



LIWSA | Coaches & Managers Meeting |

Lower Island Women's Soccer Association | Victoria BC | Canada | www.liwsa.com

Sunday, August 29th, 2021 @ 5:00 pm | Via Zoom – [Registration Link](#)

MEETING PROCEEDINGS

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 5:09 pm by Acting President

2. MOTION TO HAVE 2021 AGM MINUTES AS READ: Robert. Seconded: Sharon. All in favour, passed.

3. INTRODUCTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS: Leah Crisp has come on as Discipline Chair. Welcome Leah!

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- Welcome to the meeting. Nice to see all the faces and hope there's not too much grief going on out there with field times and everything else. Let's hope we can have a proper season and everything goes well.
- Been working day by day and has been very interesting to say the least. Unfortunate that there has been glitches with our new program. I find it works very well. People are getting notified when their part is not done ie. crim checks, names, etc. Bear with it, unfortunately the program we use will hound you until the end of time until it gets done. It is automated and not us sending out these emails.
- Games schedules, Casey is working hard to get that done. Some changes and Casey will go through with his report.
- I am filling in as president at the moment, hopefully we can find someone to fill the job. It is an interesting job, and I try to be as approachable as possible. Trying to tone back coming on too strong.
- Amended agenda: Forgot to motion to pass amendments for agenda. Apologies, as it has been a while since I've ran a meeting. We need a motion to pass amendments to the agenda. Amended agenda is posted on Zoom.

5. COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

- Strictly now website update, contacts, images, work closely with Casey regarding Instagram and creating newsletter on a monthly basis.
- Once in the season, first newsletter will go out with contents such as local articles highlighting and hope to attract sponsorship. Sept 10 is a highlighted game, premier teams playing out of Saanich Fusion. Hoping to bring a media outlet. Will highlight that, it's a Friday night game.

- Going to try and keep everything as simple and direct. Posting everything very clear.
- Question: wondering if at the Sept 10 game, will there be a beer garden? Being run by Saanich Fusion and don't know the exact details yet. Will share info on this when we have it.

6. DISCIPLINE REPORT

- Not able to attend this evening. Would anyone like to consider joining a Discipline committee, please email if interested.

7. SECRETARYS REPORT

- nothing to report

8. REFEREES REPORT

- Have had one question come up from a few people. Going back to regular rules ie throw-ins not kick-ins. Thankfully as this rule had a lot of misinterpretation.
- Will be using the integrated scheduling system, if there is a change in the game the referee will automatically be notified of the change in time or place.

9. RISK MANAGEMENT REPORT

- Not here tonight. From what I've heard is that Risk Management has been going along really well, there have been some hiccups and bumps along the way but hopefully will all smooth out. Heard there will be a little bit of a change in the government's side of it. Heather will inform you if you run into any problems with your record check.

10. OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. Financials: All the invoices are out and hope everyone gets it in as soon as possible. Bills are up to date and everything else is running smoothly on that end. Will be submitting to the bookkeeper Sept. 1 to catch up on everything.
- b. Competitions: Would like a few people step forward to make a committee. Don't want to decide everything on my own. Just ask around and email Casey at admin@liwsa.com if interested.
 - Question: what would a committee member job entail? Give me a hand at events on set up and take down. Sit down and chat about Competitions. New and fresh ideas for the LIWSA like the Golden Boot.

- c. Schedules are up and tentative. Will be activating this week as I go. A lot of people have sent in their changes which is nice. Will work with more of you on conflicts that I'm having difficulty handling. Idea is to try and get this done as soon as possible. O30A and B only scheduled for 5 or 6 weeks, because Randy (web guy) and I are trying to incorporate separate for standings.
- d. Question – all the games are crossed out, is this because they're tentative? Yes, once they are activated they will not look like that. ETA on schedules? Will start seeing activated schedules tomorrow.
- e. Question – who requests changes? Casey working on 8pm starts for teams with travel.
- f. Question – was looking at schedule, right now only 12 games for Div. 3, will there be more games added? Yes, more games will be added later in the season. Should get 16 or more games for the season, plus cup.
- g. Question – Saturday eve not our normal time slot. Are those a place holder or are those the times? For the away games, yes these can be the times. The time is given by the home teams.
- h. If there is a sudden change near the end, all people involved will be notified immediately automatically from the website.
- i. Question – it was our understanding that O30b will be playing O30a at some point? Yes, will be playing them in the second round, just one game per team.
- j. Question – when got the email it seemed like we would be playing mixed to start, but now has it been changed? Yes, you will be playing each other (O30a) for two rounds, and then all ten of you will be playing a round.

