

2020 NLSA Annual Report



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President's Report

Presented by Doug Redmond

I wish to thank all members of the 2020 NLSA Board of Directors, Dragan, Mark, Robert; Felly (summer student) and all associations, players, officials, committee members, volunteers, spectators and parents, media, sponsors for making 2020 a very successful year for soccer considering the many challenges we faced with COVID 19.

As COVID 19 wreaked havoc with our daily lives, we all had to make adjustments. Some clubs did not offer programming at all, while other reduced their offerings, which reflected a decline in our registration numbers by approximately fifty- five percent. Provincial teams programming along with national championships were cancelled, and our provincial youth championships and provincial senior men's and women championships were limited to teams in the Eastern Health Region.

Congratulations to Gander Soccer Association and Paradise Soccer Association on working with their town council's in securing funding for new turf fields for their associations in 2021.

Congratulations to St. John's, Mount Pearl, Conception Bay South and Portugal Cove St. Phillips on hosting a very successful Senior Men, Ladies, and Provincial Youth Championships on Thanksgiving weekend.

Special thanks to Dragan, Mark, technical directors, technical personnel and coaches in the regions on seeing the success of players, coaches, and officials at the provincial and national level. This was an extremely business year for Mark and Dragan as:

Reintroduction of Technical Committee

- Three hundred and forty one (341) coaches registered at senior and youth levels
- Eleven (11) goalies completed the first Goalkeeper Diploma course
- Eight (8) coaches completed Active Start Program (online)
- Ten (10) coaches completed Fundamentals program (online)
- Twenty (20) coaches completed learn to Train program (online)
- Fourteen (14) coaches completed both the online and on field modules
- Fifty-six (56) coaches completed Soccer for life program (online)
- Forty (40) coaches completed both the online and on-field modules
- Two (2) coaches completed National C License Certification

- Twenty –three (23) coaches completed National “C’ License training (assessments pending)
- Seven (7) coaches completed National “B” License (assessments pending)
- One (1) coach completed the re-certification National B part one (1)
- Seven (7) clubs completed their certification under Canada Soccer Club License Program. Congratulations to Conception Bay South, Corner Brook, Feildians, Goose Bay, Paradise, Mount Pearl and St. John’s.

Two hundred forty (240) players attended 2025 Canada Games trials; and over two hundred (200) parents attended the online parent presentation

- Four Hundred forty (440) players from across the province attended 2020/2021 Provincial Program tryouts. There are boys and girls provincial teams from U12-U17 teams.
- A New five (5) year partnership with Vancouver Whitecaps. Ongoing parent and player presentations. Virtual Academy for players outside metro area.
- New partnerships established with University of Toronto and Nipissing University to scout our provincial team players.

The referee program had a successful season with enough qualified and registered officials to cover all scheduled games. During final provincial weekend in October, we had all thirty-two games covered by qualified and registered referees. Thank you to Jean Thompson, Dave Liverman and all the officials for ensuring all games were covered throughout the season and on final provincial weekend. Thanks to our three Vice Presidents Judi, Damian and Bernie for organizing successful Challenge Cup, Jubilee Trophy and Provincial Youth Leagues this season; and to our soccer fans and sponsors for coming out and watching good competition all season. We were fortunate to have sixty-eight (68) candidates register for the online entry-level referee course; and twenty-four (24) of those completed the on-line training and were eligible to complete training through a one-day course. There were one hundred and forty- eight (148) officials registered in 2020 at the youth, regional, district and provincial levels; compared to three hundred twenty-one (321) officials registered in 2019. Through the efforts of Dave Liverman, we were first in the country to launch on-line training for entry-level referees. Three (3) of our officials attended a sixteen-hour on-line national instructor’s workshop this season; and we now currently have three (3) accredited instructors to train futsal referees. In 2021, a big focus for our referee committee will be on referee recruitment and training.

Special thanks to Colleen McConnell and her committee and the media for the great media support. Media coverage this past season has been very good. Special thanks to Gord Dunphy on the streaming of various Challenge Cup Games. Gord’s webcasting is viewed all across Canada and into Europe with many positive comments. In November Gord became an Honorary Life member of the NLSA. Congratulations and thank you Gord.

Thanks to Doug and the finance committee for having the association in a healthy financial situation. Doug, John and Rob have done a lot of work in finding ways to increase revenue and reduce expenses. This year we had a fifty –five percent decline in our 2020 registration numbers. In 2020, registration numbers was five thousand and fifteen (5015) as compared to ten thousand nine hundred twenty –four (10,924) in 2019.

Through all these challenges, the finance committee did great work in finding ways to apply for funding and subsidy programming to keep the association in a strong financial situation. The association must work to maintain a healthy financial situation in order to provide programs to our membership.

Chris Bartlett and his committee continue to review and update our website, to review ways that we can make it more user friendly and easy to navigate. We need to maintain our website and keep it current such that the soccer community can see great work being completed by our soccer people.

We are continually indebted to our sponsors, municipal, provincial and federal government and to the CSA for their financial and in-kind contributions and cooperation.

Thank you all for making 2020 soccer season a reality: clubs, players, coaches, officials, staff, board and executive members, sponsors, CSA, all levels of government, Sport NL, parents, volunteers and supporters. By working together, listening and respecting people's views, we worked through many challenges. At the end of the day, we were the only province in Canada to hold provincial youth, senior men's and senior women's championships. Thank You all for making soccer as successful as it could be in 2020. Only through the help and cooperation of everyone will soccer improve in 2021.

Vice-President Youth

Presented by Judi Kelloway

The 2020 soccer season was unique in every way. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, the soccer season was late starting and it was only with the hard work of the NLSA staff and the cooperation of the NLSA Board and all the clubs that the season was a success.

On the youth side of soccer most clubs were successful in having a shorter program with fewer participants. Government would not allow competition between different health regions so all Provincial Mega and Jamboree Competitions were cancelled at the end of July. It was felt that gatherings the size of our Mega and Jamboree Competitions could not adhere to the guidelines outlined in our Return to Play document. The NLSA was not in a position to oversee these events themselves and decided that it would put extra pressure on clubs, who were already struggling with keeping their players safe, to ask them to host such large events. On the plus side, Corner Brook did hold successful jamborees within their Health Region in both the U9 and U11 age groups.

