



EMSA Covid-19 Response Committee Minutes  
Thursday, May 6, 2021 @ 7:00pm

Committee members:

In attendance: Eliana Caranci (EMSA), Michelle Orsini (EMSA), Mark Mohammed (Alliance), Kayla Marcoux (West End Blues), Chris Gardiner (EMDSL), Nelson Rodrigues (LAWSL), Dave DeBenedictis (London FC), Tom Partalas (BMO), Abbi Lezizidis (Whitecaps), Mark Locker (Tillsonburg), Dan Wybo (WOSL), Chris (LOSL)

Regrets: Jenn Groen (St. Thomas), Simon Karahalios (EMSA), Dave Humphrey (EMSRA)

Meeting Called to Order at 7:03pm

1. Welcoming Remarks by Eliana Caranci

2. EMSA Report:

a) John L:

- Been spending the last 6 weeks volunteering at a vaccine clinic.
- Believes that the lockdown may be extended a week or so; likely to the end of May.
- Main theme is we need vaccinations to get out of this pandemic.
- From the District Presidents, we don't agree with angle of OS's message that we need to play soccer for Mental Health. While we believe this is true, we are concerned about the congregating around the game (parents, spectators etc). That is a concern.
- A suggestion to this group, if vaccination is the way out of this pandemic, how can this group promote vaccinations. How can we do that? How can we get the message out? Let's figure out how we can do that. We don't want to sit and blame the gov't or the Health Unit, we want to get people vaccinated and that gets everyone playing again.
- Let's keep the messages positive. Soccer will survive COVID-19. I believe vaccination is the way out.
- re: HOPE initiative, I believe the message needs to be get vaccination and then we can all get back to playing soccer

DISCUSSION

Kayla: Great message John. It is frustrating for young people to get vaccinated. It will take time to get younger people vaccinated.

Eliana: The vaccinations should rolled out quicker in the next few months, hopefully by June it will reach 18+. Great message John, how can we send it to our members. What are your thoughts group to us suggesting vaccinations?

Tom: I think it's a great idea, positive and will be great coming from EMSA.



Eliana: Make it fun, sharing messages of rate of vaccinations. Do you think anyone would be offended by the message?

Abbi: "Have you been jabbed? Are you ready to kick it?" We need to be careful because it's not mandatory.

Mark: "Stick it to kick it!"

Chris: Just not sure a lot of people want the vaccine. Myself I haven't rushed to get it.

Abbi: Do we know if schools will immunize kids? Any word on that?

John: Discussion on vaccinating at school has occurred however it's not likely. It doesn't even look like kids will go back this year.

Tom: "Let's give the coronavirus a kick! Get vaccinated!" Under an image of a couple of kids playing soccer.

Abbi: Put out a contest for kids to create artwork/video/message to get vaccinated.

b) Eliana:

- Anita is on top of the FAQ section of our website. Really promote it, that people need to refer to it.

- The Board did take the suggestion of Health Unit zones and what "colour" we are in to be put on our website. The solution was a link right in the website. This was easiest solution as there are many Health Units in EMSA.

### 3. Round Table

a) League Updates

#### EMDSL

Chris: Hoping to move towards starting the middle of June at the earliest. Highest number of teams ever registered.

Eliana: Want to be sure kids don't rush back, avoid injuries. Also don't promise any dates yet. Let's remember that even if the lockdown ends, we will likely go to RED which only allows training.

#### Adult Leagues

Mark L: Players will likely bail as the longer this goes they will likely not be willing to play 4 weeks of soccer. It will be tough also because if someone is exposed to COVID they have to miss work for 2 weeks. A different kind of risk for adults.

Chris: On track to have about 12-13 teams. (LOSL)

Dan W: We have a "buy in" by almost everyone but 5 clubs. We are putting in place protocols for COVID precautions.

Nelson: We leveraged Dan and Abbi's work and sent it out a week before this last lockdown.

We had about 45 teams signed and now we are at about 30 teams, a lot of hesitation. (LAWSL)

Dave D: There are deadline dates. We lose some players come September. The OPDL has different scenarios ready with start dates and end dates.



#### 4. RTP Best Practises – OS E-learning/Abbi

Abbi: OS does some e-learning series. There have been some great sessions. There have been sessions with doctors, psychologists, referees etc. We were asked at a club level to discuss some best practises, so I participated in running one of the sessions. They have been great tools.

Eliana: Can we get recordings to share with our members?

Abbi: They are edited and released. I expect mine to be released. There are other ones that have been released already that are on the website.

**ACTION ITEM:** Abbi's session to be sent out to members once edited and released on OS website.

#### 5. Meeting adjourned by Eliana at 8:09pm