11. MOTIONS

The LIWSA puts forward a motion to amend Rule 7.2

Rule 7.2 as it reads now

7.2 The LIWSA operates a promotion/relegation system to ensure that teams continue to play at a level at which they are competitive. The team(s) eligible for promotion will be promoted to the next highest division for the following season. Promotion is mandatory for any team being promoted to a higher division, please see Rule 7.3 for promotion criteria. Relegation is mandatory, unless otherwise determined by LIWSA to ensure structural integrity and equitable divisions. Failure to accept promotion will result in a fine of \$500 and the team(s) may be disqualified from future play or relegated to the lowest division, with the following exceptions:

- a) If the eligible team(s) are part of a club that due to geographic or population limitations (i.e., Salt Spring) are unable to sustain a team in the higher division, exception to promotion may be made at the discretion of the LIWSA Executive. Any team not wishing to be promoted under these conditions, must notify the LIWSA President in writing, no later than one (1) week after the completion of the League schedule for that Division.
- b) Vacancies in any division may be filled by voluntary promotion of third placed teams or by challenge for promotion, or as otherwise determined by LIWSA.

Rule 7.2 proposed Ammendment

7.2 The LIWSA operates a promotion/relegation system to ensure that teams continue to play at a level at which they are competitive. The team(s) eligible for promotion will be promoted to the next highest division for the following season. Promotion is mandatory for any team being promoted to a higher division, please see Rule 7.3 for promotion criteria. Relegation is mandatory, unless otherwise determined by LIWSA to ensure structural integrity and equitable divisions. Failure to accept promotion will result in a fine of \$500, and the team and club will be denied an opportunity to enter any team or teams within any division of the LIWSA for a period of up to two years.

- a) If the eligible team(s) are part of a club that due to geographic or population limitations (i.e., Salt Spring) are unable to sustain a team in the higher division, exception to promotion may be made at the discretion of the LIWSA Executive. Any team not wishing to be promoted under these conditions, must notify the LIWSA President in writing, no later than one (1) week after the completion of the League schedule for that Division.
- b) Vacancies in any division may be filled by voluntary promotion of third placed teams or by challenge for promotion, or as otherwise determined by LIWSA.

Rationale for Rule 7.2 Promotion /Relegation motion for Amendment

For too many years the LIWSA and it's promotion/relegation has received a multitude of complaints on teams/clubs refusing promotion to a higher division and simply folding and re-entering back into our league at the lowest division. This permits the team to enter with all current options available with the right to challenge to any division. This is the best deterrent to this action that the LIWSA has come up with. The ammendment seems harsh but the LIWSA must work to make all divivisions competitive and equal as much as possible.

Discussion:

- Background regarding this topic: Comes from teams and players. There's times where these teams will win promotion, won't fill the promoted spot, will put in a new team in a lower division, and then will fold that promoted spot. And then influx of side conversation that goes on regarding this is that this is unfair, taking a loophole and folding. This is something we are putting forth for discussion, not set in stone. It happens across all divisions.
- Every year on the promotion/relegation committee there are teams that say it is impossible, that they can't be promoted. We have tried everything to make this work. We want to make this league fun and fair, and have teams that are striving to move up.
- What does "the team" mean? What we want is clubs to fulfill their obligations for the spots they currently own. If they are able to fulfill, players can go wherever they want within their club. We need to be clear about what "a team" is, I think it is the players actually. Is it the team or the club?
- Am all for promotion, think players should move up, that's the only way we're going to build up higher level teams. Also have a concern on the team/club language in the motion because it doesn't identify what that is. Also have an issue with penalizing for up to two years, because it doesn't promote soccer in anyway.
- Ok but what do you do if teams don't go up? We would like your input.
- Bit of a disconnect between the constitution and bylaws that identify the member. Essentially in the rules, it starts penalizing clubs, rather than teams. Something has to be cleaned up in the Bylaws and terminology in the rules and regulations.
- Lakehill's position is it is the club that pays and forms the teams. It is the club that says how they will fill that spot. We have to put some definitions that gets around

this. For example, we won two years ago, the team then formed a new div 2 team, did they take that spot or did they use the challenge process? With this past year being an anomaly, now is the time to change the wording.

