

Central Alberta Soccer Association
SPRING PLANNING TECHNICAL MINUTES
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
7:30 pm
Virtual

Meeting Called to Order:

PRESENT:

Bashaw Soccer Club- Michelle Hilderman, **Bentley Minor Soccer** – Juanita Bender,
Blackfalds Minor Soccer – Wayne Murphy, **Camrose & District Soccer** – Amanda Boateng, **Clive Soccer Club** : Angela Gessleman, **Innisfail Minor Soccer** – Amy Adam **Lacombe Soccer Club** : Jaymen Hand
Penhold Minor Soccer – Diana Clark,
Ponoka Minor Soccer – Rob McArthur, **Rimbey Minor Soccer** – Laurel Barton **Rocky Knights Soccer**–
Olivia Atwater, Ryan Jillard **Spruce View Minor Soccer** – Rolf vonBentham, **Stettler Minor Soccer** – C.J.
Oprea, Wade Stewart,
Sylvan Lake Soccer – Brandyn Leveque, Wetaskiwin **Soccer Club** : Tad Kircher, Les Sherrer

EXECUTIVE-STAFF:

President- Jon Mulder **1st Vice President** – Lonny Behm
Executive Director – Tammy Olson, **DRA** – Philip Ignacio, **Past-President** – Tracy Everett

GUEST:

Alvaro Pina – CASA Technical Team

ABSENT:

Central Alberta Men's League, SC Central

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 7:30

Roll Call taken – 14 of 16 Current Members Present

President (J. Mulder) outlined the meeting, rules. One person peaking at a time. A limit of two minutes. We have many things to get through in the meeting so must manage our time. You can comment in chat as well and we will address those questions, by someone on the Executive or Staff Answering in chat. You may also submit an email after.

Review Minutes of Technical-Planning Meeting – February 23, 2022

- No Errors or Omissions
- No comments
- Bentley (M. Lundy) motioned Minutes be accepted as Presented, 2nd by Ponoka (R. McArthur)
All in favour. CARRIED

Business Arising from minutes of last meeting.

- No Business Arising
1. Technical Program Presentation (Presentation attached) – Technical Director (L. Behm)
 - a. U9 League – will be developing a U9 Development League. The Smaller Communities will be kept in their own program. A separate League will be made for other communities.
Discussion –
 - Rimbey (L. Barton) – Will those who played in the past still be required to run their own any everyone else is under CASA. L. Behm answered, no they will all be under CASA. T. Olson distances will be kept at a minimum.
 - Bentley (M. Lundy) – how will it be decided who is in each group? It will remain the same as you have in the past.
 - Spruce View (R. von Bentham) – They are already part of it, CASA will create schedule and oversee their program. Schedule posted on-line. Creates easy access.
 - Rimbey (L. Barton) – With new U9 does it remain a Mini Referee? District Referee (P. Ignacio) – Yes we still use Mini Referees and hope to have Referee Mentors in each community to assist the Mini Referees.
 - Lacombe (T. Green) – Are these try out teams? T.D. (L. Behm) No there will be no Try-outs, it is whomever wishes to Travel. Also asked about Tiering. It can be looked at but not necessarily a way to go.

- There was a question as to whether or not U9 should change to 5v5 as in the Canada Soccer proposal, or remain at 7v7 .
- There has also been a suggestion that U9 not have a keeper. No one felt this was logistical it leaves a void when they eventually move to U11.
- Another concern brought forward was that there is a recommendation that U9 only do kick-ins when the ball goes out. However Mini Referees are taught that it must be a throw-in. CASA will stay with the Throw-in, to ensure no confusion.
- Nights of play – Monday and or Wednesday – Other Scenarios can also apply.
 - Weekend Festival Style – 4 teams – Each team plays each other once – 3 games total.
 - One game at a time in one location against one team
 - Three 20-minute games in one location (using two fields) with four teams as well.
 - It is recommended that matches at U9 are 40 minutes but can play up to a maximum of 60 minutes in a day.