Metro League in the greater St. John's area did proceed with adaptations that were necessary for them to adhere to the NLSA Return to Play Guidelines. They had a successful season with 110 teams participating. While some regular clubs did not register because of Covid, one new entry, Clarenville, registered. It was such an excellent experience for Clarenville that they are hoping to enter at more levels in 2021. Congrats to the organizers and participating clubs in this league for a successful season.

Our Premier Youth League (PYL) got underway at the end of July and concluded on Thanksgiving Weekend. While it was great for all players to get back on the field it was disappointing that teams from outside the Eastern Health Region were not permitted to participate. This year two teams from Western were impacted by this directive from government and were unable to participate in PYL. While this was completely out of our control the Western teams did continue playing within their region. The U17 Boys played a full season in the Corner Brook men's league and the U15 Boys managed to play some exhibition games against women's, men's masters and the U17 Boys' teams. Congratulations to Western for keeping these kids playing.

In total 31 (13 female and 18 male) participated in PYL. A total of 603 players (250 female and 353 male) took part in 186 regular season games (78 female and 108 male) and 24 playoff games (12 for both male and female).

This made for a shorter season with all teams playing 12 games in the regular season. In the beginning we had hoped we would be able to have our regular 15-18 game season but the late start (end of July vs. the end of May), school and shorter days meant less games could be played in late August and September, thereby forcing a shortened season.

The playoff format for all leagues was 1 vs 4 and 2 vs 3 followed by bronze and gold medal games. With 24 youth games and 8 senior games on Final Weekend we were forced to cancel the 4 vs 5 game in both U13 age groups and the 3 vs 6 and 4 vs 5 games in the U15 Boys. The reduced format proved to be very successful and will be discussed on a go forward basis. The number of games and the number of officials registered will be considered before any decision is made.

The results for PYL in 2020 were as follows:

League	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
U13 Boys	St. John's	MPSA	FAA	CBS	PSC		
U15 Boys	PSC	MPSA	St. John's Rep	FAA 05	FAA 06	CBS	St. John's Academy
U17 Boys	FAA 03	St. John's	FAA 04	CBS	BPSA	PSC	
U13 Girls	St. John's	PSC	CBS	MPSA	FAA		
U15 Girls	St. John's Rep	BPSA	CBS	St. John's Academy			
U17 Girls	St. John's	CBS	BPSA	PSC			

League Information

PYL	Teams	Player #'s	Regular Season				Final Weekend			
			Cautions	2Y = R	Player R	Coach R	Cautions	2Y = R	Player R	Coach R
U13 B	5	95	12	0	0	0	2	0	1	0
U15 B	7	138	38	2	2	2	8	1	0	0
U17 B	6	120	49	0	0	0	5	0	0	0

U13 G	5	94	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
U15 G	4	72	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
U17 G	4	84	7	0	0	0	2	0	0	0
Total	31	603	111	2	2	2	17	1	1	0

In closing I would like to thank everyone who helped make this short soccer season a success. The support of the Youth Committee (Chris Bartlett, Ian Chaytor, Bernie Manning, Rob Comerford, Dragan Mirkovic and Mark Marshall) was essential in developing a workable format for the PYL. A special thank you to Chris for his record keeping and technical support throughout the season.

Thank you to Rob, Dragan and Mark for their research and work in developing our Return to Training document and our Return to Play document and the NLSA Board for their patience while these documents were being written. Also, an extra thank you to Rob for his negotiations with government in getting our plans approved and to all the clubs, officials and players who worked with us by abiding by these documents.

Without the cooperation of everyone involved in the game there would have been no soccer in the province. On behalf of the youth of the province, thank you to each and every one of you.

Vice-President Senior Men

Presented by Damian Masterson

First, I would like to start by saying thank you to Johnson Insurance for their continued sponsorship of the Challenge Cup League.

I would also like to extend personal thanks to Ron O'Neill, Judi Kelloway and Bernie Manning for the continued support with the rules and regulations and the Discipline Code as part of the Rules and Regulation Committee, and all their help provided with the Discipline Committee in 2020. I would also like to extend personal thanks to Michael Edmunds and his Judicial Committee for all the work they did in 2020 and hopefully it will continue in 2021.

2020 was a year like no other. Nationals were cancelled, Canada Games were postponed and the NL Summer Games postponed. However, here in Newfoundland, we might have started late but we managed to get somewhat of a season played culminating in what was a very exciting Championship weekend with 32 games in 5 days. Thank you to everyone who made this possible from the players and coaches, officials and clubs who hosted games. Was it what everyone wanted I expect not but it was more than what most provinces got so we must be thankful.

Congratulations must be sent to Jake Stanford once again for winning the Bobby Breen first place trophy and by also winning the Championship Thanksgiving showdown. Congratulations to all the individual award winners.

Congratulations to Paul North and his Paradise club on getting a turf facility for 2021.