- Would really promote the idea of using promotion and relegation with the idea of trying to top up divisions to get to 10 teams per division. Not a good division with 5-6 teams. If you actually win the division, you should definitely go up, and play in that higher division for at least one year.
- We came up with the number of two years to show the membership we're being serious. How we came up with this idea. I don't like being heavy handed. I like people to be honest and if they have success, take that success and move up to the higher level. Every time we come up with an idea, the membership comes back at us. We came up with this house-keeping part of this, to let members know that we are getting tired of saying no. Please be proud of what you've done, and move up. Understand the wording needs to be redone but we have to start somewhere.
- Someone has mentioned forming a committee and going case by case. I'll give a warning. It has been happening every year, and the hopes of the rewording of this rule is to not have to do case by case. Because until the executive can be filled with more bodies, that's a lot.
- Support this, we can debate this for a long time, we are willing to take this on and work with people that are interested, and reword it and come back to the members with proposed wording.
- Support the promotion rule, we need teams to be willing to go up.
- Table this to our next coaches and managers meeting, and hopefully by then these committee members will get together and figure out the wording on this one.
- Please email Marta at communications@liwsa.com if you are interested in working on rewording this amendment.
- Motion to table: Robert. Seconded: Jen. All in favour: tabled.

12. NEW BUSINESS

a. New Motion: Youth Rule:

Current Rule 3.3

3.3 Player Registration

All player registrations shall be made pursuant to BCSA Rules & Regulations (Rule 5).

Rules and Regulations regarding player registration are described below:

- 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".**

Amended Rule 3.3

3.3 Player Registration

All player registrations shall be made pursuant to BCSA Rules & Regulations (Rule 5).

Rules and Regulations regarding player registration are described below:

- a) Players registering for Divisions other than Over 30 and Over 35, must be a **minimum sixteen (16) 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 **an unlimited number of underage players subject to Rule 3.3 (a) above, hereinafter referred to as the "youth quota".**

* would be okay with limiting to 5 players per team if unlimited is a concern

- Freedom for female players to play wherever they want (in line with the VISL who have no limits). Especially important at U17 and U18 where competition can be low and LIWSA is a great option. Many females drop out of the game at this age due to lack of quality competition/viable leagues
- Many clubs and teams struggle for numbers and allowing more youth players (16/17 year olds) to be a part of a team would alleviate this. It's up to each club and player to decide if they are good enough to play at that level rather than leagues dictating who is and isn't ready. eg. in some communities there

are no competitive youth teams above U14 or U15 meaning that a player who is 16 and more than capable of playing women's soccer would have to play in a house league instead. This leads to a lack of perceived competence and ultimately to drop out.

- **Why do we tell girls where they can and can't play while boys can choose to play wherever they want?**

Motion: Daragh. Seconded: Stu.

Discussion:

