



Williams Lake Youth Soccer Association

#207 - 369 Oliver Street
Williams Lake, BC V2G 1M4
Phone: 250-392-1103 Fax: 250-392-6210
www.wlysa.com admin@wlysa.com

Williams Lake Youth Soccer Association Annual General Meeting

October 14, 2020 – Hosted Via Zoom.

Meeting Called to Order: 7:04pm

Roll Call: Nara Riplinger, Angie Johnson, Marnie Brenner, Andrea Gustafson, Kelvin Parent, Brian Hansen, Ian Neels, Naomi Miller, Kara Relf, Kirk Dressler, Mary Thurow, Oliver Hitch, Alexis Forseille.

Approval of 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes

Moved: Angie Johnson

Seconded: Brian Hansen

That the Directors of the WLYSA approve the 2019 Annual General Meeting Minutes as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising: plan for Covid will be discussed at next meeting.

Director Reports:

Review of reports:

President – Nara Riplinger

Vice President – Ian Neels

Treasurer – Kirk Dressler.

Esler Complex/Indoor Facility – Brian Hansen

Senior Coordinator – Andrea Gustafson

Administrator Report – Alexis Forseille

Technical Director Report – Oliver Hitch

Election of Officers and Directors:

Positions are up for re-election.

President: Nara Riplinger stepping down. Thank you for your work and leadership.

Nominations for president: Nara Riplinger nominated Ian Neels for president. Declined. Rules: VP the intern president until new one be found. Intern President will be Ian Neels.

Secretary: Tammy Watson will step down.

Nominations for secretary: Nara Riplinger nominated Kara Relf. Kara Accepted the nomination. No other nominations. Congratulation Kara Relf.

Directors position 1: Senior Director Andrea Gustafson let her name stand for re-election.
Two vacate Director position

Tara Sherlock and Rya Enns stepping down.

Directors position 2: left empty

Directors position 3: left empty

New Business:

Indoor session for upcoming winter season. Submitted to school district haven't heard anything yet.
Return to play plan

Date for 2021 AGM: October 20th 2021 Wednesday

Meeting Adjourned: 7:56pm

President's Report – AGM – September 2020

2019/2020 was the year that wasn't. The COVID-19 global pandemic all but shut down our season. We hope that 2021 will see players, coaches, and referees back on the field enjoying the beautiful game! This will be my last year as President. I feel that I am leaving the Association in very capable hands with our new staff and dedicated board members. They have clear goals of putting kids first, making soccer accessible for everyone, and making our Association part of the active community of Williams Lake.

Administrator Alexis Forseille continued to streamline our registration and sponsorship. She actively communicated with our members and the greater community using social media. We continue to be impressed with her efficiency and thoughtfulness of our association and our members.

Oliver Hitch continued with quality programming through the winter months and was geared for our spring/summer season when all plans were halted on March 13. Oliver patiently waited until BCSA allowed training to resume. He ran a limited summer session that was appreciated by all those who attended. He also organized a summer camp that will hopefully take roots and grow next year. We appreciate the vision that Oliver has and look forward to him being able to work towards it more thoroughly next season.

Registration:

We gained \$2857.50 in donations. We had 67 players for the summer sessions and currently have 98 players participating in the fall sessions.

Rep and Development Soccer:

Minimal activity occurred due to the pandemic.

Field conditions and Esler Complex:

Brian Hansen, along with Bob and Oliver, worked tirelessly to ensure the fields were in excellent shape. Brian was able to use grant funding (Northern Development Initiative Trust) to complete a number of big projects such as improving Scotia and roofing the clubhouse. Potable water is also on the horizon. Thank you to Brian, Kirk, and Alexis for securing funds to make these projects possible!

Referees:

Referee clinics were cancelled. Online refresher clinics were recently made available (October 2020) but we will be encouraging all referees to take this refresher before spring 2021.

