



**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 COVID-19 Update**

**Meeting Minutes for 16A (10:00 AM) and 16B (7:00 PM)**

Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021

Video Conference

**Call to order**

**Present Members Meeting 16A**

CUSA – Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal  
LSA – Frank Spadavecchia  
EMSA – Mario Charpentier  
SASA – Chris Spaidal  
SPDSA – Debbie Ballam  
EIYSA – Dan Curtis  
RDCSA – Ado Sarcevic  
CASA – Tammy Olson  
CWSA: Jacquie Hertlein, Rosie Johnson  
Sunny South – Karen Wilde  
CMSA - Sue Cress  
EDSA – Mike Thome  
NWPSA- Darren Snider  
CLSA: Henry Faucher  
USport – Gord Franson

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Dave MacEachran,  
Julie Beschell, Catherine Ridgeway, Nabeel  
Khutabux

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

**Present Members Meeting 16B**

BCSA – John Brazzale  
SPDSA – Dave Freisen  
MHSA – Robert Cavacchia  
CWSA – Jacquie Hertlein  
Lakeland – Glenda Bouvier, Josh Phillips  
NWPSA – Ken Loudon  
FMYSA – Aaron Bessong  
CLSA: Henry Faucher

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Adam Berti,  
Maureen Keough, Danny Bowie, Julie Beschell,  
Nabeel Khutabux

ASA Staff: Richard Adams, Carmen Charron,  
Jeannie Hawksworth, Claire Paterson, John  
Clubb, David O'Neil



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## 1. Executive Director Hiring Committee (*Richard Adams*)

- a) the Vogel Group is the search firm being used.
- b) The job profile was posted and 50+ applications were received.
- c) Timeline:
  - i. Initial screening interviews started in early March.
  - ii. Board Interviews.
    1. Planning for 5 initial interviews to take place March 22 – April 2nd
    2. The hiring committee expect to make a final decision by the end of April.
  - iii. A transition period will follow with Richard supporting the new hire as required.

## 2. COVID-19 Response (*Richard Adams*)

- a) Government of Alberta Update (*Richard Adams*)
  - As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, we have started into Step 2 of the recovery phase guided by the GoA and AHS.
    - i. Return to Train activities for 1-on-1 and 8 & 2 for youth only are now allowed.
    - ii. Step 3 delayed due to increase in hospitalizations over the past week.
    - iii. Return to Train and Modified games documentation has been updated and simplified to be ready for a quick turnaround. Adult specific will be offered as well as this was identified by members as missing in the earlier versions.
    - iv. Participated in a multi-sport advocacy session around loosening of restrictions and the vision for summer sport.
      1. All sports are unified on the hope for competition/competitive training environment to return, but all want specific exemptions based on their sport which makes a unified approach difficult.
      2. There is a possibility that they will draw up guidelines based on team sports and individual sports moving forward.
      3. Advocating for cohorts that are large enough to allow for 4 teams which would work better for soccer.
    - v. Canada Soccer's Risk Assessment Tool.
      1. Operational and members will be informed how Alberta Soccer will want it utilized.
      2. Is currently available for those who want to get a head start on submitting.



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## b) Return to Train Timeline

### PATH FORWARD & RETURN TO SOCCER TIMELINES 2021\*



## c) Return to Train Breaches

- In the last 10 days - 2 weeks, we have had an increase in reported breaches of the training protocols, including video of coaches / teams showing blatant disregard for the protocols by not wearing masks (coaches), holding contact drills and scrimmages.
- A memo will be released Wednesday morning that will need to be distributed to all members regarding the impact of these breaches and that this could fall under a breach of the Code of Conduct - ENSURE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT.
- A standard discipline model is going to be developed for approval by the Board of Directors. Minimum sanctions for breach of conduct will be included.
  - Under current rules it could be argued that any violation would be a code of conduct breach for creating an "unsafe environment".
  - Other provinces are starting to apply discipline vs just education to address the issue.
  - General agreement by members that discipline should be standardized so that District's are consistent in penalties. The seriousness of these breaches which impact the safety of the participants and potentially resulting on being shut down altogether because of them warrants the need for them.

## 3. Canada Soccer Update

### a) Canada Soccer Presidential Update (Shaun Hammond)

- AMM (Virtual) – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021
- Special Meeting has been called for April 30, 2021
  - Proposed by-law amendment to be distributed by March 31<sup>st</sup> to Member



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Associations at the latest.

- a. President's Forum will meet prior to the then to discuss the proposal.
- b. Some speculation that it relates to the Canada Soccer levy.

## a) Nationals (*Richard Adams*)

- i. Futsal Nationals – Cancelled
- ii. Canadian Championship (Pro) - Cancelled
- iii. Club Nationals (Richard Adams)
  1. No decision to date but planning is continuing.