- Now it's up to the membership to look at the change and say yay or nay to the change. Will give the floor to Daragh.
- Daragh: Speaking as someone who for the last 7 years has worked all the way from youth to adults. The youth rule is not helping and don't want to tell the players what they can and can't do. Understand if a more gradual increase would be a more comfortable option at this time.
- Like the rule the way it is and don't support the amendment.
- Can't understand why physiologically we would allow 16 year old boys to play in the men's, and would not allow a 16 year old girl. Just seems like such an old paradigm of thinking, can understand protecting youth soccer but especially for the girls aspiring the reach a higher level, if you're not trying to play high division soccer then you don't really have much opportunity to develop in the north island. Don't want to speak to Victoria, but for the north it is really constraining for developing our youths.
- 17 is the "under-age" registration, only allowed two 17-year-olds. Motion is put forward to make the under-age 16 and an unlimited number.
- Robert- don't necessarily disagree that it's time to look at the underage rule. Shouldn't be looking at these types of foundational rules at a Coaches and Manager's Meeting. Maybe the rule is to allow more 17-year-olds but would need to see the demographic data to support these changes. Have never been opposed for changes for the north and an exemption.
- Steve- I disagree from my point of view that this affects young women negatively. Young women I know in Bays youth league haven't quit because they can't play in the women's league. Very few examples of youth who actually play in the VISL. Really believe in the youth rule. The permit rule allows youth players to play on a weekend to weekend basis, which works well. Now isn't the time to do this right at the beginning of the season. Don't agree with the VIPL disappearing argument, they are just in flux at the moment.
- Brad – Won't regurgitate everything. Just an example of what's happening in the youth side of things. Not the right time and the right audience. Will need to have a discussion with other associations, as they are partners in this problem.
- Alexia – When you start making decisions about this, you shouldn't be looking at protecting a club, but at developing women's soccer. If 15 and 16 year olds can play professionally, that is the governing body and that's how we should be doing it. If we don't want to open it up, we need to ensure there is an avenue for players to play where they can. More opportunities to permit up. Only a small number of players that we are talking about that this rule applies to, and we need to ensure they have avenues to play.
- Marta- not all teams in the LIWSA have access to a youth pool. Just to put it out there.
- Jean – just wanted to reiterate that at the last AGM we had that Campbell River and Nanaimo brought this forward, and the Victoria teams that have a lot of youth players to permit from, are the ones saying no, which the north island teams do not and are struggling. We need to acknowledge all teams and clubs here.
- Marta-Understand that the exec board has to do their due diligence when a member requests to put something forward. It can be tabled, but it still needs to be discussed.
- Jules -Any further input? Something we need to look at to benefit all teams on the island, to make it fair for all. It is the players we need to look at. Years ago there was no youth rule, the girls who wanted to play youth played youth and those who wanted

to play adult did, and everything seemed to work out. Not sure how it changed. Is Nanaimo in favour to table or do you want to call a special AGM.

- Daragh – yes we can table it. But a lot of people are speaking for their own clubs and not how it will benefit young women. Let them play where they want to play and stop trying to control it.
- All in favour of tabling the motion to the May or June AGM. Hopefully we will have time to think about this and have some kind of resolution that is equitable to all teams and women.

b. Letter from upper island (Campbell River) See attachment; Topic for discussion: Form a committee to discuss the current youth rule in LIWSA.

- Marta – had a convo with Casey who spoke with Marika from CR. What they are wanting to do is the formation of a committee. Are thinking we will move forward with that, and we need a discussion with you folks. Would like to move forward to see if we can create a committee. Any thoughts on this? How many members? How many per club? Need to make sure it's quite even, reps from clubs that have adult and youth teams, only adult, and clubs geographically isolated.
- Jules – Brad did say at last AGM that a committee should be formed. Needs to be discussed. Agree with the committee, will not sit on it, and hope there is a good representation. Want to help the upper island, the more we are, the stronger we are.
- Jeff -CR- Totally agree, has to work for everyone. Everyone involved needs to be heard. Not an exact wrong or right to this, but maybe we can find a middle ground and work from there. I do believe Vancouver is different from VISL. I will say as part of a board for a long time, I do get the idea of protecting your teams and making sure there are teams in the youth. I side with Daragh in letting the kids decide where they want to play, and if boys can do it, why are we holding girls back?
- Stacie – Absolutely think a committee needs to be formed. I played at a high level in a small town and had to play in women's league as a youth. We need a committee to determine how we can help both areas.
- Marta- not a motion. Just asking for a committee to be formed. Please email if you are interested.
- Casey- Marika will champion this committee and I will sit on as well. We need members from all facets of soccer. Anybody who wants to join us please contact Marika or Casey at admin@liwsa.com
- Jules – timeline? The findings of the committee will update you as we go.
- Stacie – Is CR asking for unlimited youth like last year? Don't think so, not in the letter.
- Jeff – honestly we may not be able to field a team without being able to sign youth players. Not sure if we'll be able to permit up and work with the Comox Valley coach. We have lost a lot of players from aging out, Covid, and girls who have got scholarships which is great. But we are lacking players.
- Steve – as far as I understand, there's nothing in the regulations that prevents you from signing those 3 or 4 Campbell River players and permitting up week per week. I think this could be a good path forward.
- Marta- those youth associations need to be willing to do that for them.
- Jules – Casey, in the past have we extended the circumstances to help out upper island? Casey -We have brought it to the table a couple times but nothing has come of it. Right now, I think we should go with the committee we have planned right now and go from there. We'll leave it there and hopefully the committee comes back with a workable discussion.

