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### **Annual General Meeting – Executive Director’s 2021 Report**

Thank you all for joining us tonight. Your support of adult soccer is greatly appreciated.

In review of our last year, we still find ourselves in the midst of COVID and, as such, implemented the Vaccination Policy for the safety of our participants but also as a response to our members’ wishes. This preference of the members, essentially, is what solidified the implementation of the Vaccination Policy. Your suggestions and constructive criticism are extremely helpful and we encourage anyone with an idea to bring it to my attention.

The support of the policy was helpful, but the logistics have not been easy. Verifying thousands of players (and many players more than once because they are on more than one team) has delayed game sheet entry. I determined that verifications are priority over game statistics and, as a result, game sheets started behind from the get-go. As flawed as this system may be, it was necessary and this decision was made with the player’s safety and eligibility in mind.

This is similar to the perspective of our board. Staff take their lead by knowing that they want what is best for the entire league and players within SAS. The decisions of the board are never made lightly, and are made with the interests of the players/teams as well as the league. Not one board member is volunteering their time for personal gain. They have dedicated much effort to SAS, and they deserve far more credit and praise than they receive. Thank you to the board for your limitless contribution to soccer and SAS. Now more than ever.

I am also grateful to the players. I am aware that, without the players, we wouldn’t have a league. So thank you to the players for staying with us throughout the pandemic. We may have different perspectives and opinions, and some decisions made by SAS are not always understood by our members. However, I am here as a representative of the board and am always open to conversations with our players, team contacts, referees and directors. I truly am happy to help when I can. After all, we all want to see our league thrive.

To continue to thrive, we also need our staff. Rebecca and Ifman continue to be exemplary. Learning RAMP (which is endless!), working on projects throughout the slowdown and dealing with suspensions are not always a joy. The latter most especially. In 6 weeks, we have already reached the same number of Violent Conduct suspensions that we did through all of Indoor 2019-2020. We understand that COVID has brought on much frustration, mental issues and fatigue but I want to take this time to remind everyone: we are here **for fun**, and to socialize and exercise. Even with a competitive nature or team, **SAS is a recreational league** that should bring us together with our united love of the game. It wasn’t the referee’s fault that ‘you’ punched someone. ‘You’ did it. Just relax. Share a titanic, and consider your own actions and take responsibility for them. And by ‘you’, I mean a very small number of our participants but participants nonetheless.

While reviewing statistics, a quick acknowledgement of the women’s leagues for keeping our yellow and red card stats low and almost never giving the wrong verification information. The gentlemen of the league could take a lesson from the ladies!

Once again, we are hopeful *everything* will get better – COVID, suspensions, RAMP, all of it. I look forward to getting back to a pre-COVID norm but am also happy with what we’ve maintained in the meantime.

Thank you again to everyone in attendance, and throughout our league.

Be well, and have a Merry Christmas!

Danielle Bryk  
Executive Director  
Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc.