



Lower Island Women's Soccer Association

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

July 11, 2022 @ 5:00 pm | Via Zoom details to follow

MEETING PROCEEDINGS			
	Description		
1	Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm by Gareth.		
2	<p>Overview of Zoom meeting Functions & Etiquette</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use chat to indicate you want to say something or include raised hand - If we are out of sequence please be patient and understanding - For motions we are going to use an electronic poll, when comes time will remove the folks who do not have voting - Please rename yourselves by entering the letter V at the beginning of your name - Elections will be by raised hands, keep hand up until indicated that counted everybody 	Marta	
3	Motion to have 2021 AGM Minutes as read: Jen Spark. Seconded: Rebecca Kinkade. Motion passed.		
4	<p>Introduction of Executive Members & Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. President's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant b. Vice-President Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant c. Operations Managers report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The season went well a few bumps and floods along the way but it went well. - The LIWSA swept the provincials in all categories entered. Congrats to Cowichan Cougars Masters B-Cup, Gorge FC div.1 B Cup and Gorge FC Team sales premier A-Cup who are now for the first time in 27 years off to represent their club and the LIWSA at the National Championships in October. A bit of tough news is that we lost a berth in the masters B cup as we had declared for three and could only produce two. We will now require 15 teams in the O30s category to gain a third spot. - Once all the divisions are determined after registration is finally closed I will begin working on Schedules. Please ensure you have the right preferred game days and playing times on your team registration. Last year we had too many last minute changes. If a change is to be made it must be before 5:00pm three days before the game. If not a game change fee will be charged. Any game cancelled within 24 hours of without a warranted reason. The Team will be charged game officials game fees and if field cost occur they will be responsible for that also. - Game Officials: - At one of my meetings with other clubs I discovered we in fact pay the 	Casey	

lowest fees in the province at the adult level. We will be raising all assignments by \$5 and Ref middles 65 per and ARs 35 per. The allocation fees will go to \$3 per assignment. John and I will be working together to try to make this a good experience for all. So please please use your match report on your team page to let us know what you thought of your game official. This will help us in scheduling. If no ref shows up for your game please do not walk away find someone to do the game and the LIWSA will compensate with full game fees. Work together and mutually agree on a capable person.

- I have been sitting on a sports group users committee with the city. This is going well but a few hiccups being ironed out like who has first rights and pricing. We will be maintaining our Friday night spot with the hopes of being able to schedule a Friday night game of the week. This will be decided early on when the schedules are being created. Please note the earliest the turf will be ready is Nov.15th 2022.
- The Golden Boot was introduced this year and was a huge success. The weekly updates were followed closely and at season's the recipients were very happy and enjoyed the entire experience. I would like to thank Kelly Wallace and Marta for all their efforts to make this happen.
- Team pages are going well. Teams are loading up pics and getting their rolling banners working and are getting comments from others. If your page has info it can work as a great recruiting tool. Kelly and I will be out taking pics when we can and can help you load up your pages.
- Not much more I think unless you can think of something or have some questions

- Now for the financials
- Marta can you pull up the notice to reader?
- As you can all see at the end of March we had a profit margin of \$28 000 I personally did not agree with that and so I did a reconciliation of the past 27 months. I have reconciled all monies that have gone in and out and have sent the book keeper all the info. The differences came about as a lot of large expenses carried on into April and May mainly due to Referee payouts and Co-vid refunds approx./ 12,000 dollars and last year 2021/22 we were approx.. 10,000 short at season's end but that's when the refunds from BCSA and LIWSA kicked in to the tune of around approx.. 15,000. Which pretty well covers the massive profit. However this being after the season's end it threw our books out. Last year in June we closed 49,557.65 and this year at 54,474 .50 a difference 5,082.85 to the positive. We still have uncashed cheques out there but working on it and working to have as many as possible move to e-Transfer. I hope this helps as are books are clean and if needed I can produce for an audit. Another reason for the two year reconciliation on my part was to let the Bookkeeper see my average expenditures and hope fully work on some budgets for next season

- 5000 extra

Using extra medallions from past season I saved 2500 coupled with no Allstars 2-3 thousand it speaks for it all.

- Provincial voting Structure:
- As this is a very contentious item I will open the floor to questions and will answer as best I can. Please let's keep this civil as I will be as informative as I possibly can. I would suggest a time limit as this could go on and on.
 - Voting structure: 15 min time limit.
 - A bit of background: BC Soccer has been asked by Canada Soccer to come up with a more equitable voting structure. That said, BC Soccer decided in late January to visit everyone separately and asked us what we would think would be a fair voting structure. Almost all the adult leagues right away said most of us said 65/35 or 60/40. What BC Soccer had in mind was stakeholders only. Voting structure before was 50/50. BC Soccer's stakeholder structure would be 85/15. Finding out they only want us to have 15% would give us virtually no say. This voting structure is not for rules, it's for voting on board members and constitution and bylaw amendments. The adult leagues have been meeting, we met with some youth league people, we have a strong negotiator and so do the youth. They are going to meet to discuss this. What FIFA uses is what we would like, by district, which would be 15 youth to 11 adult. We don't find the offer very equitable. We are concerned that metro youth clubs would have full control.
 - Question: What exactly are the adult leagues worried about? That we would have no voice in the room whatsoever. Not at 15%.
 - BC Soccer is not wanting to come back to the table. BC Soccer themselves have a bylaw that they need to come back to the table.
 - Question: What are you recommending? The adult leagues are proposing voting by district, like 15 youth districts to 11 adult districts
 - Question: What are you looking for from us? I am just letting you know where the adult leagues are at, we are unified on this, and all we want to do right now is get BC Soccer back to the table to hash this out.
 - We just want to live in a happy atmosphere with youth. We care about the youth, we are parents of children in youth leagues, we coach in the youth leagues. It's the grassroots of soccer. We want to be able to play too and have a few people on the board for the adults.
 - Question: Just wanted to clarify, I think where we're at right now, latest CSA has come out to say it's very clear they said this will be resolved by Nov. 22 or else will sanction BC Soccer. – And it should be, BC Soccer should be willing to come back to the table by then. All the adults want to do is talk about something fair, with reason.
 - Question: Correct me if I'm wrong, this comes from Canada Soccer, has anybody approached someone at Canada Soccer

to find out if their proposed solution is viable? Glad you said that, Canada Soccer has basically put it out there for them to resolve on their own (BC Soccer). Canada Soccer know Concaf and FIFA use that system (15/11) why is that not good enough for us?

- Everyone has to try and work together on this. I've been doing this for 19 years, and to be honest there has never been a divide in the room at an AGM. The only thing coming out of this voting structure is there is a divide coming up, which nobody wants. We want to work together.
- Question: this will be resolved by November or soccer has to cease, that's the risk. There will be a meeting before that and all points of agenda have to be met to adjourn the meeting.
- The next meeting I go to I will drop a note to let you know if it's positive or not, but I'm hoping it will be positive.

d. **Discipline Report**

- Brief of what happened last season. For the league we have a total of 63 yellows, 13 cup, total of 76 yellows, 5 reds for the league and 5 for cup. 5 discipline meetings. Still have 3 players that need to serve out their discipline hearings for next Sept. And still have a coach that needs to serve out 7 cup game suspension
- 2 forfeits for premier league and 2 forfeits for div 3

Leah

e. **Secretary's Report**

- Nothing to report

Cheryl

f. **Registrar's Report**

- Team Registration – Dates: June 1-30, 2022**
- Thank you for getting team registration in, looking into finalizing it on our end. I like to do everything by email so won't give you too much here to remember. Changing max registration back to 24 this year, had it up to help out with Covid player issues. Will send out an email that will have all the details about player registration. Will have the details for you before player registration Aug. 9. Casey will take care of sending out invoices to the teams.
- Refunds for registration were given last year. Are working from scratch this year.
- Player Registration – Opens August 1st, 2022**

Stacie

g. **Communications Report**

- Promotion and Relegation-Appendix to agenda shows teams
- One of things we want to offer to assist people with how things work on the website is workshops. To walk through how to access player cards, how to upload photos, download game sheets. Will offer a second one in person. Is this something that would be of interest? 30 minutes to walk through typical scenarios. Idea is to hold one in August and one in the first two weeks of September. Will pick a date and then send out a registration for the workshops.