Scholarships:

In an effort to offer more support to graduating students who played, coached, and/or refereed soccer for WLYSA we continued our scholarship donation of \$2000 this year. We were able to offer four, \$500 scholarships to help out 4 deserving student athletes with their post-secondary education. Our 2020 scholarship recipients were Ben Airey, Dayton Smith-Hall, Emma Pittman,

and Tiana Brenner. We had one 2020 recipient defer for a second year due to the post-secondary institutions moving to online only.

Finances:

With a near 100% drop in registration this year, we needed financial assistance. We unfortunately had to ask Oliver to not report to work as there was no work for him to do; he was able to access federal funds (Canadian Emergency Response Benefit). We were able to apply for federal wage subsidy for Alexis which helped our association. Both grants available from the Government of Canada allowed us to keep our staff members employed without a major financial hit.

We continue to work to secure grants as they become available (Via Sport, NDI). Kirk has been steadfast in keeping our board fiscally responsible; thank you, Kirk!

Nara Riplinger, WLYSA President

2020 WLYSA Vice Presidents Report

It has been a year like no other for the WLYSA in many ways. With the cancellation of our spring season due to Covid-19 it has put a lot of pressure on the organization and its members. Although the majority of the soccer season was cancelled we were able to have a successful indoor season in the beginning of the term before the start of the pandemic. I really want to thank the staff and the volunteers who stayed with us during this difficult year. I believe we are well positioned for 2021 with a lot of upgrades to the Esler facility and a great board of directors, staff, volunteers, coaches and players that have a passion for soccer and this community. I am excited for the next year in the WLYSA as we continue on the return to play.

Discipline and Fair Play

There was not any recorded incidents in the Oct 2019- Oct 2020 in the WLYSA. Although there was not as many hours on the pitch this fiscal year, we have developed some more policies to help govern our association in the years to come. We will continue to work with our members in 2021 to ensure to provide a safe and respectful youth soccer organization.

Ian Neels

Vice President WLYSA

WILLIAMS LAKE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

2020 TREASURER'S REPORT

Kirk Dressler

Hello all! 2020 has been an extremely challenging year for the WLYSA on all fronts. Late 2019 and early 2020 were promising, with the Technical Director, Oliver Hatch developing new programs and having a successful indoor season. Then, in the spring of 2020, just prior to the commencement of the spring season, the world was struck by the COVID-19 pandemic, and everything was turned upside down. Almost all activities were suspended and it became impossible to continue with the spring season or any other programs or activities. It was not until June that there was a cautious and partial return to play. But this return was very limited, and there were nowhere near the number of participants that the WLYSA would typically expect to see. This is not surprising, considering that there continues to be very real and legitimate fear about COVID transmission, and most team or contact sports activities have been significantly curtailed.

The impact of the pandemic from a financial perspective has been profound. Registration fees are the primary source of revenue for the WLYSA, and with the suspension of soccer programs for the early part of the year and a very limited return in the latter part of the year, the WLYSA's registration revenue has been decimated. Pre-pandemic, the organization had budgeted for approximately \$115,000 in registration fees. The unfortunate reality is that the WLYSA will, in actuality, only be seeing approximately 10% of that amount from registration fees. Even without looking at other numbers, this leaves a gaping hole in the WLYSA's budget.

This pattern of revenue decline is consistent across other line items in the WLYSA budget, as well. Sponsorships and fundraising activities, for instance, are other major sources of income – but without any significant soccer activity to sponsor and the world making it practically impossible to gather or connect for the purpose of fundraising, these numbers fell dramatically as well. Across the board, then, the WLYSA is seeing an approximately 80 to 90% reduction in revenue.

There isn't much in the way of silver-lining in this pandemic-ravaged year (at least not from a financial perspective) but at least expenses were significantly reduced with the curtailment of programs in 2020. Unfortunately, it is impossible to reduce expenses to the same extent revenue has been curtailed. Across the board there has been an approximately 50% to 60% reduction in costs, but there are certain core expenses (like insurance, bank charges, salaries and other critical costs) that cannot be eliminated.

As of the time this report was prepared, year end financials are not available. But it is clear that this year will result in very significant net losses for the WLYSA.