All Star Team for 2020

GK Sam Hawco, Holy Cross

DF Mike O'Brien, Holy Cross

DF Andrew Stanford, Holy Cross

DF Alex Pretty, Holy Cross

DF Marc Pittman, St. Lawrence

M Kyle Ryan, CBS

M Bobby Gamba, Feildians

M Jordi Slaney, St. Lawrence

F Tyler Kirby, Holy Cross
F Emmanuel Dolo, Feildians
F Owen Sheppard, Holy Cross

Bobby Breen award (First place regular season) – Holy Cross
Alphonsus Warren, Coach of the Year – Bernie Manning, Feildians
Wils Molloy, Golden Boot – Tyler Kirby, Holy Cross
Jeff Babstock (Top Defender) – Alex Pretty, Holy Cross
Jim Goff (Most spirited) – Jacob Westcott, Paradise
Dick Power (MVP regular season) – Mike O’Brien, Holy Cross
Ed Moyst award (Rookie of the Year) – Owen Sheppard, Holy Cross
Al Slaney award (Goalkeeper of the year) – Sam Hawco, Holy Cross
John Breen award (Top Midfielder) – Kyle Ryan, CBS

			Standings						
	Played	Won	Lost	Tied	Points	For	Against	Diff	
Holy Cross	18	14	2	2	44	54	16	38	
Feildians Athletic Association	17	13	4	0	39	48	18	30	
That Pro Look Strikers FC	18	8	10	0	24	21	30	-9	
St. Lawrence Soccer Association	17	5	10	2	17	27	41	-14	
Paradise Soccer Club	16	0	14	2	2	11	56	-45	

		Scoring Leaders			
	Number	Name	Team	App	Goals
1	10	Kirby, Tyler	Holy Cross	15	14
2	10	Dolo, Emmanuel	Feildians Athletic Association	12	11
3	14	Connors, Colin	Holy Cross	18	10
4	17	Sheppard, Owen	Holy Cross	18	9
5	14	Ryan, Kyle	That Pro Look Strikers FC	18	9

6	10	Hennebury, Brent	St. Lawrence Soccer Association	17	6
7	6	Elonda, Felly	Feildians Athletic Association	9	5
8	13	Slaney, Stefan	St. Lawrence Soccer Association	10	5
9	22	Grant, Jacob	Holy Cross	15	5
10	15	Slaney, Jordi	St. Lawrence Soccer Association	17	5

Vice-President Senior Women

Presented by Bernie Manning

This year 2020 will be remembered as one of the most challenging in recent history. Our soccer family was not excluded from the troubling times COVID-19 presented the community. While the year was abbreviated the game of soccer thrived, and the Women's edition was no exception. The numerous events and leagues provided fabulous competition for girls and young women of varying skills on all levels.

There are of course many people to thank for their tireless efforts and support throughout the year; executive members who worked together to ensure soccer was played at a safe and enjoyable level for all members of the soccer community. My fellow VP's, of Youth Judi Kelloway and VP of Senior Men's Damián Masterson who worked together to provide competition throughout the province and the members of the NLSA board. In addition, the NLSA staff for the great work they do behind the scenes with administration, technical issues and general advice needed to ensure all events run smoothly. And finally, the athletes, coaches and officials in our province, without your love for the 'beautiful game' nothing is possible. The attached report will review and highlight some of the milestones of the 2020 season.

Each spring during the NLSA Annual General Meeting most of the organizing and planning for all soccer within the province takes place. However due to the global pandemic of COVID-19 we were forced to enter into the world of virtual meetings. During the initial stages of lockdown, we, as board members, struggled to get our heads around how to operate our leagues in a safe manner and within the strict guidelines of the government and the CSA. Once we established the parameters of operation and complied with all bodies of governance, we began to maximize our season for the summer months. The CSA, however cancelled their Nationals program, enabling the NLSA to jump at the opportunity to lengthen our compromised season and utilize the Thanksgiving weekend. In an effort to highlight the leagues and genders a final weekend for all events was planned '**The Championships**'. This new brand, showcased our championships in all leagues and provided some much-needed attention to our final product, '**5 Days, 32 Games, 640 Players, 8 Champions**'. There was a new portal (www.thechampionships.ca) established along with new logos for the various leagues that make for easy navigation and put a spotlight on the NLSA.



As in previous years there was extensive work undertaken to review, debate and revise the Rules and Regulations all with the vision to provide a better end product for all those involved. The Rules and Regulations Committee ensures that all rules and suggestions are evaluated and given their attention.

Senior Competitive Programming:

Our league expanded this year with the addition of a new team to represent the St. John's Soccer Club. This expansion of the league to Four (4) teams provides a fresh new look at competition and relieve the monotony of a three (3) team league. In addition to an expanded regular season, the format of the playoffs was also enhanced with a fourth team. The league adopted the Page System to accommodate all four teams in the playoffs. Each senior team was scheduled to play 15 games and all games were played at KGV, Feildian Grounds and CBS Topsail field.

This year, no players had to sit out a game for cumulative yellow cards. Cautions were not an issue throughout the season with just two players receiving yellow cards, and one player receiving two. There were no red cards given out.

Regular Season Table:

Breen's Jubilee Championship								
	GP	W	D	L	PTS	GF	GA	GD
Holy Cross	15	12	1	2	38	68	12	56
Feildians Athletic Association	14	9	2	3	30	32	13	19
Calvin Randell Strikers FC	14	3	11	0	9	15	57	-42
St. John's Soccer Club	15	2	12	1	7	11	44	-33

Play Offs:

This year's playoffs were hosted by St. John's King George V pitch and, due to no national competitions, were played on Thanksgiving weekend October 10 -13. They highlight our new brand '**The Championships**'. The 1 vs 2 game Thursday evening, saw Feildians play Holy Cross. It was a tightly fought contest with Holy Cross winning the match, by a score of 2 – 1 and earning a direct place in the final. As well, in the page system we had 3 vs 4 for the right to play the semifinal match on Saturday, newbies St. John's played a hard fought match but CBS prevailed 2-0 and grabbing a place in the semifinal against Feildians on Saturday.

The semifinal had Feildians host CBS, the competitive match had Feildians overcome an emerging CBS team 4 – 1. While both teams competed hard only one came out on top to reach the final against the perennial champions.

The championship game was a spirited affair and was captured by Holy Cross in the end, with a final – score of 5-0 and won the right to call themselves Breen's Jubilee Champions of Newfoundland and Labrador. Unfortunately, due to the world events all national competitions had been cancelled for the season with hopes of resuming in 2021.

This year, unlike in previous years, the awards winners and all-stars were solely picked by those involved in the league to give a better representation of those selections. Congratulations to all winners and of course to all of those who competed.

