



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 & Member Update
Meeting Minutes for 17A (10:00 AM) and 17B (7:00 PM)

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Video Conference Meeting

Call to order

Present Members Meeting 17A

CUSA – Pearl Doupe, Raj Uppal
LSA – Frank Spadavecchia
EMSA – Mario Charpentier
SASA – Chris Spaidal
Airdrie – Melissa Collinson, Jamie Dorgan
EIYSA – Dan Curtis
CASA – Tammy Olson
CWSA: Jacquie Hertlein
Sunny South – Karen Wilde
Lakeland - Cheri Wolgien, Rob Russell,
Josh Phillips
CMSA - Sue Cress, Jennifer Hogg,
Jordan Stewart
EDSA – Mike Thome
NWPSA- Ken Loudon
MHSA – Robert Cavacchia
ACAC – Dean Studer
USport – Gordon Franson

ASA BOD: Shaun Hammond, Dave MacEachran,
Catherine Ridgeway, Nabeel Khudabux

ASA Staff: Richard Adams, Carmen Charron,
Claire Paterson, Jeannie Hawksworth,
Matt Thomas

Present Members Meeting 17B

NWPSA – Christine Donovan
LSA – Arlene Paiha
TCSA – James Wolters
CWSA – Sandy Sangster
EDSA – Brad Odsen
NWPSA – Darren Snider
Sunny South – Paul Anwendar
Foothills – Peter Mundy
Unknown: Mandy Longeway

Life Member: Adrian Newman

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

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



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1. Executive Director Hiring Committee (Shaun Hammond)

- a) Engaged the Vogel Group as the executive search firm.
- b) 50+ applications were received.
- c) Timeline.
 - Initial screening interviews completed by Vogel in early March.
 - Board Interviews:
 - 5 core interviews held March 22 – April 2.
 - 3 candidates, situational interviews held April 8.
 - Given a current issue to solve, which they researched and presented a solution for.
 - 3 candidates, final interviews being held week of April 19 – 24.
 - New ED expected to start within 2 – 3 weeks of hire.

2. Covid-19 Response (Richard Adams)

PATH FORWARD & RETURN TO SOCCER TIMELINES 2021*



- a) As of April 18, 2021, Indoor Group Activity is prohibited:
 - Return to Train activities for 1-on-1 are still allowed indoors and outdoors.
 - Return to Train 8 & 2 activities are allowed outdoors only.
 - Gr 7 – 12 will be going online for 2 weeks as of today in YEG following YYC's recent announcement so circumstances may change again shortly there and other similarly affected COVID hotspots.
 - Minimum 3 weeks at current stage, so May 10th at earliest for Stage 2 contactless outdoor programs. June 1st more likely for youth cohort activities (best case scenario) but harder to predict for adult.



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- Return to Train and Modified games documentation has been updated and simplified to be ready for a quick turnaround.
 - SPAR is now encouraging advocacy letters on behalf of outdoor sport resumption to Ministers and other key decision makers in the province.
 - BOD has sent a letter to the Health Ministry that has been prepared for some while but held to ensure better timing/response than what BC experienced.
 - Richard will provide standardized language for members who want to send letters.
 - At this time, we do not know if referees will or will not be considered part of cohorts.
 - This is a discussion point for the RDC and options are under consideration with safety of officials/coaches and players foremost.
 - If number of cohorts not restricted this may be less of an issue if refs open to participating in more than 1.
 - Port-a-potties can be used at outdoor facilities but must follow protocols. Districts should check with providers to ensure they are complying with them.
 - No changes anticipated for the COVID-19 Waiver updated slightly some time ago and distributed to members previously.
 - CSA Assessments only need to be done by clubs who have not done them previously.
- b) Return to Train Breaches
- Standard discipline model was approved by the Board of Directors and distributed to the membership.
 - There are still reports of full contact practices and large group sessions taking place indoors and outdoors.
 - There have been some hearings take place but only at the District level so far. Should this change, members would be informed.
 - Recommendation to still manage issues with education whenever possible, but when needed more formal discipline should take place.
 - Richard can assist as required.

3. Canada Soccer Update

a) Canada Soccer Presidential Update (Shaun Hammond)

i. AMM – SGM – May 1, 2021

- The only contested election is BC/Yukon.
 - QC only had a single candidate.
 - BC – 3 candidates
- BC/YK and QC is the territory this year for the purposes of regional selection.
- Of the 3 appointed directors, there was interest from one Albertan, but they were not selected.