There is no point in sugar-coating it. The situation is dire for the WLYSA. If the pandemic does not subside within six to twelve months it will become very difficult for the WLYSA to remain solvent. The provincial and federal governments have developed many COVID support

programs, but the frustrating reality is that not many of these programs are accessible to non-profit organizations like the WLYSA. If the pandemic persists much longer, it will take aggressive lobbying of the provincial and federal governments, likely combined with generous support from the WLYSA membership, to survive.

Credit should be given to the WLYSA Administrator, Alexis Forseille, and the Technical Director, Oliver Hitch, for their dedication and hard work, and for trying to make the best of what has been an extremely challenging year. I also commend the members of the WLYSA Executive who have also shown admirable leadership and have done the very best they could under super challenging circumstances.

I sincerely hope that things in the world improve and that we soon start to see a return to normalcy. We have all suffered considerably in the last seven or so months and it would be truly tragic to see key institutions like the WLYSA become another casualty of this pandemic.

Thanks and goodbye for now! Kukstemc. Pútu-cwiye.

Year End Report 2020 – Fields/Indoor

Fields

While Covid put a damper on things this year, it was the rain that delayed us from doing much on the field improvement projects until early July.

We are close to getting our project list completed and are hoping to continue to push hard to be complete by mid-Oct. Bob has been a real asset with all the construction and plumbing this year.

Project Completed This Year

- Mixing and Topdressing Scotia Field with approximately 40 loads of topsoil. (some touch up work will be needed next year)
- New tin roof on the clubhouse by men's league. Big thanks to Peter Arnold and Kevin Ernst
- Two new sets of stairs off the clubhouse deck
- New railings around the clubhouse. (hoping to have this all painted before winter)
- Floors in downstairs bathrooms painted and look much better. (Thank you Oliver)
- LED lights throughout clubhouse on motion sensors
- Cleanup of viewing area on East side of Lake Ex and extra gravel in parking lot
- AED supplied by CRD is set up outside mechanical room by the downstairs bathrooms
- CRD looking to do trail network linking soccer and ball fields as well as handicap bathroom upgrades. We will get a preliminary map shortly to comment on
- Hwy 20 access is approved but without funding so CRD is now working to access funding

Still Needing Completion This Year

- Water system and shed (6 x 8) to house it (This will look after the clubhouse as well as the rental trailer)
- Construct building (8 x 8) over well (had a large underground leak this summer)
- Fix or replace heat registers in Clubhouse if time permits
- Expand Lake Ex field to accommodate two full fields.
- Completion of NDIT report. (Thanks for the help on this Alexis)

Next Year Projects

- Mix and Top Dress Lake Ex field with approx. 80loads of topsoil
- Purchase of backup reel mower \$4,000
- Internet access
- Redo fence around Lagoon

- New fence around Lake Ex Field (\$60,000)
- Source shed building for equipment
- Irrigation pump rebuild
- Replace outside lights with LED lights and motion sensors
- Security system
- Find funding for above projects

Indoor Facility

Not much has happened on this file due to Covid but Kirk has been successful in coordinating a few meetings with the CRD and City representatives. Hopefully we can start these discussions moving again this fall.

Brian Hansen

Senior Female/Male Coordinator Report 2020

Andrea Gustafson

The Spring Season for 2020 was lifted when COVID started. The Spring Season was supported with many committed volunteers. The numbers for the female and male side were predictable and approximately even with previous years.

The number of players for the female side was planned to switch between small sided and full field games with the focus being small sided with more touches on the ball. The males have trended this way with having overall small numbers from 2006 and on. The feedback before the season started was mixed, but the idea of small sided was widely accepted.

The coaching pressures were going to be adjusted with teaching the kids to run some subs and take leadership within their teams in the U18/U14. Practice plans were going to be expanded to web access and demonstrated weekly with other coaches or Oliver.

To encourage lifetime sport focused lifestyles, there was going to be an effort to allow players to have teams formed somewhat around social circles. The U14/U18 were open again to league standings and playoffs with a pizza party/prizes at the final game to wrap up the spring season.