Allstars: 4 - 3 - 3

Goalkeeper - Sydney Walsh, Feildians AA

Back - Keisha Young, Holy Cross

Back - Kristyn Lee, Holy Cross

Back - Jamie King, Feildians AA

Back - Briana Pender, Feildians AA

Midfield - Nicolle Torrville, Holy Cross

Midfield - Bethany Hynes, Feildians AA

Midfield - Katie Joyce, Feildians AA

Forward - Zoe Rowe, Feildians AA

Forward - Kate Hickey , Holy Cross

Forward - Holly O'Neill, Holy Cross

Awards

Coach of Year - Jake Stanford, Holy Cross

Top Defender - Briana Pender, Feildians AA

Joy Burt Award (MSP)- Katie Joyce, Feildians AA

Raeleen Baggs (MVP) - Holly O'Neill, Holy Cross

Rookie of the Year - Laura Murray, St. John's

Sandy Faulkner Award - Holly O'Neill , Holy Cross

Sherry Morrissey (MVP Playoff) - Nicolle Torrville, Holy Cross

Ann Woodford Award (Most Effective & Sportsperson Like) - Katie Joyce

Youth and PYL Programming:

Like the senior competitive portion of women's soccer, the youth female program has maintained steady interest this past year even with the limitations provided by COVID-19. The youth program had 242 young ladies on 13 teams over 3 divisions and 6 Clubs compete for provincial championships. In total, there were 1,605 youth females playing soccer in 2020. It is our hope that once the restrictions of COVID-19 have been overcome we can expect a growth in our ladies' youth program.

League Medalists:

PYL u13 – St John's, Paradise, CBS

PYL u15 – St John's, BPSA, CBS

PYL u17 – St John's, CBS, Paradise

Senior Competitive Programming

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 the Provincial Senior Ladies tournaments that typically takes place mid-summer were cancelled. These tournaments traditionally have a great attendance and showcase the recreational side and establish a legacy of ladies' soccer. The goal is next year to bring back these tournaments bigger and better and establish a location for non-competitive athletes to play.

Summary:

This has been my first year as VP of the Women's and while challenging it has been a great learning opportunity for both me and all those involved. The game remains steady in Newfoundland and Labrador with demographics of 2020 to be slightly skewed due to the impact of COVID-19 and the limits on enrollment. However, the addition of the new Senior Ladies' team from St. John's Soccer Club remains a bright spot and will provide some much-needed optimism on the Jubilee level and in turn provide other clubs with opportunities and aspirations of entering in our province's top competition.

Director of Officials Report

Presented by Dave Liverman

Like many areas of provincial soccer, the referee program was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. None the less, we had a successful season once soccer got under way, with enough qualified referees to cover all scheduled games.

Registration

A complete registration report is appended. Of note is the decline in registered numbers, expected to be a short-term trend related to the COVID-19 epidemic.

Education

A major issue for us was the inability to hold referee courses. Canada Soccer suspended the regional course but made a major effort to restructure the entry level course to put much of the material on-line. The NLSA were the first to launch the on-line training, and 68 candidates registered for the online course and were given access to the Google Classroom course. Of these, 24 completed the on-line course and were eligible to complete training through a one-day course. However, hosting of the courses is dependent on the co-operation of clubs, leagues and regions, and although there were adequate numbers to host courses on the Burin Peninsula and in Western, no courses were offered. Eventually a single course was offered in September in the NE Avalon, qualifying 11 referees. No small-sided referees qualified this year.

We normally qualify 40-100 entry level referees every year, and thus planning for next season needs to consider that there is a potential shortage of officials in prospect. Holding early courses across the province may help remedy this situation. It seems likely that the entry level course will remain in its new form, with on-line study supplemented by a one-day practical course, and the shorter in-person time may help make the course more attractive. It is also substantially cheaper for hosts.

The referee committee had planned a major recruiting effort, targeting players at senior level, but this had to be put on hold. The material prepared for this is still on hand, so again, co-operation with leagues, clubs and regions will be needed.

We now have accredited instructors in western Newfoundland and will re-accredit an instructor on the Burin Peninsula by the spring. In addition, three instructors are now qualified to instruct Futsal referees (Dave Liverman, Gary Martin and Dan Maher).

Three instructors (Dave Liverman, Martin Batterson and Dan Maher) attended a national instructor's workshop, held on-line with six two and a half hour sessions in October/ November. This focused on techniques of teaching and learning on-line, as well as introducing new material sourced from FIFA instruction.

Referee Development

An important component of referee development is the formal assessment process; a report from Martin Batterson is appended.

Referee development needs to be a collective responsibility, with the referee committee providing leadership and direction but with clubs, leagues and regions taking a role as well.

The committee is finalizing a referee development guide to assist all levels of soccer in the province with development programs, and this should be available in the new year.

Assigning

The “assignr” on-line assigning system was used again this year for soccer in the NE Avalon as well as Challenge Cup on the Burin. The system is working well and is a joint project between St. John’s Senior and the NLSA. We recommend its use more widely and would be happy to help any group get up to speed if they choose to adopt it.

Game sheets

The on-line game sheet system adopted by the NLSA for provincial competition was well received by referees, and worked well from an official’s point of view. It would be good to see similar systems used more widely.

High School Soccer

High school soccer remains an issue. Although there was no systematic effort made to check on the status of those refereeing at this level, we were made aware that in one region at least unregistered and unqualified individuals were refereeing matches, as well as the disapproved 2 referee system being used. There needs to be a better understanding between School Sports NL and the NLSA to improve this situation. It is to be assumed that no-one wants soccer to be played with unqualified referees.

Referee Academy

The NLSA referee academy was put in place in 2019 and had an initial intake of 9 young referees, later supplemented by 2 others. Of the 11 selected, two have advanced to regional level, and two more have completed the requirements for regional promotion apart from the course itself. Five did not referee much or at all in 2020, due to work commitments, injury, or prioritizing playing over officiating. Four of the group acted as center referees in Jubilee this season. The 2020 selection process is nearly complete, and we hope to add four to six candidates to the group, and plan to continue to work with them to advance their refereeing skills and careers.