A survey will be sent out addressing all of these questions by the E.D. (T. Olson) to formulate a plan.

- Small communities
 - This program will continue as it has in the past. CASA will create the schedule and administer it. Creates consistency in the district.
 - Create Gender Specific teams wherever possible.
- Larger communities
 - These teams will be in the Larger CASA Communities
 - All Players who wish to participate will be allowed.
 - Create Gender Specific Teams wherever possible.

b. Travel League Divisions

- U11 Boys and Girls (Separated into 4 divisions)
 - Boys Tier 4
 - Boys Tier 3
 - Girls Tier 4
 - Coed

Technical Director (L. Behm) – Gender specific teams assist in Player Development as well as long-term player participation. It is understood that this is not always possible in CASA with smaller communities, which is why if there are enough to create a Co-ed Division we will do so. Per just released Canada Soccer Guidelines, the new U11 recommendation is 7 v 7. 6 players plus a Keeper on the field. CASA will remain at 8 v 8. Recommended Team Size a maximum of 12.

Discussion –

- Blackfalds (W. Murphy) – How will the Tiers be determined. T.D. (L. Behm) Last year if a community had more than one team at U11 they were asked to create a Tier 3 team. There were some issues with teams. The try-out process was either not followed or the team entering Tier 3 was not necessarily at the level of the other teams. You are still allowed to submit two Tier 4 teams if that is their skill level.
- Ponoka (R. McArthur) – He felt last year Tier 3 was a brilliant idea He recommends that if you have the ability to create those two teams, sending one to Tier 3 that would be the best option.
- Rimbey (L. Barton) – Will CASA assist communities who have never had Tier 3 in this process. L. Behm - yes
- The membership is in favour of creating Tier 3, Tier 4 and Co-ed. There was some concern with labelling our teams Tier 3. It kept teams out of many rural tournaments. One recommendation was having Tier 4A and Tier 4B. CASA Technical would determine if a Team from Tier 4A was better suited to Tier 4 tournaments.
- Wetaskiwin (L. Sherrer) asked why CASA was not going to follow all Canada Soccer Recommendations. Technical Director (L. Behm) said Canada Soccer says to “Do your best to implement the Grassroots Standards while understanding that some standards may not be possible to achieve in your region.” We are allowed to modify our programs to what suits our area. Field Size can also be an issue. Out clubs cannot just create new fields for all these different formats. CASA will switch if the Membership requests it.

The E.D. (T. Olson) will add the U11 questions to the Survey coming out this week.

- U13 Boys
Tier 4, Co-ed and Tier 3 if numbers and teams warrant.
Executive Director (T. Olson) reminds everyone that U13 is the Provincial level. At this Level there is no Co-ed. The Divisions are Boys and Girls. If a team is Co-ed they are required to play in the Boy's Division. Registration is being monitored and the numbers so far are looking very positive, unsure if at this time it will support Tier 3, but it is looking positive.
 - Wetaskiwin (L. Sherrer) want CASA to switch to the New Canada Soccer Recommendation of 9 v 9 at U13. Some fields are too big for these players. Technical Director (L. Behm). Most tournaments are 11 v 11 as are Provincials, it also means adding more field sizes. None of this is feasible currently. This would be detrimental to our teams when provincially and with tournaments it is still 11 v 11.
- U13 Girls
- U15 Boys
- U15 Girls
- U17/19 Boys and U17/19 Girls, as well as possible Co-Ed
Rocky Mountain House (R. Jillard). Please provide on clarity as to what age groups can play together. Can U15's play on a U19 team. No, this is not allowed as per Alberta Soccer.
T. Olson – Please note that in a combined League like this U17 only teams vie for U17 Provincial berths – Mixed U17 and U19 teams vie for U19 Provincials
Lacombe (T. Green) – How do the numbers look for this Division. T. Olson – The numbers are looking very good for this early in the Boys' Division. The girls are not as good. However not all registrations are linked directly to CASA in Ramp and not everyone has opened registration yet.

