

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: LONDON AND AREA WOMEN'S SOCCER LEAGUE (LAWSL)

December 15, 2019
BMO Large Conference Room

Executive Present:

President: Nelson Rodrigues
Vice-President: Dora Rzeszutek
Treasurer: Rob Headley
Secretary: Kim Johnson
Referee Coordinator: Traci Cummings
Director: Abbi Lezizidis

Guest:

Matt McCready, EMSA
District Referee Coordinator

Registration

Call to Order

Roll Call

Moment of Silence: Ian Cheng, Southwest Competitive Soccer Club
Jerry Behavkas, Portuguese Masters

President's Welcome and Address:

Representatives from the various teams in LAWSL were welcomed to the AGM by the President. He thanked everyone for the successful 2019 season and indicated he hoped that 2020 would be even better.

The President advised the membership that the Executive anticipates stepping up the enforcement of game changes in the next season. He recognized concerns involving the weather and related field closures were not something that could be identified in advance and pointed out that any issue a team has less than 5 days before the scheduled game should involve contact with the Executive. He encouraged team representatives to work together in planning their game schedules. (For instance, it gets dark early in September. Requests should be made as early as possible to change game times from 6:30 pm to 6:00 pm.)

Minutes:

The Minutes from the previous AGM were adopted. (Ingersoll/West End Blues)

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer circulated a Statement of Profit and Loss as of October 31, 2019.

He took a question from the floor (St. Thomas) about money on hand and explained that in years past, the Executive tried to build a small cushion to allow for any eventuality. In 2018, he pointed out that more money was spent than was received. With the cushion that has slowly been built over time, the membership fees have not needed to be adjusted for 15 years.

The Report was accepted by the membership. (West End Blues/Ingersoll)

Secretary's Report:

The Secretary thanked the Executive for their assistance over the 2019 season. A change in employment responsibilities had meant less available time for her to participate on the Executive; other members stepped up however to fill the gap.

The Secretary also reminded everyone of the need to maintain current contacts.

Unfinished Business and Correspondence:

The President thanked Dan Wybo, the LAWSL Compliance Officer, for his assistance during the past season. Most teams addressed issues when they arose: for instance, players and coaches missing their cards, unauthorized team officials on the bench, incomplete game sheets, spectators on the wrong side of the field, late game reports, teams with only one contact in the system. (During the 2019 season, an issue arose where a team's only contact was away for a period of time; other teams and members of the Executive were unable to make contact with the team.)

To address some of the Compliance Officer's findings, revisions to the rules have been made. The President and Director drew the members' attention to the following:

- Each team must dress at least 10 players. This rule is being implemented to assist teams avoid game forfeits.
- Permitted call-ups will change from 3 to 6. Teams will now be able to use temporary permits from their own club, even youth teams, or from outside their club. This revision should assist teams avoiding forfeits.
- Players must be at least 16 years of age.
- Player cards should be checked 15 minutes before kick-off. Many teams are not doing this or start it late.
- If at a time after the 70th minute of play, the game gets called, the game will be deemed complete. The only exception to this weather rule is for Cup Games. A Cup Game would have to be re-played.

The President also addressed *International Transfer Certificates*. Any new player to the country, who has played outside of Canada, must request one of these certificates. Members were directed to check the EMSA website for further details.

The President noted that there were some changes to *Discipline* and recommended the members check the EMSA website to familiarize themselves with the changes.

The President also raised '*Rowan's Law*' and recommended that the members familiarize themselves with concussion protocols. (Athletes under 26 years of age, parents of athletes under 18 years, and team officials are required to review documents and acknowledge that they have done so. Non-compliance would result in an organization assuming liability.) Members were directed to EMSA's website and the OSA.

Hall of Fame Inductions:

This year, the Executive chose to induct 3 individuals to the LAWSL Hall of Fame:

1. Bob Luft and Carmen Luft;
2. Bev Headley; and
3. Jurgen Klaus.

These individuals have made significant contributions to women's soccer and to our particular league. We are all grateful for their commitment to the game.

Election of Officers:

President: Nelson Rodrigues
Treasurer: Rob Headley

Both individuals were acclaimed in their roles.

New Business:

The Referee Coordinator was introduced to discuss changes for the upcoming season. He indicated that 2020 will see London hosting the Ontario Summer Games and two OSA development events which will result in a tax on match officials. He asked the members to go back to their clubs and see if anyone was interested in becoming an official. The Referee Coordinator advised that there was website the members could review; Google EMSA District Refs.

The Referee Coordinator also advised the membership that there were a lot of law changes coming into effect for 2020 that had not yet been made public. Once the referees have been instructed, something will be posted.

The Executive had no other new business and welcomed questions from the floor.

A team representative (London United) raised the issue of 'gold in goal'. The Director confirmed that LAWSL relied on 'gold in goal' to determine a winner: 2x45 minutes of game, followed by 2x15 minutes of overtime and then penalty kicks if no one scored in overtime. The member moved to remove 'gold in goal'; the motion was seconded (WL Strikeforce). VOTE: only 7 members were opposed. Motion carried. An amendment will be made to the rules and EMSA will be notified.

Motion to Adjourn: 11:52 am (St. Thomas/Ingersoll)