Conclusion

Thanks to the referee committee (Gary Martin, Dan Maher, Jean Thompson, John Kennedy, Martin Batterson and Dave Pitman) for their work and support in what has been a challenging year.

Registration Report 2020

Overview

The NLSA Referee Committee is responsible for the registration of referees in the province, and to meet this responsibility created a Referee database for the purpose of tracking registration and training for all officials. I was appointed as Registrar in 2012. Since then the database has expanded to include over 2,000 referees, although many are not active. Just over 1000 referees have been registered within the last 4 or 5 years.

In 2020 there were 149 registered referees (table attached), a decrease of 172 registered referees from 2019. The reasons for this decrease are likely all related to the Covid-19 pandemic which resulted in an almost complete elimination of training course, and an abbreviated soccer season across the province.

As a result of the sharp decline in registration an analysis of referee retention was not completed.

There was a revamping of the registration process in 2019 whereby only those referees who had successfully completed a mandatory on-line refresher test were eligible for registration. This initiative was designed to ensure that all officials were well versed in the Laws of the Game, that they were actively refereeing, and the data within the database was accurate. This process continued in 2020.

Regional coordinators were provided with a link to the list of registered referees. This list was updated on a regular basis, commonly daily, as registrations were received. Regions who used unregistered officials were subject to fines, as per NLSA guidelines.

As the database is now 9 years old, I am confident that the information currently contained in the database is accurate. This is partly due to the diligence of NLSA Instructors who all provide course logs following their courses, and because of the NLSA regulation that referees are required to re-take a course if they have not been registered in the previous 2 years. Therefore, if individuals are not in the database, they have not completed a course or been registered since 2012, and they are therefore required to re-certify. No system is perfect however, and below are some recommendations for its improvement.

Registration Process

Registration is from 2 sources:

- i. From NLSA instructors who supply course logs for all their clinics. Registration remains included in the course fees.
- ii. Via individual on-line registration. This now accounts for most registrations. It is anticipated this will largely replace club registrations in the future.

Lists of referees from individual clubs supplied directly to the registrar are now no-longer accepted. Following registration and confirmation the mandatory refresher test has been successfully completed, the referees name, region and level (small-sided or District and above) is included in a list made available to those responsible for referee assigning. This list is accessed via the NLSA website, but is password protected. The list is updated regularly, commonly daily.

Recommendations from 2019

Although the on-line registration process has considerably improved the efficacy of registration, there is room for improvement:

- (a) The refresher test and the registration form should be linked. Once the test is successfully completed the referee should be immediately directed to the registration page. *This was implemented for the 2020 registration process.*
- (b) Once registration is submitted a confirmation email should be automatically generated and sent to the referee. *Implementation of this recommendation presented some challenges. The registrar now informs referees via email they have successfully registered.*
- (c) There should be a central repository for all Provincial league game sheets, which can be accessed by the registrar to ensure only registered and qualified referees are used. *This was implemented for the 2020 season.*
- (d) Consideration will be given to listing registered referees on the NLSA website by surname, rather than grouped in regions. This will make confirmation easier for those who use referees from more than one region. *This was implemented for the 2020 season.*

There are no new recommendations.

1. Late Registration and Use of Unregistered Officials

Registration deadlines are communicated to clubs on an annual basis. However, registrations are commonly received until late in the season, up to and including the weekend of Provincial tournaments. This gives little or no time to recertify referees, if required, and has led to unregistered and unqualified referees officiating Provincial tournament matches. However, the NLSA introduced monetary sanctions for using unregistered referees in NLSA-sanctioned matches in 2019. Together with the new on-line registration system this has significantly reduced the frequency of unregistered officials being used. No fines were assessed in 2020.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Referee Registrar, and I hope to continue in the role next season. Let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the Referee Registration process.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Batterson, NLSA Referee Registrar

2020 Registered Referees (by Region and Level).

Region	Sm.Sd.	District	Regional	Provincial	Total
Avalon	10	7	1	0	18
Burin	0	9	1	0	10
CBS	9	14	0	0	23
Central	0	1	0	0	1
Labrador	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Pearl	8	0	1	1	10
St. John's	12	28	11	1	52
TCP	0	6	0	0	6
Western	0	24	1	0	25
Not affiliated	0	2	1	1	4
Total	30	91	15	3	149

2019 Registered Referees (by Region and Level)

Region	Sm.Sd.	District	Regional	Provincial	Total
Avalon	25	12	0	0	37
Burin	0	14	2	0	16
CBS	37	15	0	0	52
Central	0	8	0	0	8
Labrador	13	0	0	0	13
Mount Pearl	14	2	0	0	16
St. John's	53	56	12	2	123
TP	3	15	0	0	18
Western	0	37	1	0	38

Total	145	159	15	2	321
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Assessment Report 2020

Overview

The NLSA Referee Committee is responsible for management of the assessment process in the province. Assessments are completed on referees for various reasons:

- To provide feedback that will help the match officials recognise their strengths and identify their areas for improvement.
- To recommend how they can improve their performances in the future.
- To ensure a uniform and consistent interpretation and application of the LOTG.
- To identify talented officials, and those who need more attention.
- To report to the referee committee on the performance of our officials

Assessments are also an important component of referee upgrading. Requirements for upgrading from District to Regional, and from Regional to Provincial are outlined in the Referee Handbook.

Assessors

The NLSA maintains a pool of assessors to assess our referees. Many have retired from on-field refereeing, although some are active. Assessor levels are the same as referees – from District to National. The NLSA currently has one national-level assessor.

Assessments

2020, as we know, was an abbreviated soccer season because of COVID-19. Assessments focused on the championship weekend in October which saw PLY U13B&G, U15B&G, U17B&G, Jubilee and Challenge Cup all played over the Thanksgiving weekend in St. John’s. There were also assessments during the lead-up to the championship weekend. In addition, assessments of the Academy group of officials continued.

In total, 27 assessments were completed in 2020. This should be considered a reasonable total considering the challenges we had this season.