c. Summer Soccer Programs

- Tier 2 or 3 (CASA United)
 - This a re-creation of a former CASA program. In the past we have had all Tiers.
 - These teams will be created for after the Tier 4 Season and will not affect Community based teams.
 - Will give an opportunity to those players who wish to compete longer and at a higher level to be a part of these teams through the Summer, attending tournaments and possible Provincials as well.
 - The plan for 2023 is two have U11 Boys and U11 Girls, U13 Boys and U13 Girls. Looking at the U17 / U19 Group if there are not enough teams there is a possibility of creating a District Team under CASA united at the beginning of the season.
 - More information will be coming out as it becomes available.
 - Bentley (M. Lundy) asked when the try-outs would be. The try-outs would be centralized in CASA, sometime in May.
 - Technical Director is looking for Coaches who would be interested in working in this program. They are accepting resumes. Alvaro Pina will be accepting these applications at the following email address casa.united.soccer@gmail.com
- Summer Continuation League – Tier 4
This would allow players and communities that wish to play more soccer an opportunity to keep playing. This may be in a league format, or possibly a few festival style tournaments on weekends. Due to camping, holidays etc. games may be modified to allow maximum number of participants and communities. Meaning that smaller sided games, 4v4, 5v5 etc. would be incorporated. Small team fee (\$50).

Please contact the Technical Director (L. Behm) if your community or are interested in either of these programs.

- What kind of timeline would we be looking at to confirm the Summer Continuation League – Middle of the season at the latest in order to organize
- Wetaskiwin (T. Kircher) – Is C-License required for CASA United . Not required but recommended
- Wetaskiwin (L. Sherrer) – Is C-License required for Provincials. Not only Soccer for Life for Tier 3. The comment re challenging refers to if there ever come a point where CASA

has more than one Tier 2 or Tier 3 teams in a particular program they would playoff for the Provincial Berth.

- T. Olson – These programs are being created to offer more opportunities for our players, whether that be a Summer Recreational League of challenging themselves at a higher Tier. CASA is growing all the time and this is a great opportunity for our Players

d. Player Development / Coach Development

- Call Ups- This is very important for a few reasons. Allowing a younger player to play up an age division.
 - This allows the player to play against better competition which allows your association to see where the players development is and also affords the player an opportunity to push him or herself.
 - When the older age group are short players it allows the team to have a few substitution options and in some circumstances it would allow for games to be played without forfeiting and/or being rescheduled.
 - Please use this rule that is available to you. Also higher Tier teams ask to use your players as a trialist, allow them to play the game. This is allowed and encourages, as long as it does not interfere with their current team's schedule.
 - **Informal Coach Education**- classroom, session planning, demo a session, have coaches plan a session and deliver a session. Then we Debrief as a group. Open informal conversation about the game. We can talk formations, tactics, set plays.
- **Technical Dates –** ALL Tentative – Programming and dates may change information will be released when it becomes available.
- **FEBRUARY –**
 - CASA ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL LEADS TO BE SUBMITTED
 - Technical Meeting
 - Player Clinic - Calgary Cavalry Soccer Day - FEB. 25 & 26th 10:00am - 1:00pm
- **MARCH-**
 - 1-2 Formal Coaching Clinics
 - Keeper Clinic
 - CASA UNITED COACHING APPLICATIONS, PLAYER RECOMMENDATIONS BEGIN
- **APRIL - (8/9th or 15/16)**
 - 1-2 Formal Coaching Clinics
 - CASA UNITED EVALUATIONS - The Dome, Great Chief Park or Lacombe
 - CASA CLUBS BOOK 1 - 3HR KEEPER SESSION
- **MAY - (7th?)**
 - AB SUMMER GAMES TRYOUTS, - May 13
 - *Informal Coaching Clinics* - or CASA C - License
 - CASA UNITED TRYOUTS - Ponoka
 - CASA CLUBS BOOK 1 3HR KEEPER CLINIC
- **JUNE –**
 - PROVINCIAL QUALIFIERS - 23-25th
 - Formal Coaching Clinic Soccer 4 Life
- **JULY**
 - July 20th - 23rd AB SUMMER GAMES
 - July 7th - 9th PROVINCIALS
- **AUGUST - (1st - 6th)**
 - Week Long Soccer Clinic or Weekend Clinic
 - CAMP CASA Finishing, Passing and Receiving, Technique/ball mastery skills, Keeper clinic
 - Tier 1-3 Provincials

