



# MEETING MINUTES

## BC SOCCER BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday May 15, 2021 9:00 am

### VIDEO/CONFERENCE CALL

#### 1. Call to Order/Roll Call 9:05 am

Present: Gayle Statton (Chair), Carlos Grosso, Chris Appleby, Don Moslin, Deb Pudek, Ralph Luongo, Don Dancey, Landon Ling (joined 9:45am), Melissa Tancredi, Peter Lonergan (joined 9:40am), John Charlton, John O'Flynn, and Jason Elligott (Executive Director).

Regrets: Leanna Napolitano and Francisco Rubio

Note: these minutes reflect the order of the agenda, however, not necessarily the order that each topic was discussed at the meeting.

#### 2. Consent Agenda

Approved including previous Board meeting minutes and committee meeting minutes.

**MOTION: To approve the minutes of the April 10, 2021 Board meeting and committee meeting minutes (by consent) 32/2021\***

**CARRIED**

\*these numbers document the motion number during the calendar year for ease of referencing.

#### 3. Business Arising from Minutes

None

#### 4. Email votes conducted in-between meetings

None

## 5. President's Report/Update and Executive Director Report/Update

The President provided a verbal update which included:

- Reminding all to be vigilant with phishing e-mails as this cyber activity has increased.
- Noting that the June 26 board meeting will be an important one that may be a bit longer.
- Planning attendance at the May 27 Sport BC AGM.
- Advising attendance at Canada Soccer's AMM on May 1, 2021.
  - o Noting that Charlie Cuzzetto was reelected for the BC/Yukon region and Charmaine Crooks was elected as Canada Soccer VP.
  - o The three independent board directors were ratified by the membership with all three being females.
  - o Both Women's and Men's National Team Head Coaches made verbal presentations to the membership.
  - o The SGM held on April 30 saw all the proposed bylaw amendments approved, including the increased percentage of the vote for professional soccer.
  - o Noting the next annual meetings are schedule for 2022 in Winnipeg and 2023 in St. Johns.
  - o Comments were made about the 2026 Men's World Cup host cities still set being considered.
  - o Safe sport and diversity, equality and inclusion were also touched on at the meeting which will be a focus moving forward, which is consistent with BC Soccer's strategic plan activity in this area.
- Advising of the work done by the President and Executive Director on the Governance Framework and Policy Framework, and now into the Director of Operations role prior to bring to the Governance Committee and then into the board for approval.
- Advising that we are still reviewing when to offer the sport law presentation designed to support volunteer boards and board members with their role and oversight of employees.
- Advising that the President and Executive Director will be attending the next North Shore Girls Soccer Club board meeting (per their request) to provide an overview of soccer in BC including the membership/governance structure, player pathway, safe sport and strategic plan overview.
- Advising that the BC Wrestling President has initiated a forum for the BC PSO President to sharing information from a strategic perspective across all sport. The first meeting was held, and the following items were discussed:
  - o Most were strategic board with operations solely with staff, with those that were looking to moving in this direction.
  - o Board's primary focus was policy, risk, and strategy.
  - o Optimal board size being between 9-11 or 12 and membership voting structures.

The Executive Director presented a summary of the May 2021 Executive Director Report (circulated prior to meeting) comprised of a high-level overview across association activities, including:

- Human Resources:
  - o Contract Female Development Lead update
- Return to Play:

- Status quo with adult soccer suspended and youth activity moved back to Phase 1 distance training with restriction on team travel.
- Ongoing and regular discussions continue to occur with ViaSport who are presenting options to get back to play to the BC Health Authority.
- The projection to year end financials was discussed and the work on how reallocations could look within the budget. It was stated that next steps would be under the Finance Committee to review and approve prior to bringing to the board for consideration.
- An update was provided regarding the correspondence and supporting documentation received from the Alouette District Youth Soccer Association regarding their dissolution.

**Motion:**            **To assign oversight of the Alouette geographical area outlined in BC Soccer Bylaw Appendix A, item b -Alouette to the TYSA and the FVYSA district soccer associations to allow Mission Soccer Club to apply for membership with the FVYSA and Ridge Meadows SC and Albion FC to apply to the TYSA with the go forward plan to bring amendments forward to the members to update the bylaws accordingly at the November 2021 BC Soccer AGM.** **33/2021**

**CARRIED**

**ACTION #1:**    **Executive Director (or designate) to ensure appropriate correspondence is sent to the impacted member associations and the bylaw amendments are brought forward to the 2021 AGM for the voting member’s consideration.**

- An update on the Facility Development Project was provided noting the letters of support that the association is gathering.
- Legal and Investigative Updates (outside of judicial)

**MOTION:**        **To go into camera.** **34/2021**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:**        **To come out of camera.** **35/2021**

**CARRIED**

**6. 2024 Strategic Plan Update**

The Strategic Plan progress report (circulated prior to the meeting) was discussed. It was stated that, in alignment with the plan, the initial focus will be on the short-term (December 2022) objectives, and as we progress this will shift to the longer-term objectives (December 2024), with the ones further out being the final focus.

