



## EMSA Covid-19 Response Committee Minutes Thursday, January 7, 2021 @ 7:00pm

Committee members:

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

Regrets: Jenn Groen (St. Thomas)

Meeting Called to Order at 7:01pm

1. Welcoming Remarks by Michelle Orsini

2. EMSA Report:

- Eliana on behalf of John L: John is at another meeting, no real updates. To speak later on with regards to RTP by OS

3. Updates on *Committee Initiatives* from last meeting:

- Eliana (Survey Monkey): Working on it still; hope to get it out soon. Barriers on RTP, player enrolment and retention. Ideally out end of Jan/early Feb. Asked and answered: Will send it out prior to COVID committee.

- Michelle (Covid Funding Relief): Letters sent to both municipal & provincial leaders, awaiting responses. Hopefully present next meeting any responses.

ACTION ITEM MICHELLE: Can clubs get small business COVID assistance.

ACTION ITEM EMSA BOARD: Ask OS if they know of any financial assistance.

4. Round Table (Consider 2021 preparations, questions for EMSA, concerns etc.):

a) League updates (All League Reps.)

- Nelson (LAWSL): Have not met in awhile, no real plan yet. Hopeful they will have a league. Nothing decided. Is concerned that they may have less teams.

- Dan (WRSL): AGM, good attendance. Definitely teams interested. In a holding pattern.

- Chris (EMDSL): Meeting in December. Pushed dates back for registration. Trying to keep everyone informed. Anticipates less teams as well.

b) BMO updates:

- Tom: All league games/leagues suspended. If we go to Orange or Yellow we could finish a decent season. All depends on how the province and city move forward after lockdown ends.



c) Club updates:

- Mark (Alliance): Trying to improve COVID response. Concerned about all the deadlines for regional play etc. as we don't even know who will have teams. Asking that if EMSA is dealing with leagues to ask for longer deadlines. Eliana encourages clubs to reach out to leagues and express your concerns.
- Tom: Just giving some league perspective, they need to do some planning.
- Nelson: Teams are happy to register, they just want to know what is going to happen.
- Eliana: Comments re: vaccines being avail for 18 & under. If you are part of an organization with youth they will not be vaccinated. In terms of the vaccines, still unsure if you carry the virus after being vaccinated.
- Dan: Adult male league, concerned about players having vaccines. Wants protocols removed for normal play.
- Eliana: Unfortunately even with vaccines, protocols will still be in place as more research is needed. Can someone carry the virus and spread it after getting the vaccine? Unknown.
- Mark: Advocating for smaller clubs who cannot afford these league registrations, could they give less money? A deposit? Refund policy? Number of teams are just unknown.
- Tom: League cheques will not be cashed unless they have a season. Email today talking about Ontario Cup, they have a deadline of end of February. They are making plans.
- Dave H: They have to plan but that doesn't mean there will be a league.
- Tom: Not about the money, they just want an idea of potential number of teams.
- Mark: From a club perspective, it's a brand new year, we think there will be players who want to play. We are planning for a season. People will want to get out. Registering but not taking money. Planning fundraising.

d) EMSRA Update:

- Dave H: Conducted a survey monkey with members. See attached information for his report. Looking at survey monkey results, 2021 goal is RECRUITMENT & RETENTION. To ensure that match officials get into games it needs to be known that newer refs will be playing T3 games, take it easy on them, let coaches know. Want to keep COVID bubbles.

5. Group discussion:

a) Considerations for 2021 Outdoor Season (Handout)

- Eliana: We will move this handout to our next meeting for the sake of time.

**ACTION ITEM FOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Review this handout and bring back your thoughts to next meeting.

b) Ontario Soccer RTP

- Eliana: Need to wait for what OS brings forward to help guide clubs.

6. Questions/Comments:

- Mark: Suggests clubs look into FlipGive for fundraising.

7. Meeting adjourned by Eliana at 8:04pm.