Moving Forward

In the anticipation to a return to ‘normal’ next season, there are several enhancements to the assessment program intended:

- Increase the number of assessments. This should focus on the academy group with the aim of upgrading officials. These officials are required to take the place of our more experienced group of officials as they near the ends of their refereeing careers.
- Work towards the National program. Ultimately, the program should be focused on developing officials for the CSA NextGen program and eventual National level. We haven't had a National official for several years and this should be rectified!
- Develop assessors in the regions and support them. Although we now have assessors on the Burin (Kevin Pitman) and in Western (Greg Keats) we should endeavor to increase the number of assessors outside of the metro area. In addition, we need to ensure they are better supported. This includes more on-line training sessions and/or meetings.
- Promote assessors. As with other aspects of officiating assessors should seek upgrade, with a view to the National program.

It has been my pleasure to work with the assessment team, and I thank Jean Thompson (ex-National Assessor) for her tremendous effort in this program.

Technical Director

Presented by Dragan Mirkovic

In March 2020 when the COVID-19 Pandemic struck all across the country sport activities were quickly brought to a complete halt. At that point, the NLSA programs looked healthier than ever, with a huge number of athletes looking forward to competitions within and out of the Atlantic Region. As the time was passing by the whole picture including sports was getting increasingly bleaker and pessimistic with announcements of delays coming so fast that it made it impossible to track it down.

Looking back from today's perspective and into everything that has been accomplished since I have to say that I feel very proud on how brave, consistent, and uncompromising NLSA acted in pulling off and completing our provincial youth and senior leagues without dropping a guard on myriad of safety protocols imposed by the Health Authorities. At the end when a curtain fell, we celebrated achievements of so many talented athletes, teams, and coaches without a single conversation on safety incidents simply because we did not have any. 800 people on the final play-off weekend was a testament to passion and commitment and a nod to a rich history of the game that is solid as the rocks that surround us.

Even without the National Tournaments we had it all. There was a clash between Holy Cross and Feildians with some rush of blood into heads as always, a theater of broken dreams on one side and the jubilation on the other after the final of Jubilee Trophy competitions, some fantastic goals, and a moment of history for Paradise SC after winning BU15 PYL. So, we had what other provinces could not even dream about and that will be a true legacy of 2020 that will have a far-reaching effect on exciting soccer years ahead.

Off the field was not sluggish either. A tremendous amount of time, energy, resources, and ideas went into some major areas of development, most notably into Coaching Development and Canada Soccer Licensing Program. Considering that these are areas that will shape the soccer future of Newfoundland and Labrador for better or worse for many years to come we should be more than elated with the final outcomes. 7 clubs in total which is unprecedented in Canada have gained Quality Soccer Provider designations which when translated sound like "you can't go back to old ways, you got to keep moving forward and improving standards on every step you make". All kudos to the clubs who are committed to grow stronger and provide the best soccer experience to all those from 3 to 73 willing to run with the ball and enjoy the beautiful game.

On Coaching Development side heavily influenced by Mark Marshall and his vast experience and expertise more than 30 coaches stepped into the Licensing Stream learning about the most advanced coaching methodologies and practices via online courses. A good number of those coaches have first serious assignments either with the provincial team program or the Whitecaps Academy programs which is a key factor in improving as a coach as one gets an opportunity to transfer course materials onto the training ground where all those diagrams and footnotes truly come to life. Also, a high number of female coaches involved will ensure that all NLSA programs are inclusive and fair and yet based on standards and quality.

With seven coaches completing B Part 1 in 2020 and most likely moving to the next stage there will be need for more quality competitions in the future and significant change in terms of coaching

qualifications needed for our most prolific competitions. It would be a big mistake to go into denial in relation to a possible entry into CPL in the future as with such dense population of highly qualified coaches and never-ending stream of young talent one simply cannot and should not suppress the growth, ambition, and top standards. Hockey has done it, basketball has done it and soccer, which has tremendous human resources on players, coaches and administrative side should be able to do it. It is in human nature to try not to be second and people have over the years gone through impossible and against all odds to achieve and redefine what individuals, teams, cities, provinces, and countries are capable of. Newfoundland and Labrador has tremendous soccer facilities with two more to come soon, respectable coaching community that will grow even stronger by years and a lot of talented players who should not stop short of going all the way and developing their talent to the fullest.

Laura Breen, Malorie Harris, Sarah Arnott, Sarah Drake, Andrew Murphy, Andrew Moyst or Richard Kelly were as good as any players who at that time played for the national teams. They could not sustain what was required because they did not have a competition that would keep them flying. So, soccer story about Newfoundland and Labrador is really a story of what could have been, and it is sad to think that the next Laura or Andrew that we already see emerging in our current programs in 10-15 years, because we embraced status quo will be just another chapter in a "what could have been book."

At the end I would like to say a big thank you to the NLSA and its Board for their strong belief and even stronger action to make it happen. Admiration to all clubs and club representatives and most importantly to all their players who stepped up when everything was so uncertain as it takes a special fabric to do that. My colleagues Rob and Mark who's contribution was enormous and to all my colleagues in coaching community I say "Great job and thank you".

Director of Player Development Report

Mark Marshall

NLSA board approved the following:

- Coaching standards across leagues
- Coaching education:
 - C and B License Courses
 - GK Diploma Course

Community Courses

- Active start # 8 coaches (online)
- Fundamentals # 10 coaches # of (online)
- Learn to Train # 20 (online)
- Soccer for life # 56(online)
- Completed the full course:
 - Learn to Train: 14 coaches
 - Soccer for life:40 coaches

C License Course

- 25 coaches attended and completed the online course (in training)
- 23 coaches attended on-field workshop as well as the online course (23 trained)
- On-field assessments for full certification currently scheduled
- No dates have been released for 2021
 - 7 coaches currently on a wait list for 2021

B License Course

- 7 coaches attended and completed the online course (in training)
- 6 coaches have attended the on-field workshops and are in the trained status
- On-field assessments for full certification currently scheduled for early 2021