- c. **Discussion about increasing number of players signed to a team from 24 to 27, only for this year, due to Covid circumstances, initiated by Sharon.**
- Sharon: Going into hopefully a full season, with some Covid influence. Would like to suggest maybe we can raise the amount of players to sign. A few reasons for O30s: Have a lot of moms on the team, potential that we are going to lose some players whose kids are going back to school and may need to quarantine at some point. Have some players who cannot expose themselves and cannot play due to their jobs, if numbers ramp up. Facing potentially getting more injuries. Because this is still a Covid year, I am suggesting we raise the number of players to more than 24, just for this year. We had a lot of trouble last year fielding teams, and so did teams that we played. It will be difficult to get a full team out when you can't come out with any symptoms.
 - Clarity is this for just the O30s/O35s or everyone? I think it is more relevant for O30s and up, but don't want to be exclusive if other divisions feel a need for that.
 - Jules: The reason we came up with the number of 24 was to keep teams from hoarding players. Some teams were signing 30 players, and other teams in the division couldn't find players.
 - Leah: I think if we're going to do this, it should be the whole league.
 - Need to get players registered ASAP
 - **Motion to have exemption to increase the members of a team to 27 from 24 just for this playing season, for all divisions. Sharon. Seconded: Stu. Motion passed.**
 - Stacie: If you do not get your players registered 24 hours before your first game, you are not playing.
 - Kelsey – how many players can dress for the game? 27. It will be up to the teams to govern how many players come out, they are just allowed to register 27 for this season.
 - Brad- we don't make the rules of how many people at the game, it's Saanich. If they change the limit then we will have to go with that.
 - Robert- in the event that we cannot field a team due to Covid – what do we do?
Casey – if a person tests positive, we contact the health authorities, and it will probably mean the whole team gets shut down. The health authorities will make the decisions.
 - Stacie – will there be enough time for the committee to be formed and figure something out to help CR field a team this season?

- **Robert -Lakehill Div 3 puts forth a motion to allow the executive to determine the best way forward for the Campbell River team to field a team this season. Seconded: Brad. Any further discussion? Motion passed.**
- Jules: Anything else? If not would like to adjourn this meeting. Has been very constructive but please respect the chair. We have to have due diligence about how things are done.
- Anna – did I mishear Casey? If we have any team member testing for Covid we have to let you know? Casey - Would be nice if you told us they are being tested, but if they test positive it will be an immediate shut down. This is what was put forth from BC Soccer.
- Can we ask players if they are double vaccinated? We don't have that info from BC soccer yet.
- Have a good evening. Motion to adjourn: Jules. Seconded: Jeff. Meeting adjourned 7:02 pm.

13. **MOTION TO ADJOURN. Meeting adjourned 7:02 pm.**

From: Marika Forge <marika.posehn@gmail.com>
Sent: August 27, 2021 11:07 AM
To: President <president@liwsa.com>
Cc: Jeff Howe <tttfile@shaw.ca>; Savannah Beirnes <Sporty_savvy@hotmail.com>; Jos Bell <josdbell@gmail.com>; Kelsey Creviston <kelsey.creviston@gmail.com>
Subject: LIWSA - Proposal to form committee for CR/Courtenay youth exemption

Hi Casey,

As with the last few years, within Campbell River and Courtenay/Comox, we are again still stuck with the problem of not having enough opportunity for our female youth players. We very much appreciate all your support that you have given us to this point and I am writing to you to propose a way forward.

In 2019 when we approached the league and requested a bylaw amendment, we were shut down, hard (as you know). As I know you are also aware, the main concern about implementing a sweeping bylaw amendment for the entire league is the fear of destroying the youth soccer program in Victoria. During that AGM there was discussion relating to forming a committee to discuss an "area" exemption for Campbell River/Courtenay to allow us to sign youth players to our roster for the year (see highlighted section in meeting minutes attached). This appeared to have much more traction and support from all teams.

I would like to propose that this committee be formed this year so we can move forward in this process and find a permanent solution for the situation we are facing in our communities.

I understand that due to the on-going pandemic, meetings would not be able to happen in person, but I assume that most of us are comfortable with online meetings now by this point and I would be happy to arrange these.

I was hoping you could either approach the board, or direct me as to how I should approach the board, to propose forming this committee?

As always, thank you for your continued support! It means a lot to have someone from the south island understand our circumstances surrounding this issue :)

-Marika