## **7. Rules and Regulations Dispensation Requests**

None

## **Standing Committee Updates and Discussion Items**

### **8. Finance & Audit Committee**

The VP Finance spoke to the March 2021 summary and detailed financial statements, committee chair/staff liaison report and March 2021 updated registration report (circulated prior to the meeting). Overall, it was noted that the association continues to be in a good financial position, even under the challenging circumstances.

The projection to year end was further discussed and it was noted that a main item will be a refund or credit to members based on the impacts of COVID-19 and the health office restrictions on soccer. It was stated that the adults have been impacted more than the youth which will be reflected in the percentage calculation that is being reviewed by the Finance Committee, however, it was also stated that soccer activity did occur thus there are hard costs associated that must be covered. As noted in the Executive Director Report, the next steps would be under the Finance Committee to review and approve prior to bringing to the board for consideration with the target Board approval at the June 2021 meeting.

With the current situation on the facility project, the Executive Director reminded the board of \$1,000,000 building/facility restriction, that was originally motioned at the March 30, 2016 board meeting and restricted at the March 6, 2021 board meeting. This restriction assists with the association's Gaming Application and noted it must be used within 5 years to not negatively impact the association's gaming application moving forward. It was noted that the motions from the recent AGM will support the discussions with the Gaming Branch on the work done to date to push the facility development initiative forward.

### **9. Governance Committee**

The Committee Chair provided a verbal update on the numerous and positive discussions that are occurring with the members in the outlying areas (North, Thompson/Central Okanagan, North East and Kootenays/Cariboo) specifically regarding the for-profit inclusion discussions resulting out of the amendments to BC Soccer bylaws at the November 2020 AGM.

It was specifically stated that the Thompson/Central Okanagan district member discussions are going very well and in some other areas the discussions need some more support from BC Soccer.

Board members attending member AGM's was discussed and it was stated that this role is not to ensure compliance with bylaws but rather to attend on behalf of the association and provide updates on BC Soccer activity. The Committee Chair is working to document this and also provide a template response to member requests advising of this.

**ACTION #2: Governance Committee Chair document the role of a BC Soccer Board Members when attending member's AGM, as well as ensuring all parties are aware of same before attending.**

## **10. Membership Committee**

The Committee Chair spoke to the Committee/Staff Liaison Report circulated prior to the meeting, which included:

- Advising that the following associate membership renewal applications, including short term events, have been received and approved by the membership committee chair:
  - o None

A reminder was provided that the board previously delegated the authority to approval Associate Membership renewals to the Membership Committee Chair, therefore a motion is not required for the renewals. However, the board will be updated on all renewals at each board meeting.

- Advising that the following Associate Membership Applications had been reviewed and approved by the committee for the board's consideration:
  - o TIDE Soccer Academy (Non-Profit)

**MOTION: To approve TIDE Soccer Academy in the specified category.**

**36/2021**

**CARRIED**

**ACTION #3: Executive Director (or designate) to ensure appropriate correspondence is sent to this organization confirming associate membership with BC Soccer, while taking into consideration the current suspension of soccer activity.**

- Advising that:
  - o **Mackenzie Youth Soccer Association (MYSA)**  
BC Soccer received confirmation from the MYSA District Chair that the district has ceased to operate. Accordingly, per BC Soccer's bylaws, their membership with BC Soccer has been terminated.
  - o **Alouette District Youth Soccer Association (ADYSA)**  
BC Soccer has received notice that this district has dissolved, and its member clubs have applied for membership within neighbouring districts.
    - Albion FC and Ridge Meadows FC have applied to Tri-Cities Youth Soccer Association for membership.
    - Mission Soccer Club has applied to Fraser Valley Youth Soccer Association for membership.
- Advising of the joint discussions that are occurring with the Governance Committee Chair and the various members regarding the merging of districts and new club member applications.

## 11. Risk Management Committee

The Committee Chair provided a verbal update, which included:

- Update on Criminal Record Checks: advising that communication and instructions (via e-mail or letter), have been sent out to individuals who have recently joined the organization, and to any individual whose Vulnerable Sector Check/Enhanced Police Information Check is to expire. It was reaffirmed that only those directors, volunteers or employees who have met the Criminal Record Check, Vulnerable Sector Check or Enhanced Police Information Check requirements may participate in their role/activity as determined by BC Soccer.