GK Diploma Course

- 11 coaches attend the online modules and then completed the on-field modules in August 2020
- Scott Edwards has been appointed Head GK Coach for the Provincial Program
- Currently working on assigning a GK Coach to each of our age groups

Canada Soccer Club License

- 8 applicants
- 7 clubs awarded the *Quality Soccer Providers* designation:
 1. CBS
 2. Corner Brook

3. Feildians
4. Goose Bay
5. Paradise
6. Mount Pearl
7. St John's

Canada Soccer Club License

- 2 current applicants
- For review for Member Association Youth Club License – Level 1 or 2
 1. Corner Brook Minor Soccer
 2. Feildians

Safe Sport

- NLSA Board made it mandatory that all board members take the safe sport course
- All staff and Provincial staff to complete the course

Mentorship Program

- Hannah McCarthy
- Steve Jamison
- Abby Evans
- Vaughn Hammond
- Courtney Neville

2025 Canada Games Program

- 240 players from across the province attended trials
- Parent presentation – over 200 attended
- Coach education in process (Youth License)
- New structure for first camp
- Fundraising & sponsorship starts January 2021

2021 Canada Games Program

- Canada Games rescheduled to 2022 in Ontario
- Training with Senior Prospects Program
- Exhibition games every second Friday

2020/21 Provincial Program

- 440 players from across the province attended trials
- Coaches and players selected from across the province
- U12 to U17 teams
- All Coaches and Managers are Board approved

- New GK Development Program
- Atlantic Tournaments planned for June/July 2021

2020/21 Vancouver Whitecaps Program

- Pre-Prospects: reduced numbers
 - Only selected top 24 players
 - National B Part 2 Level coaches + mentee coach
- Junior Prospects: increased numbers to 24
 - DM and MM Head Coaches + mentee coaches
- Senior prospects 22/24 players
 - DM/MM: Male coaching staff MP/HN/PR: Female coach

Communication

- *Team Snap* used in all programs for consistent communication
- Covid-19 tracking and alignment with the Safe Sport standards
- Regular Zoom call with club technical leads throughout the province
- Parent presentations via Zoom

New Partnerships

Vancouver Whitecaps

- New 5-year partnership
- Whitecaps staff to be relocated to NS
- Consistent visits and scouting
- Parent and player presentations
- Virtual Academy for players outside of metro area

University of Toronto

Number 1 school in Canada 21 in the world

Only partnership in Eastern Canada

- Ongoing partnership
- Scouting visits to NL
- Parent and player presentations
- Tracking of players at Umbro Tournament
- University tours

Nipissing University (North Bay, Ontario)

Only partnership in Eastern Canada

- Ongoing partnership
- Scouting visits to NL

- Parent and player presentations
- Tracking of players at Umbro Tournament
- University tour
- Free use of University facilities for pre-Umbro camp

Academy Soccer Coach

- Ongoing partnership
- Session planning software
- NLSA Provincial teams and coach education
- Male and female players
- FIFA and Futsal session plan
- In-line with Canada Soccer coach education
- Cloud capabilities
- Online resources NLSA plus ASC

Business Manager Report

Presented by: Rob Comerford

General Comments

The 2020 calendar year proved to be a very unusual period due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. I would like to thank all the Board of Directors for all their volunteer efforts during this year, including Doug Redmond, Doug Kirby and Judi Kelloway with whom I work closely with on a regular basis. I would also like to thank Dragan Mirkovic and Mark Marshall for their efforts this past summer. This year the NLSA received Summer Employment grants from the Federal and Provincial governments that enabled us to employ five individuals during the summer period. Felly Elonda assumed to the Program Coordinator position, while Eric Knight, Kirk Edwards, Abby Evans and Sam Upshall were utilized on the field.

COVID Impact

The NLSA office worked tirelessly with the Provincial Government, Sport Newfoundland and Labrador and Canada Soccer to implement new protocols designed to address the safety of the public while ensuring members were able to return soccer. Specifically, Return to Play Protocols were designed for Outdoor Soccer and Indoor Training. The NLSA was the envy of Canada and came a long way from players have to be 6 feet apart at all times in June to Championships in October. In addition, protocols had to be designed to enable licensed canteens to resume operations, while the Spectator Management Strategy for the Johnson Insurance Challenge Trophy and the Breen's Jubilee Trophy was designed two months prior to Championship Weekend, but only approved shortly before the Championships at KGV took place.

With the impact and uncertainty associated with COVID, NLSA player registration numbers experienced a sharp decline of 55% (from 10,924 registered players in 2019 to 5,015 registered players in 2020).

A Short summary of registration for Coaches, Executive Members and Officials can be seen in the table below.

Volunteer Type	2020 Membership	2019 Membership
Coaches	341	582
Executive	149	185
Officials	148	293

Registration System

Registration of all members is crucial to ensure the risk management of the NLSA and its membership clubs is minimized. Clubs are strongly encouraged to adopt the RAMP Registration Platform. When a player/coach registers with a Club using RAMP, the data automatically appears in the NLSA Registration System.

Clubs that do not use RAMP must present the data in the **exact manner** with which it is requested. Instructions are sent out many times leading up to the registration due date of July 13, 2021. Please follow the instructions specified. While a club may think "it's not a big deal" to submit data in an

incorrect format, it is crucial to remember that the NLSA staff simply do not have the resources to make adjustments or corrections on every single data import. Some common errors are:

1. Presenting data on multiple tabs of the submitted Microsoft Excel Workbook
 - a. All data **MUST** be on the same Microsoft Excel Tab
2. Submitting data in the incorrect birthdate format
3. Omitting data
 - a. Ie. Birthdates, Addresses
4. Being “Creative” with Cells – lets keep it simple!!!
5. Including First and Last name in the Same Cell.