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- There are two directors from Alberta on the board currently, Brian Burden and Bernie Morton. They are both appointed and applied directly to the BOD through the Nominations Committee.
 - ii. Special Meeting – April 30, 2021
 - Proposed amendments are related to the splitting of the pro club voting structure.
 - MLS would have 6 votes, CPL 15.
 - 4 additional votes to be split between MNT, WNT, Referees and Coaches.
 - MA's would retain 60 votes therefore ensuring they would maintain majority control of any votes.
 - iii. President's Forum
 - Met April 19th.
 - General discussion and review of AMM Agenda.
 - 3 issues of concern identified and have been sent by letter to the President of Canada Soccer:
 - Vetting process for BOD candidates.
 - Strong candidates from ON & AB were not approved and not interviewed by the nominations committee.
 - Globe & Mail article about \$75 million being requested by NSO's to support recovery and sport & grassroots development.
 - Canada Soccer has not consulted with the MA's about how this funding would be utilized if received after being quoted as saying any funds received would go towards community development.
 - An update on the status of the Return to Play Campaign has been requested.
 - The Canada Soccer Nominations Committee members typically come from MA Boards, but this is not a requirement if Alberta Soccer Members interested in applying.
 - YK, NWT have no cases and 70% vaccination rate so outdoor season will not require any restrictions. Atlantic other than one part of NB will be operating near normal this summer. SK and MB some recent setbacks and ON is shutdown for now. BC just declared travel restrictions in place so uncertain of the impact of that.
- b) Nationals
- i. Futsal Nationals – Cancelled
 - ii. Canadian Championship (Pro) – Cancelled
 - iii. Club Nationals



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- Planning continues but provinces will be asked over the next month to declare interest in participation.
- c) FIFA WC 2026
- i. The City of Edmonton is in the middle of the bid preparation stage for host cities. Meetings with FIFA are being held virtually in April with a planned site visit in the fall.
 - QC government has pulled their support for Montreal's bid and with BC already out offers YEG a better chance for what could potentially be 5 games.
 - ii. The City of Edmonton bid committee is looking for additional support and public pressure on the Government of Alberta to officially support the bid.
 - The economic benefits for the province are substantial and legacy projects such as facility upgrades, bursaries and grant programs will continue to give benefits long after the event.
 - Request that Alberta Soccer help through personal contacts and letter writing showing support from all over the province over the next 2 – 3 weeks.
 - Richard will supply standardized language for Districts.
 - With current political climate in Alberta and election coming, it will be important to lobby both the UCP and NDP for their support.

4. Operations Updates *(Richard Adams)*

a) Competitions

- i. Provincials
 - Outdoor Provincials - decision to be made in May 2021.
- ii. AMSL – Cancelled.
- iii. AYSL
 - Proceeding with CMSA /EMSA as operational partners.
 - Local games to start.
- iv. Multi-sport Games
 - Alberta Summer Games- Cancelled.
 - North American Indigenous Games (Nova Scotia) - Postponed to 2022 at minimum.
 - Arctic Winter Games (Wood Buffalo) – Postponed to 2023.
 - Canada Summer Games (Niagra, ON) – August 2022
- v. New Competitions
 - Men's Western Amateur League (Canadian National League) Exhibition Series
 - Draft schedule available – 3 teams AB, 2 BC, 1 MB
 - June 5th start date.
 - Women's Western Amateur League (Canadian Women's National League) Exhibition Series
 - Draft schedule available – 3 teams AB, 3 BC, 1 MB
 - June 16th start date.
 - Dependant on travel restrictions.



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- Leagues are not sanctioned by Canada Soccer yet, but exhibition games permitted.

b) Referee (*Richard Adam/Dave O'Neill*)

i. Entry Level Referee Course Update

- 19 courses in system – 187 students approved, 142 open spaces.
- 3 courses complete – just waiting for final exam results and graduation.
 - Graduates will need to complete Covid protocols webinar video review when it's available.
 - Some last -minute cancellations due to Covid 19 symptoms and close contacts and we will work with them on coordinating an alternate practical session date to attend.
- 6 EL courses ongoing at various stages.
 - Spending a lot of time following up with younger students to complete requirements on time (online modules, exams etc.)
 - Several students have had to withdraw from practical sessions at last minute due to Covid concerns (close contacts, symptoms etc.) Will work on rescheduling them into other sessions. AB Soccer may have to host some stand-alone sessions at some point to catch up with these.
 - Field sessions – restricted due to no adult indoor training overall, plus now no youth training indoor in YYC. Outdoor is an option but risky due to spring weather. We have had two weekends of snow in Edmonton first then Calgary. Hosts should discuss with Dave on case-by-case basis.