Marta

- iii. **Email Communication & Etiquette-Would like to ask**

everyone to try and maintain emails and subject matters that are not day to day operations down a little bit. Give yourself 24 to 48 hours to give the executive breathing room. Don't have the expectation that you'll get a response right away unless it's an urgent matter happening in the next couple days. Be prepared that it could take 1-3 weeks depending on when exec meets again. Know who to email – your first point of contact is always your liaison. If they can't answer a question, they'll reach out to an executive who can.

- iv. Rules & Regs; Coaches/Managers Manuals-Please take a moment to go on the website and roam around the rules, manuals. Casey and I did a quick reading of last season, modified and posted it up as fast as we could. Player photos – a photo of their face. Question: some people don't necessarily want their photos out there. Is there a thought to letting this be an option? There probably is, what I suggest is that it's something that be submitted to exec, if there's a consensus from teams that they want to transition to that. We can't pick and choose for one person, but they can write into the exec with the terms of their circumstance.
- h. Competitions Report
 - i. 2021-22 LIWSA Cup Competitions
 - ii. Gorge premier, working to see how we can support you financially. The whole league will be rooting for you in the nationals! We had some great cups this year, fantastic games. Everything will be status quo until we find a competitions chair. Marta and I will be doing all the trophies at the coaches and managers meeting in Sept.
- i. Risk Management Report
 - Some CRCs that I did not receive, hoping in September everyone has an up to date email address in case some people aren't receiving my emails. Going forward we are going to be a lot stricter with time frame. Some confusion around the rules but BC Soccer rules are three years.
- j. Referee's Report
 - Still having problems getting enough referees to cover all of the games. Ongoing issue that was also encountered at youth provincials, a lot of scrambling to do to fill all the games there. A lot of them have reduced the number of games they are willing to do in a weekend. Will be trying to get more players or managers in the league to sign up for refereeing courses and hopefully we can have more information on that coming out. We didn't have a great buy in on that last year but will try again. Even if willing to become an assistant, it will help us. Games are made better by having officials. A couple of referees from this season will not be coming back based on feedback we've had and our assessment process where I've gone to watch officials surreptitiously. On a personal note, I am going to be stepping away from doing the scheduling this year, Casey will be taking that over as part of the game scheduling process.

Heather

John

	<p>Will be out there as more of a head referee where I am helping officials, giving feedback, looking at problem officials/coaches and dealing with that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Question: where do you recruit from? Do you go to the clubs, ask the kids? Several different ways, small sided referees who are developed by the clubs and other instructors to get them into working as officials as assistants and small-sided youth games. Try to nurture those into full-field games. Then transition into doing full-field middles for the adult league this year. Ideally the need is for people in our league to be involved in our league. Huge attrition rate, lose about 20% of officials every year. Very important – what type of referee we have affects the game so much. We are losing referees because they don't want to be abused. We have to as coaches and managers of teams, we have to be responsible and recognize the referee is a person there to do a job, and referee abuse is kind of on par with workplace harassment. - Comment: Refs are not perfect, neither are the coaches and managers. Have even had coaches yelling at young ARs and they're in tears. So much talk about how horrible the refs are after games and kids are hearing, their comment is "I don't want to do that." Refs need respect. - Comment: the number of youths going in to be full-field refs is diminishing. Most of our full-field referees are adults now which is a substantial change from the past. A couple of entry level courses already on the schedule. <p>k. Liaison's Report Premier (Gareth); Division 1 (Sanja); Division 2 (Adriano); Division 3 (Samantha); O30s (Jean); O35 (Sharon) – got interest from the LDF team that they were looking into putting another team in the O35s. Pleased to say there is a team from the island 55+ playing in the Canada games in Kamloops in August. And BC Games in Victoria in September.</p>		
5	<p>Team Roundtable – time for teams to bring out ideas and float around. If there is anybody that wants to say something or share something, we allocated 10-15 minutes tops for this roundtable. No comments.</p>		
6	<p>Motions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individual Player Registration Fee raise. The player registration fees currently are \$43 per player. Due to rising costs in daily general duties and a more focused approach to players individual needs, the LIWSA board would like to have a motion put forward to raise the individual Player fee from \$43 per to \$50 per. This fee increase will be implemented for the 2023-2024 season. Andy. Scoded Brad. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -based on the \$7 increase how much would that increase be? Would be a raise of \$7350. With current raise coming for the referees will cover that with a little bit left over. - was assuming that the fee increasing would go towards the refs. Yes team fees will be incorporated into the referee fees. Other than that we don't have anything raised for everyday business such as cup. We implemented the team fee raise 2 years ago, next year we would like to implement the increase next season. 	All	