The topic of Risk Management Framework and Registry was discussed, and it was noted that this is and will be a focus moving forward and will be a part of the new Director of Operations role. The role of the board as it relates to risk was touched on and it was stated that this would be included in the framework documentation.

## 12. Nominations Committee

The President advised that the Chair, Kjeld Brodsgaard is working to populate the committee members and that the staff liaison will be Gabriel Assis, Director of Operations. The President also advised that a board matrix is being developed and once complete will be provided to the Nomination Committee Chair to support the more target recruitment to fill any identified gaps.

## Independent

## 13. Judicial

The Judicial Chair Report was circulated prior to the meeting which included updates on the number of complaints received, discipline/appeal/protest activity and where they are current at from a process perspective.

The letter from the Judicial Chair regarding Preston GM Langley FC was discussed.

**MOTION: To go into camera. 37/2021**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION: To come out of camera. 38/2021**

**CARRIED**

**MOTION: To expel Preston GM Langley FC's (as the BC SPL Franchise holder operating as Fraser Valley Premier) participation in the BC SPL based on club being dissolved and still being under suspension by the District (FVYSA). 39/2021**

## **CARRIED**

**ACTION #4: Executive Director (or designate) to inform the Fraser Valley Youth Soccer Association (the District).**

### **Board Chaired Operational Committee Updates and Discussion Items**

#### **14. Adult Competitions**

The Committee Chair provided a verbal update, which included:

- The committee's desire to wait for the decision from Canada Soccer regarding Nationals to determine 2021 Adult Provincial Championships status. However, it was also stated that the championships would unlikely proceed as a result of the health restrictions on soccer activity.
- Planning for 2022 and the 100<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> year celebration for the Men's and Women's Adult Provincial A Cup Championships respectively.
- Attending a PCSL meeting where discussion arose around the forthcoming introduction of League 1 BC.

The Executive Director provided a brief update on the recent discussions regarding a potential exhibition series for some teams from BC with Alberta and Manitoba teams.

The Canada Soccer Competitions Committee member also advised that their next meeting was scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **15. Diversity and Inclusion**

The Committee Chair provided a brief verbal update advising of the recent committee's discussions, including:

- Thanking Melissa Tancredi for chairing the last meeting.
- Advising that the Director of Operations is working on the DEI plan as we work towards the desired outcome of the 2024 Strategic Plan.
- Specifically stating that the committee will shift to advisory in their role with staff taking more of the lead under the Director of Operations.
- Advising that the new Director of Inclusion with the Whitecaps have been added to the committee.

There was discussion regarding the educational offering we should consider in this area. The Executive Director advised that the Director of Operations is currently looking at developing structure and ensure board and staff are taking the appropriate training on DEI and also safe sport, which the aim of also making these a recommendation for the members/clubs.

Acknowledging aboriginal land was touched on as it was noted that this is now in BC Soccer staff signatures. It was suggested that the committee could look more thoroughly into this to see what the best approach is.

## **16. Youth Competitions**

The Committee Chair spoke to the Committee/Staff Liaison Report circulated prior to the meeting, which included:

- Advising the Staff have sent Youth Competitions Committee members copies of surveys meant to gather information with which to improve the competitions. One survey is to be sent to District/Club officials with another meant to go to team officials who may participate in the A or B Cup.
- Staff are currently reviewing hosting standards to improve the professionalism and event aspect of the Provincial Championships.

It was also stated that the next Youth Forum is scheduled from May 18<sup>th</sup>.

## **17. Board Regional Liaison Updates**

The board members provided various updates on the activity and discussions within the different member organizations, including:

- Tri-Cities AGM is scheduled from May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- North Shore is looking to schedule their AGM in June and there has been a lot of good activity occurring that is aligned with the Return to Play guidelines.
- Ongoing discussions with members in the North, Kootenays and Okanagan.
- Lower and Upper Island have provided a discussion paper into BC Soccer staff regarding adjusting league structures on the island which would impact rules, regulations, and provincial cup activity. It was noted this is being reviewed and will be brought to the various committees as needed as more information and dialog occurs.
- Fraser Valley is currently focusing on the acceptance of Missions SC.
- All other regions were touched on and it was stated that most are quiet but overall are looking forward to and are anticipating a more fully return to play as soon as we can.

## **18. New Business / Any Other Business**

Two candidates were discussed for nominations as Life Members. Both received positive support from the entire board. It was agreed that a motion would be considered in alignment with the other BC Soccer awards, similar to annual practice.

## **19. Next Meetings (subject to change)**

- June 26, 2021
- September 11, 2021
- October 2, 2021
- November 5, 2021 (evening pre-AGM)
- November 6, 2021 – AGM

## **20. Adjournment**

- 11:05 am

