



**SASKATCHEWAN SOCCER
ASSOCIATION**

**PSL Post Season Technical Directors Meeting
MINUTES**

September 21st, 2009 @ 6:30 pm

Video Conference – 1870 Lorne St (Regina) / 510 Cynthia St (Saskatoon)

1. Call to Order

2. Approval of Agenda

3. New Business

- Review/Feedback on 2009 structure
 - Overall the Clubs were happy with the structure and preferred ending in mid-July prior to All-Stars rather than breaking for this time period and resuming the schedule in August.
 - May to mid-July season was tight for a division with 14 games, particularly if games were lost to weather or conflicts.
 - Concern with matches played on back-to-back days with travel in between (e.g. Friday night in Regina, Saturday in Saskatoon).
 - Concern remains over the number of matches without a full crew of officials. It was suggested that perhaps having the teams pay the officials in cash, on-site, may be greater incentive to ensure officials attend all scheduled matches.

- Review/Feedback on 2009 PSL Rulebook
 - Particular issues involving the rulebook that must be reviewed include the following:
 - 4a)xi – as Districts do not have zoning at the U18 level, should they be permitted to register any player from within their District?
 - 4b)vii – is it possible to adjust this rule to allow for players to play only the equivalent of 1 game (i.e. 80 minutes for U14s, 90 minutes for others) as many of these call-ups may only play 5-10 minutes in the call-up match?
 - 4b – there was discussion regarding affiliate players for teams without a Club structure from which to draw (i.e. no Division 2 team or younger PSL team). It was proposed that a draft be held prior to the season to distribute Division 2 players without an affiliate PSL team among those PSL teams without an affiliate team. It was suggested that 6 players per team was a suitable maximum number of affiliates to be added in this manner.

- Presentation of planned changes for 2011
 - Dave Nutt presented the proposed PSL youth structure for 2011, which sees major changes from 2010.
 - In 2011, Sask Soccer high performance programs (i.e. PSL and PTP) will observe a “unified” calendar to eliminate conflicts between programs, limit over-training and over-competing and create an improved developmental environment for high performance athletes.
 - The presented unified calendar is as follows:
 - January-February: PSL Pre-season Training

- Training and exhibition matches focusing on preparation for the playing season
 - March-April: PSL Regular Season (Indoor)
 - 11v11 local north/south matches
 - May-June: PSL Regular Season (Outdoor)
 - 11v11 matches
 - July: Provincial Teams Programs
 - August: High Performance Player Break
 - September-October: High School Soccer
 - November-December: Player Break
 - Feedback to the initial ideas were positive, with some suggestions:
 - September – December: “Club activities”
 - No structured leagues, clubs would determine whether players require breaks, training, etc.
 - More detailed presentations on these proposed changes will take place over the coming months in preparation for these changes.
- Structure for 2010
- Provincial Teams Program
 - U14/U16 PTP will be reduced for 2010 to a trial weekend (tentatively scheduled for late June), plus pre-competition and All-Stars (after the PSL Final).
 - U13 PDP will feature three training weekends in May plus a pre-competition camp and LTPD-based competition in July.
 - This will open up two additional weekends for PSL matches during the season and reduce some of the strain on scheduling.
 - PSL U14/U16
 - Desire to begin the season two weeks earlier (mid-to-late April) and end at the same time (mid-July) in order to lengthen the playing season and ensure there is adequate time for all matches to take place.
 - Teams would prefer to play each team in their division twice, home and away.
 - It was suggested that the winner of the league be declared champion with the elimination of playoffs.
 - 1 game per week is ideal, however, 2 games per week is acceptable based on the desire to keep costs under control.
 - Minimum time between matches to be set as 16 hours, with ideal time being 24 hours.
 - Matches should be played on back-to-back days only if there is no travel involved (i.e. Saturday and Sunday).
 - Should there be travel involved teams should have an off day between matches (i.e. Friday and Sunday).
 - Matches played on weekdays and Sundays after 5pm should involve local teams only.
 - Rather than season-ending awards, teams would be interested in selected a “Player of the Match” for each match, with the player receiving the most nominations being named “Player of the Year”.

- It is difficult to determine a Most Valuable Player after the season concludes as coaches may not remember the best players.
- PSL U18 and Seniors
 - These Leagues should run with the hope that they will become more viable in the future as current U16s and U14s come through the system.
 - Teams registering for these Leagues should be given an automatic spot in Club Nationals, as allowing qualification out of Division 2 Provincials provides a dis-incentive to teams registering for the PSL.
 - A meeting will be scheduled specifically with the Senior teams to discuss 2010, as few of these teams were represented at this meeting.
- Other Information:
 - CSA Club Charter
 - Dave Nutt spoke briefly about the CSA Club Charter, which Saskatchewan will pilot on behalf of the CSA next year. More information will come to the Clubs as it becomes available from the CSA.
 - All Stars
 - Dave Nutt spoke about the current situation regarding All-Stars. This program is under review by the CSA LTPD Committee, Competitions Committee and Technical Committee. It is expected that recommendations as to the future of this competition will be available by the end of October.
 - LTPD
 - Dave Nutt spoke about the current LTPD initiatives coming from the CSA. The upcoming volumes will focus on the traits that make up an international soccer player and an LTPD guide to competitions.
- Additions to the Agenda:
 - Travel Blackout – the plans for a travel blackout for 2010 were briefly discussed. The Sask Soccer Technical Department will be discussing this matter and releasing information on 2010 in the coming months.
 - Should Clubs be willing to push their PTP-caliber players in to the Provincial Teams Program and not encourage them to remain with their Clubs, there would be no need for a blackout.
 - A player-centred approach dictates that all players should be competing at the level appropriate to their abilities in order for them to continue to develop.
 - Communication/Professionalism – it was again stressed the importance of respecting office hours and maintaining professionalism in all communications.
 - Overall, this has been good, but there have been some expectations.
 - Technical Directors agreed that should a coach be unprofessional or inappropriate with communications, they should be notified in order to deal with the issue directly within the Club.

4. Adjournment