-and increase for general items, admin fees, registrar fees, registration going up for BC Soccer, Cups are more expensive, fields are more expensive. For the weekend of the cups it was almost 2000 to rent starlight stadium for the weekend.

-something else members need to be aware of, any team that enters provincials, there is a fee. The league has always covered that. Assists in covering that portion. Multiple things all across. Fees have essentially never been increased, we have always tried to work with what we have brought in. Compared to everyone else, we are still relatively low.

-not opposed, increase is justified. IF BC Soccer comes back with an increase, concerned that it will be more than we're planning for. When BC Soccer raises fees in general it is 2-3 dollars per player.

-Would like to understand where that money would go. We know things are going up, if we don't pass it here and get more info on where that money would go, could we do it at another meeting like this? Yes we could table it until the coaches and managers meeting in January. Then we would know what the increase in BC Soccer fees would be.

-you can look at the financial statements and see what money is being put towards. Casey can email them if anyone wants to see them.

-16 yes, 10 no, 1 abstain. Motion is passed.

2. Proposed Rule Amendment

Original Rule

Rule 3.3 Player Registration

- a) Players registering for Divisions other than Over 30 and Over 35, must be a minimum seventeen (17) years of age or older, on or before December 31 of the current playing year.
- b) Teams in Divisions other than Over 30 and Over 35 shall be permitted to register a maximum of two (2) underage players subject to Rule 3.3 (a) above, hereinafter referred to as the "youth quota".

Rule Amendment

Objective is to remove 3.3 (b)

- b) Teams in Divisions other than Over 30 and Over 35 shall be permitted to register a maximum of two (2) underage players subject to Rule 3.3 (a) above, hereinafter referred to as the "youth quota".

Rationale

The Liwsa believes it is time to remove Rule 3.3 (b) as the two points of rationale for the removal (listed below) have been brought forward

1. Many 17 year old players are leaving the game as there are not enough options for them to continue playing.
2. Many Current LIWSA teams are struggling to attain roster numbers to maintain current competitive levels within their divisions.

-would like to hear the evidence, based on last year's teams. Don't have such data, as a point of view from an administrator is appointing a restriction that we can't speak on. Should be administered by the youth, not us. Why are we administering that restriction as an adult league?

-Prospect lake soccer had to fold because we didn't have enough players and would have benefitted from younger players.

-How would you expect the youth clubs to do any monitoring on this? -

What I'm concerned about here, let's be clear have adult daughters, do not believe that this works well for the future of the adult game. If you strip-mine team soccer, we won't be able to put teams on the field and then there will be no teams left. The current system with permitting seems like the perfect solution. With the exception of regionally based teams, then can make an exception.

-This restriction was put in place quite a few years back to assist the youth league. There was no youth quote years back and LISA approached us that they were struggling and in kind, liwsa worked with the youth to implement this quota. Now we're in the seat, where we're finding teams are approaching us with these same concerns.

-We put it for the membership to decide, we are just doing our work as members asked for this to be put on the table for a motion. It's not the executive that are changing the rule, it's the membership.

-I'm a little worried just because I'm on both sides of it, would like to keep my youth team but would like to have u1718 girls when they get there. Did they have a u17 team at prospect lake that they were planning to take players from? If they can't play in u1718 then if we take that pathway out, we'll end up losing a lot more females from the game. If it's a numbers swapping around thing, then we're killing somewhere else to fund somewhere new. We need to attract more players to the game.

