

President Report 2020

Overall Recap

This was the worst year ever for football. The COVID-19 restrictions shut down all but a few games in the interior. Most leagues did the right thing and cancelled their seasons.

Administrative

The executive held Zoom meetings on a regular basis. Here are a few of the ongoing matters that we were able to focus on.

Web Site / Social media. Work is continuing with the website as that will be our primary means of communication. Kaila Rothkop will be creating and managing our social media on a couple of platforms. More to come on this.

Policy, Bylaws and Constitution. Work was done to update and ensure our policies / bylaws were reflective of our new constitution. Final copies will be posted on the website.

Member Lists. Updates to our members list was taken on by Karen. I know she has reached out to a lot of you. A lot of our archived information was lost, and we now have put systems in place so that does not happen again. Karen has created a one stop excel sheet which will have all our required info in one place.

Criminal Record Checks. We still have a few outstanding. CRC results are to be sent to Karen for filing as we must keep track of them for the BCPFA. We have decided that the checks will be valid for 3 years. However, I am looking at a way to avoid that through an Affirmation letter each year. Most of the associations in Ontario have adopted this and I am awaiting more details. Anyone who does not have a CRC on file with us will be flagged and will not be assigned any games this coming year.

Ref com radios were obviously not put into practice as was planned for the 2020 season. The protocol for radio use was suggested by Ed Jerrick. No work was done on this as we had other admin priorities.

BCCFA

Communication with all the various groups under this umbrella is still challenging. Several times this year I sent emails or phoned people to explain how our training works and the issues we have with recruiting and retention. A reminder for everyone that the point of contact for us for any issues is the VP Canadian, Sandy Bains. That includes all requests for clinics.

BCPFA

As the President of the BCFOA I sit as one of the executive members on the BCPFA with voting privileges. A lot of work was done by the BCPFA, our PSO, anticipating the situation would get better so we could all get back on the field. Of course, the second wave put a swift end to all that work.

Planning is underway for the Canada Cup to be held at UBC in July and the Canadian Westerns in Kamloops, also in July. But all those plans hinge on the COVID-19 situation. At this time, it does not appear hopeful. More to come on this.

CFOA

The CFOA conference was to be held in Calgary May 1st to 3rd. That turned into a virtual meeting in June. Virtual meetings regarding the exam were done for the first time on a national basis. Some other online rules sessions were conducted with much more planned had we had a usual football season. Many other new initiatives are in the works as the CFOA moves to being engaged on a regular basis. These short sessions are helpful and a great way to engage people nationally.

We took part for the first time at Football Canada meetings this past Fall as a recognized national body. We hold a seat and voting rights, the same as all PSOs.

The CFOA waived their member fees for 2020.

****NOTE**** The CFOA is looking to rewrite the entire rulebook. They are looking for people to apply to assist in this task. If anyone is interested, please apply directly. That message / request was posted on our website.

Work continues regarding the National training program. There are meetings upcoming in Feb. Thanks to Carey for staying with this.

Football Canada Training

Nothing to report for this year locally.

Usports held a virtual training session in early part of the summer. It was painful as it was far too long. Sitting listening to someone talk and talk for an hour or more with little or no interaction / engagement is not the best way to learn anything. Hopefully, we are not subjected to those ever again and we can meet in person for the usual full day clinics.

Clinics

Nothing to report.

Final thoughts

I hope everyone stayed safe. We lost a couple of our long-time officials this past year. John Toljanich had 50 years with us as of 2019. Bob Koleszar had many years with LMFRA, then with BCFOA since 2014 after moving to interior. Our thoughts are with their families. They will be missed.

Wishing 2021 will be a better year for all of us.

Nigel Bushe

President BCFOA, VP CFOA