## 4. Operations Updates (*Richard Adams*)

### a) Competitions

- i. Provincials
  1. Outdoor Provincials – No decision to date
    - a. 40 groups responded to Fall survey that March or April preferred time to have this decision. Of the other respondents, 25 % said earlier, 25% said later than that.
    - b. Member feedback during meetings indicate a decision by early – mid May would work.
    - c. If there are no Provincials, but Nationals are going ahead, a qualifying process will be worked out if there is an interest in participating.
- ii. AMSL – Cancelled.
- iii. AYSL
  1. Proceeding with CMSA /EMSA as operational partners.
- iv. Multi-sport Games
  1. Alberta Summer Games - Cancelled.
  2. Arctic Winter Games – Postponed to 2023
  3. Canada Summer Games - August 2022
  4. North American Indigenous Games - Postponed until 2022 at least.
- v. New Competitions
  1. Men's Western Amateur League taking Expressions of Interest.
    - a. Organizing committee led by Foothills Soccer Club.
    - b. U23, and looking to serve as Division 2 of the CPL.
    - c. Will need sanctioning from Canada Soccer and Alberta Soccer to operate.
    - c. Would include AB, SK and MB not BC.
    - d. Contact Richard if interested in who to contact for more information.
  2. Women's Western Amateur League
    - a. Various groups (not Foothills SC) in early stages of exploration.
    - b. Not much know at this time about any details but will keep members informed as they become available.
  3. Both considering exhibition games this summer.



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vi. Outdoor Season Dates

1. Alberta Soccer would like to understand when each member is trying to start their season to assist with planning. Staff will follow up to collect this information.

a) **Referee** (*Dave O'Neill*)

i. Entry Level referee course update

1. Only 12 courses approved so far, 40 at the same time last year.

a. 275 Spots available, only 48 taken.

1. Only 10 of 48 registered students have been approved as the unapproved still need to make payment.

b. Practical session may need to be adjusted to 8:2 training if in person restrictions not changed before courses begin. Hosts have been given a heads up on this possibility as it may require more field time.

1. 8:2 requirement could also impact number of instructors required per course.

2. Alberta Soccer will be recruiting on social media and regular media over the next couple of weeks and encourage those who want courses who haven't booked them yet to do so asap so there are options for interested parties.

3. It will be useful to know when season's starting so priority can be given to assigning instructors in areas where refs will be required earlier (if needed).

ii. Current referee Registration Numbers

1. 509 registered referees now. At this time in 2019 there were 1100 which is better than anticipated.

a. So far only 231 have signed up or taken the required (Refresher) webinar.

b. A COVID webinar will also be required to be added to the list of eligible officials, but not available until we know what requirements will be.

b) **Technical** (*Matt Thomas/Richard Adams*)

a. NCCP Community Stream Workshops available for free.

i. Influx of new participants after last member meeting and appreciation given for getting the word out.

ii. Alberta is second highest in the country for coaches who have completed the theory which includes modules, and for FUN, L2T and S4L, submission of a training plan.

1. Currently free but may not be for much longer.

2. These courses meet Soccer Quality Standards requirements.

b. Licensing Stream

i. Wrapped up latest C Licence last weekend.

1. 55 coaches + 1 from Ontario participated and 10 new Learning Facilitators trained.

2. Workshop #2 May/June, Workshop #3 Nov/Dec



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- ii. B1 has also wrapped up with the evaluation dates coming up in May and for also be for C.
    - 1. Coaches will have 90 days from time of registration to submit their video. Technical staff will respond within 48 hours to get things in motion.
    - 2. No on-field training or evaluations for 2021 and possibly longer.
  - iii. Safe Sport Webpage Launch – <https://albertasoccer.com/safe-sport/>
    - 1. Lots of resources posted that are not COVID related that support other aspects of a safe soccer environment for participants.
- c. Provincial Licensing
- i. Standards for Quality Soccer (SQS) Minimum Standard
    - 1. Deadline for alignment is September 2022 as per membership motion AGM 2020.
    - 2. Likely to be extended by Canada Soccer year to January 2023 so that coaches can do this over a 1 – 1.5 time frame to make the time and cost requirements more manageable
  - ii. Pilot groups currently engaged.
  - iii. Concerns raised about the cost impact of the requirements.
  - iv. Membership and Alberta Soccer will need to develop a plan on how the standards will be implemented at the community level.

## c) Admin

- a. 2020 – 2021 Reporting
  - i. Pre-season registration.
  - ii. Actual registration.
  - iii. Jeannie Hawksworth will follow up with Members.
- b. Return to Play Campaign
  - i. Photos required by Black Coffee and request will be sent to members from Richard.
    - 1. Would like the focus to be on play, as opposed to medal presentations.
  - ii. Toolkits will be provided to Districts and launch to be timed alongside positive news or trends leading to more normal play.
- c. Governance Structure & EDI Strategy
  - i. Joint RFP for Governance Review and EDI Strategy as per conversations with 7 experts who felt they needed to be done together as one project.
    - 1. Could be one company or 2 different ones with expertise in each area working together.
  - ii. Key Pieces:
    - 1. Board Structure, Communication and Transparency
    - 2. Rules & Regulations Review
    - 3. EDI Implementation and Strategy



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- iii. Draft will be distributed to Membership for comments.
  - 1. If major concerns a meeting will be called right away with Members. If not, then a smaller group who expressed interest will be engaged.
  - 2. Goal to have this out for tender by end of March.
- d. Alberta Soccer staff continue to work remotely due to mandatory health restrictions.
  - 1. Advise contacting by email.
  - 2. Phone system will transition to full Microsoft Teams integration this week.

**5. Next COVID-19 Update Meetings**

- a) Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

**6. Adjournment**

16A – 10:55 hrs.

16B – 19:45 hrs.