-Campbell River has folded this year because they don't have enough players. Courtenay/Comox tried putting a team together u1718 that have no place to play. Waiting to see what happens with the Nanaimo u18s if they are going to ask for special dispensation to play in our league. All I hear is talk about restricting players and taking away freedom of choice, players should play where they want to play.

-It's up to the clubs that have adult programs to guide their registered players to appropriate teams. It's not up to the league to restrict where players can play.

-Hypothetically we could go into Shergold cup next year with a u18 team going against over 30s. Are there other leagues in the province with a similar rule? MWSL has no quota and they just changed their minimum age to 16.

-I like the rule the way it is an the fact that you can call up players by permit.

-Answering Angus' question, can only speak for my own team, we had a div 2/3 blend to make sure we could have a team for those who felt comfortable. And then we had a long bench for one team rather than a short bench for two. Can't say what would have happened had we decided to split.

-Spoke with Vince at VISL that minimum age is 14 years of age. Question

	<p>to the group here is why there is such an age difference between mens program, MWSL and our program.</p> <p>-VISL has a u21 division that has a pathway for the youth players. MWSL has a high population. There is a lot of cobbling teams to create teams and make sure players can play.</p> <p>-The reason the rule came in if memory serves, is there was a team which was exceptional years ago and the whole team came to Lakehill. Won every game. And that was one of the justifications. Have a fundamental problem with this as it doesn't provide hard evidence.</p> <p>-Like I said before, it was something brought up from a member and it is our duty to put it on the table to be voted on. Whether there is evidence or not, this is how it works. Ultimately it's for everyone to vote based on what they've heard.</p> <p>Results: 8 yes, 18 no, 0 abstain. Motion not passed.</p>		
7	New Business – any new business? No new business.		
8	<p>Board Elections: List of positions: vacant & up for election: Any nominations on the floor? Going once going twice going three times. ... stands. Will you stand?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President (Vacant) – written nomination for Marta Ausio-Estevé .nominated by Andy Harward. Marta elected as president. - Vice President (Vacant) – no nominations - Communications Chair – Vacant – no nominations - Competitions Chair – Vacant – no nominations - Risk Management – Heather will you stand? Yes. - Premier Liaison – Gareth will you stand? Yes. - Div 1 Liaison – Sanja will you stand? - Div 3 Liaison – Samantha will you stand? Yes. - O30 Liaison – Vacant – written nomination for Andy Harward nominated by Neall Rowlings. Andy elected as O30 Liaison. - New position: Director at Large - Head Referee. John elected as Director at Large - Head Referee. <p>Motion to adjourn: John. Seconded: Marc. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 9:06 pm.</p>	Cheryl	

Appendix 1

Promotion/Relegation

PREMIER	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Gorge FC Team Sales Saanich Fusion Susan's Nanaimo United (DF) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lakehill FC Campbell River FC Gorge FC – promoted from Division 1

DIVISION ONE	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lakehill Reds Castaways FC SFFC United PACE FC Wolfpack Lakehill FC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Prospect Lake Lakers Gorge United Nanaimo United (JT) – relegated from Premier Bays United FC – promoted from Division 2 Cowichan FC – promoted from Division 2

DIVISION TWO	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> JDF United Salt Spring United Vic West FC Nanaimo United FC Gorge FC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lakehill FC SFFC Cascades – relegated from Division 1 JDF (AH) – promoted from Division 3 SFFC – promoted from Division 3

DIVISION THREE	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Lakehill FC Prospect Lake Lakers JDF FC (TD) Gorge Masters Nifa Pacific United FC Bays United FC JDF FC (AS) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Vic West FC Lakehill Limes Ladysmith Strikers Bays United FC (RC) Gorge United Fernwood City FC – relegated from Division 2 Peninsula FC – relegated from Division 2

O30A*	O30B*	O35
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Castaways United Prospect Lake Lakers Gorge FC Cowichan Cougars Vic West FC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> SFFC Fire Castaways FC Victoria Athletics Juan de Fuca Prospect Lake Lakers 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Peninsula Sula Sisters Saanich Fusion Sooke Jaggers Gorge FC Vic West Scottish Bays United Breakers

*There will be a meeting post-team registration - of the O30A and O30B teams to discuss upcoming 2022-23 season format