e. Coach Development

On-Line Coaching Certification Clinics. Coaches will be required to pay up front for Courses. They will be reimbursed during the Season; CASA will forward their portion to all Clubs in a Lump Sum along with list of certified Coaches. Reimbursement will not be given to Coaches who do not complete the minimum of the Theory Section for Each Level Active Start to Soccer For Life. The Respect in Sport Portion will also be refunded. CASA has remaining Grant money to a majority of this fee. The number of certifications will determine the amount of reimbursement.

- Respect In Sport
- Making Ethical Decisions
- Making HEADWAY - free
- Active start - 1.5 hour online - 2 hour in person practical
- Fundamentals - 1.5 hour online - 3 hour in person practical
- Learn to Train - 2 hour online - 4 hour in person practical.
- Soccer 4 Life - 2 hour online - 4 hour in person practical
- C- License - Course and Evaluation – Contact Lonny regarding this program.

- **Formal Coach Education** - Players would show up and have a skills session, once coaches are done with their formal classroom session, we would go to the field and use those players for the coaches to run their session to be evaluated.

Technical Director – Lonny Behm – Closing Comments

FAIR PLAY

We need to start applauding good play from the opposition. Create a positive safe experience and atmospheres for players, we need to get away from rivalries and grudges. We have no idea what players are going through or coming from, their play may dictate their life etc. Let's be role models and mentors.

2. Referee Program

a. Referee Certification Courses (Executive Director- T. Olson)

Tammy books all courses, sets them up and accepts registrations. Some dates have been booked by Clubs requesting them, there are still some openings to run Certifications Clinics

- Mini – Minimum 12 years of age by May 15
There are two dates for the end of April.
The Mini Level Course runs for One full day, Classroom and in-person.
- Entry Level - Minimum 14 years of age by May 15
We will run 4 Entry Level Courses

The Course structure for Entry Level has changed. The Theory portion will still be on-line in advance of the course. The in-person Classroom and Field Session will be on one day. This does reduce the time on a weekend compared to the former two full days. The exam will be completed after that date to receive full Certification.

- Refreshers
Clubs can request Refreshers we will run what is needed.
The Refreshers are all in person, no field required just classroom.
- Tammy will be forwarding a list of all available courses to each Club as well as posting on both Facebook, Instagram and CASA Website. Please contact her to have your course set up.
- Clubs, please ensure that CASA is informed of All Referees who take courses outside of CASA for example in Red Deer or Edmonton. Sometimes when referees take courses outside of CASA they end up on the list from Alberta Soccer in that District, instead of ours. Taking Courses outside of CASA also requires pre-payment by the Referee so they need to keep their receipts for their Club to receive reimbursement. Taking courses in CASA requires no direct payment from the Referees in our District.
- Returning Referees will receive an email from CASA as a reminder to register for the year and pay their yearly registration fee (Youth and District Level). Mini Referees need to register as well but will not be charged a fee.

b. Referee Mentorship

- Referee Mentor for all communities (CASA DRA – P. Ignacio)
 - Mentorship is a large part of a properly developing our Referees. We are once again requesting that communities assign an experienced Referee from their community (wherever possible) to be that contact for Philip and Tracy.
 - CASA's large geographic area does not allow for just two people to be able to mentor every Referee.
 - A Mentorship package will be developed by Philip so that all mentors are working from the same script.
 - We have mentorship programs in some of our larger centre's but we want everyone to be able to benefit from mentorship
 - Mentors should be a paid position. The communities who currently use them pay the Mentor the same fee as the Head Referee Fee for that age group.
 - Please submit these names to CASA, as soon as possible.
 - We also need Referee Co-ordinators sent to the CASA Office as soon as possible.