The volunteers that were set for this season are:

Female Overall Coordinator-Leslea Destree

U18F-Tammy Caffera

U14-Amandah Cullum

U12-Erin Dell/Meghan Smith

Male Overall Coordinator-Andrea Gustafson

U18M-?

U14-Curt Levens

U12-Andrea Gustafson

I look forward to 2021 and feel that WLYSA is a huge benefit to raising a community of kids with a positive focus on sport, team, growth, and physical health. I will gladly help in the 2021 season. Without sports, the world does not turn the same way.

Sincerely,

Andrea Gustafson

Technical Director Report 2019/20

October 2019-September 2020

Oliver Hitch

This year was very different for us on the field.

Our Winter indoor season, running from January to March 2020, was larger than last year's inaugural group with 78 players. We were fortunate to finish just before everything was canceled. Thank you to Melkum Pitt, Kris Harris, Pepper Sylvester, Jeff Tyre, Jimmy Mason and Basem Marhoon for coaching these sessions for us.

Some rep teams were starting to practice indoor as well through the Winter. We were due to start our rep programs in early April but the season was canceled, along with the Cariboo Cup tournament that was due to be hosted in August.

The Spring season was completely canceled due to the pandemic but we were able to get back onto the field in July for a special look Summer season. We had to comply with social distancing requirements and no contact, which meant our volunteers and coaches had extra duties. Thank you to Jaime Macdonald, Graham Fulton, Melkum Pitt, Jimmy Mason and Nara Riplinger for helping us run this season so effectively. We had 67 players registered for the summer sessions, aged from U10-U16.

For the Fall season, we were able to get back to full contact games whilst maintaining social distance off the field. We have almost 100 players registered for these sessions, which is slightly down from last year. To salvage some sort of rep games, we played some in house games with our younger age rep groups. U9-11 girls faced off with the U9/10 boys whilst our U11-13 boys played a round robin with the U12/13 and U14 girls. Our older players had the opportunity to play in some exhibition games with the local coed adult group as well.

Thank you to Brian Hansen and Bob Bremner for making sure our facilities are covid safe and the fields in great condition to play on.

We have also completed our BC Soccer charter club application, which is now pending approval. By completing this, we are committed to maintaining the high standards set out by BC Soccer to ensure that our club is providing a high quality of soccer programming on and off the field.

I am looking forward to a big year in 2021.

WLYSA AGM Office Admin Report

October 7, 2020

Alexis Forseille

As stated by nearly every organization, 2020 was a vastly different year than expected! The 2020 Winter Futsal season had 78 players registered and finished up just prior to the Covid-19 Pandemic effecting our sport. On March 8th, just prior to our regular registration closing for the 2020 Spring Season, BC Soccer made the call to officially suspend all soccer activities. At that time, we had 665 players registered for the Spring Season and almost all 2020 sponsors confirmed.

In May, the WLYSA Board of Directors chose to officially cancel our Spring Season as there was no direction to when soccer activities would resume across British Columbia. Members were given three options for their registrations; request a refund, request for the funds to be held as a credit for future registrations, or request to donate the funds to WLYSA. Thank you to all the families who donated their registrations to WLYSA! All unanswered registrations have been converted into credits for future registrations. Instructions on how to claim the credits are available on each of the registration pages prior to accessing the online registration link.

Sponsors were given the same three options for their 2020 Spring Season Sponsorship. Thank you to the sponsors who chose to donate for this season, and thank you to the remainder for transferring your sponsorship to the 2021 Spring Season.

The transition back to soccer and hosting only online registrations for the Summer and Fall seasons was fairly smooth with the RAMP Registration System. Thank you to everyone who made the seasons possible with all the Covid-19 regulations in place! We had 67 players participate in the summer season and 98 are currently participating in the fall season. In total we saw 143 individual players this past year. This total is considerably down from years prior, however I am happy that we were able to offer the sport for those who wanted to participate this year.

I am looking forward to a busier 2021 year for WLYSA!