is required. It's a simple survey with identifiers so we know what District the report is from, who is making the report ie. Coach, administrator, etc. so we can ensure no duplicate reporting and if how many people were affected if known.

(EMSA): Why don't you do the tracing yourself? We'll send you all the information and then you'll have all the information you need.

Alberta Soccer.: We are not the event organizer, and this is not anything you have not already been doing. You have been calling or sending emails to let us know about tracing. We can revisit this after you have had the opportunity to use the survey after a few weeks to ensure it's not proving to difficult to use (provided we are still able to play) and revisit it if that is the case.

(EDSA): There are medical issues and legal issues that overlap. We (apparently) cannot get the medical direction we would like from AHS, but it seems to me that ASA ought to get a legal opinion on whether what is being done is reasonable; share that opinion with the members, and revise the plan if needed. **Alberta Soccer:** I believe we have already been assured that we do not have concerns and are acting with an acceptable of degree of reasonableness.

A01: Alberta Soccer to follow up with legal and insurance to ensure this is still the case.

Comments/Questions (12B):

(CMSA): Tammy, Shaun do we anticipate a new level of restrictions like BC, Manitoba ect. BC dropped the increased restrictions late Saturday for later that night ... do we anticipate that type of lead time? **Alberta Soccer:** We won't know ahead of time and neither will our Sports Consultant. We are finding out this information at the same time as everyone else, during media updates. Justin Trudeaus' recent plea to Mayors and Premiers to do the 'right thing' is something to think about.

(LM): A contingency plan can be put into place for a two-week circuit breaker. In Edmonton we have built in a 2-week buffer at the end of the season to allow soccer to complete with the cooperation of the other user groups. People should be encouraged to stay calm.

Alberta Soccer: Yes, we can communicate positively if a break is required.

(Cochrane Soccer): Are we now required to perform contact notifications within our club? **Alberta Soccer:** Contact your District to find out their expectations on how this should be handled. This will depend on what makes the most sense.

(Cochrane Soccer): How many COVID-19 infections have we been seeing with indoor soccer **Alberta Soccer**: We don't know at the is time which is why we are asking our members to report the incidents. Other sports groups have already been collecting the information and we need the data.

iii. FAQ's

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 There are a couple of common questions being asked and have been included in this presentation to provide clarity.

Question 1: Cohort Management – Contacts of a Close- Contact: Player A is sent home from school or work because someone in their class/office tested positive for COVID-19; they were considered a Close Contact. Player A participated in soccer recently but has experienced no symptoms. As a Close-Contact, Player A is legally required to isolate for 14-days

Can Player A provide a negative COVID test and return to soccer before the 14-day break? **NO** Does Player A's soccer team have to isolate, too? **NO**, they are not Close Contacts.

Question 2: Game Day, Coaches & Masks: If the coach is not part of the cohort, can they be on the bench with the players during the game?

Yes, IF the coach (1) wears a mask, (2) practices hand hygiene, and (3) is separated from the players in the bench area as much as possible.

Comments (12B):

(LM): Edmonton facilities have had some issues with coaches taking off their masks while on the bench or wearing them improperly.

iv. Reminders

- Travel outside your team's city of residence is ONLY permitted under special circumstances and with pre-approval by Alberta Soccer.
 - A minimal number of programs who have requested and received this pre-approval are operating under a mini-league format.
- You cannot form a temporary, one-off, short-term cohort to play a single/weekend exhibition game.
 AHS guidelines specifically disallow this.

v. Report Positive COVID-19 Cases in Soccer

- New Online form to easily report to Alberta Soccer when an individual voluntarily discloses a
 confirmed positive COVID-19 exposure in your programs. Link found on the Alberta Soccer website,
 on the COVID-19 Updates page.
- Data collected will help us measure how well the Return to Soccer guidelines are supporting a safe return to our sport.
- Data will help us understand what is working and what is not and assist in planning for Outdoor 2020 if we can't go back to normal.
- It could encourage players hesitant to return to play because of safety/health concerns.
- Our sport consultant has said it will be beneficial for future considerations.

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Comments (12A):

(EIYSA): Can a player participate in Academy (not school academy) training and also play on a club team, limiting to one sport cohort is not mandatory correct? I believe you should only play in one sport cohort but many people are still wanting to do more than one but some academies are saying ASA is not allowing?

Alberta Soccer: I will email you a response on this as well Dan, but AHS has asked in the enhanced areas that individuals voluntarily restrict themselves to participation in 1 sport cohort, but ultimately it is up to the individual. We can only control what we control.

v. Referee Feedback (David O'Neill AM/Tammy McNutt PM)

Referees are requested to submit an online form when they encounter COVID related issues at a game. For the indoor season, we have received almost 90 responses in the following categories:

# of	Responses
32	Teams not prepared to sanitize game balls and in most cases claimed they were not aware of the requirement
16	Spectators not wearing masks or conducting themselves within guidelines
15	Coaches not wearing masks on bench, although referees do not know whether they are in cohort or not
9	General lack of knowledge about COVID protocols
5	Facility concerns regarding sanitization or spectator control protocols
3	Referee's cohort suspended due to COVID
3	Players not physically distancing when required (before, after etc.)
1	Player altercations
1	Suggestions for improvements in referee protocols

- The collection of feedback was started in Outdoor.
- About 600 reports have been received so far with the majority indicating there were no concerns and protocols were followed.
- Re: Ball sanitization Most issues occurred in the first couple of weeks and continues to improve weekly.
- Re: Spectator Issues Game Day Managers were intended to manage these types of concerns.
- Re: Masks for coaches It would be much easier if all coaches wore masks within cohorts or not.
- Re: Facility concerns around sanitization Occurring in places where back to back games are happening without scheduled break in between to sanitize, which is what was expected would be happening.
- Re: Players' not physically distancing when required Recently an entire team without masks stood
 alongside the boards in the hall waiting for the game prior to theirs to end. The referee running
 alongside those boards felt very unsafe as a result. One of the team members said he worked for
 the facility and they were not required to wear masks when the official spoke with them.

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• Referees have also made some reports about referees who are not following the protocols which we are actively following up on as if they are not willing to do so they may face discipline.

Comments (12A):

(SPDSA): In Sherwood Park, the SPDSA has to monitor the spectators. Millennium Place staff do not do this. As the sport organizer, we are responsible.

David O: Requirements seem to vary across the province.

(EDSA): So why does ASA not mandate coaches wearing masks?

David O: We will be having this discussion.

(EMSA): I suggest the referee captures all these incidents on the game sheet so the league can deal with them right away.

Alberta Soccer: Yes, that could be done, but in a lot of cases there is no where to fit that in on a game sheet. They could possibly put it on the back. I would still like to get the reports as well so I have the information.

(CUSA): The municipal bylaws in Calgary make it mandatory for everyone, including referees, to wear a mask until they are on the field. Different facilities have different requirements so CUSA is working hard to educate their members accordingly.

Alberta Soccer: We need to continue to gather the information so facilities/leagues can address the issues.

(EDSA): We had an incident where two spectators went onto a field with the purpose of intimidating the referee which was reported to Alberta Soccer, but it was sent back to us.

Alberta Soccer: I did review the report and didn't read it the same way you did, and not feel it warranted discipline at our level because I didn't feel the level of intimidation from the report. We can take another look at it.

Henry Faucher (CLSA): I appreciate that ASA wants to respect the autonomy of the Districts and Leagues. But during this time of Covid-19 it would be easier for everyone if we just had simple black and white rules that don't change every week or every other week. Example masks for coaches, parents attending games, etc.

Alberta Soccer: It would be easier, but unfortunately not possible because of the changing circumstances. For some matters we can look at doing this which is why we wanted to bring up the possibility of all coaches wearing masks which would exceed AHS guidelines. Regarding spectators, some municipalities and facilities which are stricter, but do we need to impose this on all regions. There is a lot of appreciation for for members and all they are doing to keep the game going.

Comments (12B):

(CMSA): Can you update the group on the number of officials that have agreed to work this indoor season? (Answer: To be included in minutes).

David O's response (post meeting): Boarded Officials – 430, Boardless Officials - 378

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(LM): Edmonton facilities have doubled the number of staff on shifts who have given lot's of warnings about infractions. It's been hard to manage so now we are taking action and will be giving \$100 fines for COVID-19 protocol breaches.