- Referee Development
 - The hope is the during the year, especially for the new Referees, to have in-person sessions, where they can watch videos, aske questions. Have a festival type format with available teams to have a game. Referees will be substituted throughout these games.
 - Referee Recruitment is not the responsibility of CASA but of the Clubs to put out the word in their communities. This can include Schools, social Media posts, Newspaper ads etc.
 - CASA Assistant DRA (T. Everett). He needs communities to send an email from your communities stating your interest, so that he can talk to School, Boards for High School, Kids to get Work Experience credits, Junior High would be eligible for an extra percentage on their Physical Education Mark. He needs the support of the Clubs to make this step. Tracy will need a contact from each community. He will create a document for you to send to give to your Schools. P. Ignacio – The g=hours they work as a Referee as well as the training are applied to the number of work experience hours.
 - Tracy's email address has been provided for you to contact him for the Recruitment program. He is currently creating the document for your club to present, so please reach out to him.
 -
 - Referee Committee.
 - Philip Ignacio, Tracy Everett and Mark Chanasyk as well as a select number of the Referee Mentors will be a part of the Referee Committee. They will develop mentorship materials and an evaluation process. By monitoring the achievements of the Referees they can then submit their names to be a Referee at Provincials or recommend them for the Alberta Soccer Upgrade program
 - The committee will start small but will grow.
 - Comments, Questions, Discussion
 - Rimbey (L. Barton) – They have reached out to their High School. The school said they would be happy to help promote but it would be too short of an interval to set up as Work Experience – Tracy has spoken with some Wolf Creek Principles who are on Board. He will check into the situation. – Wetaskiwin (L. Sherrer) also commented that they can be Coaches in Mini Soccer programs and also get credits for that. So many credits per hour. Lonny Behm each school may have a different program, sometimes it's a volunteer program.
 - Question – what are Mini Referees eligible to do – They can AR un to U15 and Head Referee for U9.
 - President (J. Mulder), it has been said many times that without Referees we have no games. Look at referees as a part of your Club not a separate entity,

just like Coaches and players are. Many Referees are players and Coaches. Have them meet with the players and Coaches.

Philip Ignacio final comments. Referees should be submitting Game sheets as part of their duties. They need to also submit their Discipline reports directly after games. They will be taught this at all Referee Courses this season. Game sheets need to be submitted by picture text. This is a change but will be done just like coaches currently do. Red Card reports need to be typed and emailed.

3. Deadlines (T. Olson- Executive Director)

- Important CASA Deadlines
 - Season Pre-declarations April 1
 - League Teams Final Declaration – April 15
Players and Coaches need to be assigned by your registrars in the system to their proper teams. For those not on Ramp you will receive your SharePoint log-in for uploading the rosters with players and Coaches.
 - U9-U19 League Starts – May 8
 - A full calendar will be sent out by the E.D.

4. CASA Protocols / Code of Conduct (T. Olson- Executive Director)

CASA Contact Protocols

- As our District continues to grow, we must follow the CASA Protocols for contact. We must remember that there are currently 16 clubs as you multiply that by players, coaches and parents, the number is substantial.
- Please ensure that your Coaches, Parents and players are informed of these contact protocols

Player /Parent ----- Coach

Coach ----- Local Soccer Board

Coaches may receive emails from CASA directly related to League Play, Development Opportunities. All complaints or concerns must be sent through their local Rep.

Local Soccer Board Reps ----- CASA Executive Director-----CASA Executive Board

CASA Executive director and CASA Executive Board ----- Alberta Soccer Association

Referee----- Local Referee Co-ordinator, Local Referee Mentor

As well as CASA DRA and Assistant DRA

CASA Codes of Conduct

Please be reminded that Codes of Conduct apply to Parents, Spectators, Players, Coaches, Referees and Board members.