ii. Mini Referees

- Re-registration for potential returning Mini referees from 2019 or earlier has been opened as of Monday April 19th.
 - By May 15th, all of these referees will be 14 or older.
 - All Minis who were registered in 2019 have been contacted with this option, although some may have signed up for Entry Level courses already.
- There is an online 'refresher' for returning Minis (20 question quiz, need to score 80% to pass) and they will also need to complete the Covid protocols webinar video review when it's available.
 - We can't guarantee them any games depending on what programs districts operate, but there is no registration fee in any case, just some time involved in the online refresher and Covid webinar video review.
- Working with one group to develop a 'game facilitator' type course to allow interested people to referee Mini soccer to help with numbers. Not complete yet and will be made available when ready. This is to be a locally organized and scheduled session, not done through Ref Centre and is a temporary solution not a new course.



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iii. Referee Registration Update

- 607 registered, 433 have completed online refresher modules, 395 have taken or are registered for a refresher webinar.
 - All will have to complete Covid protocols webinar video review when that is available.

c) Technical (*Matt Thomas*)

Matt expressed his gratitude to members who reached out during his recent bout with Covid-19 and his ongoing recovery.

a. Town Hall Meeting Wednesday, April 28th, 6 – 7 PM

- Registration link through Technical Department and was emailed.
 - Focused on new Grassroots Stream Coaching Courses.
 - Advanced Coaching Stream.
 - Provincial Licensing Standards Group and deadline.
 - This is a great opportunity for technical people across the province to get a better understanding of all the changes and ask questions.
- NCCP Community Stream Workshops
 - March 220 – March 2021 – 1184 registered in these free courses.
 - April 2021 – 1119 more registered!
 - June 1st deadline for old system course completion – will be classified as trained when this is done.
 - Financial support from Heritage Fund of up to \$25,000 for new coaching stream.
 - Richard will work with districts to figure the best way to manage this. Waiting for some information about what reporting will look like to assist with logistics.
- C Licence
 - 33 registered for C Licence starting in May.
 - New Coach Developers engaged for this session.
- Safe Sport
 - [Webpage](#) has launched and resources continue to be added.

d) Admin – Finance (*Richard Adams*)

a. 2020 – 2021 Reporting

- 14 Districts have reported to date.
- Will be very important to have on hand from all when seeking future government funding.

b. Emergency Covid Funding

- Emergency Covid Support
 - \$179,400 in new funding.
 - Distribution plan to be confirmed in May.



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- No restrictions on applications connected to SMERG.
- SMERG
 - New round of SMERG announced for up to \$10,000 per organization.
- Outdoor fees:
 - Some Districts are using a sliding scale for fees dependent on how many games players end up participating in.
 - Current ASA Outdoor fee schedule would be higher in some cases than what is being collected for those playing fewer games.
 - Districts are asked to contact Richard directly to discuss this so the BOD can be informed when making decisions on fees in the coming months.
- c. Governance Structure and EDI Strategy.
 - Submission deadline was April 19, 2021.
 - Sub-committee of the Governance Committee part of the review and will be meeting next Monday to determine who to interview.
- d. Return to Play Campaign
 - Final logo approved.
 - Toolkits in final development stage including social media posts.
 - Will time the initial release to coincide with a positive AHS update.
 - Soft launch spring summer, probably a stronger push in the Fall when vaccination schedule allows for near normal activity.
- e. Committee Volunteers
 - Thank you to all who responded.
 - We would like additional volunteers from the Rural Districts but will review those numbers in the fall as programs restart.
 - Committee Chairs will be in contact soon after the ED hiring process is complete.
- f. Alberta Soccer staff continue to work remotely due to mandatory health restrictions.
 - Microsoft Teams Phone system now active so available by phone and email.
- g. Alberta Soccer Office
 - The office building was sold last month, and Alberta Soccer will be moving to a temporary office in May 2021.

6. Next Member Update

- a) Tuesday, May 18th

8. Adjournment

17A – 11:11 hrs. 17B – 20:05 hrs.



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