4. Operations Update

- a. Alberta Soccer staff back to full-time hours as of November 1st.
- David O'Neill Referee Development
- Matt Thomas Coach Development
- Claire Paterson Coach Courses
- John Clubb Club Licensing
- Jeannie Hawksworth
 – Accounting Membership
- Carmen Charron Discipline, Insurance, Player Transfers, General Enquiries, Camp & Academy Endorsement
- Return to Play Committee Alberta SoccercNutt, David O'Neill, Carmen Charron and Claire Paterson
- Temporary part-time contracts:
 - o Richard Adams RAMP Project
 - Tiana Squire Communications Support Minimal hours
- Vacant Positions:
 - Technical Director No intention to hire until permanent Executive Director has been hired.
 - o Communications Coordinator Intend to hire within the next 2 months.
 - o Competitions Coordinator Hire dependent on when competitions expected to resume.

b. Reminders

- Heritage Grant Applications
 - Due no later than December 15th
 - Contact Jeannie Hawksworth with any related questions.
- Engaging Communication & Marketing Firms
 - Excited to be preparing for 'Return to Soccer campaign by interviewing firms in the next week.
 - Members will be engaged in the creation of the marketing plans.
 - A positive step in looking to the future.

c. Upgrades to Referee Registration process

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- Referee platform will be updated to streamline referee registration process in preparation for Outdoor 2021.
 - No time to update during the COVID-19 situation and officials needed to be managed.
 - Education elements and waivers moving into the system, currently being done manually so it will be much more efficient.

d. AMSL/AYSL

- Started conversation with Alberta Sport to present to Alberta Health
 - Opened dialogue for special considerations for AMSL & AYSL in the spring if COVID-19 restrictions continue.
 - Junior collegiate and University sport guidelines are less restrictive allowing such things as less time between breaks and larger cohorts.
 - Also have requirements for medical testing which would not be reasonable for AMSL/AYSL.

Comments (12A):

(EDSA); Have the AMSL teams been engaged to ensure they are even interested in proceeding with a season under COVID -19 restrictions? Recommend this is done before going through all the trouble of getting approvals for concessions such as those described.

Alberta Soccer: There is definitely interest for AYSL and we will be following up with the AMSL clubs to ask.

e. Fall Member Meetings

Special General Meeting

- Alberta Soccer Board of Directors has decided not to call a Special General Meeting.
 Attention and energies will be focused on preparing for February 2021 Annual General Meeting.
- The BOD is sensitive to the workload Members are experiencing, that people are tired and there is no immediate need to hold and SGM.

Planning Meeting

- Saturday November 28th virtual planning session will be held with the following focus;
 - Values & Objectives
 - Provincial Return to Soccer Marketing Campaign
 - Goal of having a firm selected and present so they can meet the members.
 - Return To Play
 - Feedback in preparation for Outdoor 2021 but with the hope that we can get back to a regular season.
- Sessions will be collaborative, round table, and interactive.

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5. Comments / Questions

12A Meeting:

(CLSA): Some feedback to offer on the Canada Soccer President Nominees –The candidate from Ontario has a lot of experience. I know someone who knows the candidate form Quebec and says the candidate has no experience with Canada Soccer/CPL/FIFA.

(EDSA): I sat on the Planning Meeting Committee and am surprised to hear that the Planning will be taking place on a Saturday. I believe the committee had decided the planning sessions would be take place on a few evenings a week or two ahead of the SGM which would be held on a Saturday.

Alberta Soccer: This is what was brought before the BOD as the committee's recommendation.

Post meeting verification – The Planning Meeting Committee members approved via email Oct 9th the Planning Meeting schedule recommendations as described here which were then presented to the BOD for approval.

(EDSA): Do a quick survey of members concerning scheduling of Planning Meetings **Alberta Soccer:** Yes, we can do that.

12B Meeting:

(LM): The last budget that was circulated does not include the current year forecast. **Alberta Soccer:** We've just hit year end (October 31st) and are preparing for the audit. An updated budget which includes that information will be circulated by the end of the month. It does appear that it is landing pretty close to where we had projected.

(LM): Has there been a decision made about Indoor provincials? Leagues in Edmonton are already booking games into March when those games would usually take place. Are Regional Competitions a possibility?

Alberta Soccer.: Provincials would not be possible unless we were in Phase 3. Member feedback in the survey that went out indicated adults were not interested in having them and youth would need to know by January at the latest if they were a go. I'll be meeting with staff soon to discuss timelines, what's feasible and required logistically to organize. The final decision will be communicated to members as soon as possible.

Alberta Soccer President: Regional competitions are a possibility.

6. Next COVID-19 Update Meetings

- Tuesday, December 8th
- Tuesday, January 12th
- Tuesday, February 9th
- Meeting invitations will be sent.

Closing remarks (Alberta Soccer)

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- Thanks to everyone for their time, efforts and input.
- Reminder that the office will be closed on November 11th, in respect of Remembrance Day.
- Districts are encouraged to contact Tammy or Alberta Soccer President, Shaun Hammond with any feedback, comments, concerns or questions.

7. Adjournment