Respect each other and if you have a concern in an appropriate manner. Lonny touched on this earlier in his statement about Fair play. Have your Board sense an email. Don't confront people at fields or call them out at meetings. Handle issues in a professional manner.

President (J. Mulder) – All Codes of conduct are on the CASA Website. Sometimes a Coaches Meeting at the beginning of the season may help in this process.

Executive Director (T. Olson) The CASA Codes of Conduct will become one document that will apply to everyone. This is part of our Policy updates, Rules and Regulations and By-laws Revisions, these will all be voted on at a Special General Meeting – April 5. Directly before the Spring Meeting on the same date. These documents will all be sent out to a minimum of 14 days in advance for your review as well as comments or questions

5. SQS (Standard of Quality Soccer) Certification Update

- a. Declaration of Interest
 - Most CASA Clubs have submitted their declaration of interest.
- b. Required Documents
 - All policies that will be presented to the membership as well as those currently on the CASA Website can be adopted (with your own revisions as needed) by everyone, Many of the requirements below will be in combined documents created by CASA and or adopted from Alberta Soccer and Canada Soccer
 - Code of Conduct and Ethics
 - Code of Conduct to Protect Children

- Guidelines for Appropriate/Inappropriate Conduct between Adults/Adolescents and Children
 - Policy requiring that any suspicion of child abuse is reported to law enforcement
 - Policy outlining what to do if you witness inappropriate conduct that is provided to parents, coaches, and team personnel
 - Provides an environment that supports participant's physical and emotional safety (free of bullying, discrimination, etc.)
- c. Coaching Qualifications
- Get your Coaches who are already signed up taking the on-line portion now. It can be done at any time. They can go in and out of the course as their personal time permits.
- All Travel Team Head Coaches including U9 Must be Fully Certified.
- **Modified Safe Sport Roster – Required Training**
 - Criminal Record Check with Vulnerable Sector Screen
 - Canada Soccer Grassroots Coach Education – Coaching Soccer in Canada Module
 - Respect in Sport Activity Leader Program
 - **Highly Recommended Training: Head Coaches in CASA for all Age Groups must have this**
 - Stage-appropriate Canada Soccer Grassroots Coach Education – Theory Module
 - (Active Start, Fundamentals, Learn to Train, Soccer for Life)
 - Stage-appropriate Canada Soccer Grassroots Coach Education – Practical Module
 - (Active Start, Fundamentals, Learn to Train, Soccer for Life)
 - **Recommended Training:**
 - Other requirements of the full Safe Sport Roster
 - **Full Safe Sport Roster – Required Training**
 - NCCP Make Ethical Decisions Module and/or Online Evaluation
 - NCCP Making Headway Module
 - NCCP Emergency Action Planning Module
 - NCCP Rule of Two Module

Questions and Comments

- What is the Coaching Soccer in Canada? T. Olson, this module appears as soon as you sign up for a Course of any of the levels listed
- How does the monitoring work – T Olson everyone needs to have started the process, as soon as you have everything in place it is submitted. Please reach out if you don't understand.
- Bentley (M. Lundy) – The process seems overwhelming in regard to Coaches having all of these requirements. – Technical Director (L. Behm) That is why Alberta Soccer fought so hard to get some of these requirements reduced, coaches need much less than they did when it originally came out. In the end though our players and Coaches will have a much better experience if those in leadership understand how to Coach that age group and what their abilities are. Reach out at any time for assistance to either Lonny or Tammy

Executive Director and Technical Director Closing Comments: What do you need for documentation?

What do we need to provide for you? Are you a registered Society. Most CASA Clubs are registered societies. This protects both you board and your membership. The only requirement once you are a registered society is an annual financial report to show that your Club is in good standing. CASA is required to be a registered society as a member of Alberta Soccer. If you are in the process both CASA and Alberta Soccer will work with you to achieve this goal.

6. New Business

Congratulations to Lonny Behm CASA Technical Director on his two Alberta Soccer Awards – ASA Technical Leader Award as well as the Award of Merit. Lonny thanks everyone, as we are all a part of making this District as strong as it is.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:45 pm