Communication

Communication is extremely important to the Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association. I strive to respond to all emails within 24 hours. For the most part, my request for information and additional details was adhered to in a timely fashion. However, there were situations where requests for the same information was made on a regular basis. The most important information that the NLSA needs to receive on a timely basis are the game sheets from the Premier Youth League. These game sheets are crucial for updating the NLSA website and ensuring discipline matters are managed in a timely-manner. The website has recently been “refreshed” to be more user-friendly thanks in large part to Dave Liverman and Chris Bartlett. The website, along with Team Snap introduced by Mark Marshall and Twitter, will continue to be the main forms of communication going forward. A special thank you to Mrs. Colleen McConnell, who again assumed control of the NLSA Twitter Account. Tweets were communicated quickly and accurately. Today, the NLSA has 2,362 followers (2, 188 followers in 2019) and has made over 8,600 tweets. Colleen also embraced the development of the 2020 Newsletter which is wonderful to see.

Transfer Policy

It has been brought to my attention that the NLSA Transfer policy is not having the desired effect. The NLSA would like to hear from the Clubs that are affected by the Transfer Policy to seek ways to improve it. Only with the cooperation of the Clubs, will the transfer policy be successful.

Provincial Tournaments

The Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association determines the Provincial Tournament hosts and dates in April. From then, the registration deadlines are applied and posted to the NLSA Website as well as sent to Club officials. It is imperative that Club Officials seek out the tournament registration deadlines and adhere to them. Unfortunately, due to COVID, Provincial Tournaments, except for the Premier Youth Leagues, Johnson Insurance Challenge Trophy and Breen’s Jubilee Trophy, were cancelled.

Provincial Tournament Registration

The process for registering for a provincial tournament is as follows:

1. Go to NLSA Website
2. Go to Registration Portal on Home Page (Under Vancouver WhiteCaps Banner)
3. Click “New to Site” to Create a New Account. Once account is created, log out and then log back into the site
4. On the left panel, there is a Heading called **Tournament Registration**. Click this Heading.
5. Choose the tournament that you wish to register the team for
 - a. Important dates will appear (registration and tournament date)
6. Click the tick box that says “I have read Everything Fully and Agree”
7. Directed to another page, select the Division
8. Under division tick off the package and then click continue
9. Enter Contact information for the team under ‘Contact 1’ and ‘Contact 2’
10. Under Team select ‘Find Your Team’ and select your club, season (2018), division, team, and team name.
11. Click continue and select your method of payment.
12. Review details of submission and click ‘Confirm and Complete Registration’

Risk Management

The Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association is a member of BFL Canada Risk Management Services.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association actively engages in risk management protocols, having become certified as a Safe Sport member in 2020. The NLSA requires that all coaching staffs registered for Provincial Competitions be screened annually by the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. While the NLSA recognizes the time requirement to have a person’s background reviewed can be extensive, the forms required takes less than 5 minutes to complete and should be completed immediately once a person has been asked to join a coaching staff. For teams that represent the NLSA at Provincial Team Competitions or Club Nationals, these documents need to be completed and submitted to the appropriate authorities prior to the start of the season. A person should not be a member of the coaching staff until an RNC or RCMP Code of Conduct Application has been submitted to the appropriate authorities. For the protection of Soccer Clubs, all Executive Members should also send in the appropriate forms to the RNC or RCMP. For not-for-profit associations, this procedure is free.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer actively encourages all volunteers associated with a soccer club to complete the Respect in Sport Course. In addition, all members of the coaching staff participating in a Provincial Soccer Tournament are required to complete Respect in Sport Course. Respect-in-Sport is an online Harassment Course that can be completed at one’s convenience for \$30.00.

Despite the best efforts of the NLSA, there were still Coaches and Managers on credential forms who have not completed the Respect in Sport Course. This is extremely important for individuals who have not completed the course but will be part of team staffs representing Newfoundland and Labrador at the Club Nationals. As you may or may not know, the level of documentation for teams travelling to Club Nationals is very high and failure to have the harassment course completed adds further work in already a very short period of time.

Club Nationals

Prior to 2019, only players who have the following classification were permitted to play in competitions leading to a Club National competition:

- Canadian Citizen
- Permanent Resident
- Protected Person.

Canada Soccer has continued with their policy that enables up to a maximum of 3 international players to participate in competitions leading to Club Nationals. The Canada Soccer deadlines to apply for the exemptions are July 31, 201X. I believe the deadlines such that International players can play in NLSA Premier Youth Leagues, Jubilee Trophy and Challenge Trophy leagues should be April 30, 2020. Without the exemption from Canada Soccer, the players are not be permitted to participate in any league games. An International Transfer Certificate is still required prior to the exemption process taking place.

St. John's Region Report

Presented by Colleen McConnell

Introduction

The St. John's region covers the geographic area of the capital city and includes two clubs with youth and senior programs, Feildians Athletic Association (FAA) and St. John's Soccer Club (SJSC). A third club, Metropolitan United, which had been focused on community youth soccer in the Goulds, folded in 2020. We will examine ways to reactivate programming in 2021.

COVID-19 presented challenges for clubs in the region, with house league activities suspended at SJSC. However, competitive teams with both FAA and SJSC had a successful year. Holy Cross men's and women's teams repeated as champions for the Johnson Insurance Challenge Cup (Senior Men) and the Breen's Jubilee Trophy (Senior Women). Feildians men and women placed second in both leagues. A full summary is below.

Off the pitch, both FAA and SJSC were recognized as Quality Soccer Providers by Canada Soccer through their Club License Level 1, and Feildians have been accepted to complete Level 2.

Johnson Insurance Challenge Cup (Senior Men)

Gold – Holy Cross Kirby Group

Silver – Feildians

All-star team:

Bob Gamba, Feildians

Emmanuel Dolo, Feildians

Sam Hawco, Holy Cross

Mike O'Brien, Holy Cross

Andrew Stanford, Holy Cross

Alex Pretty, Holy Cross

Tyler Kirby, Holy Cross

Owen Sheppard, Holy Cross

Individual Awards

Bobby Breen award (First place regular season) – Holy Cross

Alphonsus Warren, Coach of the Year – Bernie Manning, Feildians

Wils Molloy, Golden Boot – Tyler Kirby, Holy Cross

Jeff Babstock (Top Defender) – Alex Pretty, Holy Cross

Dick Power (MVP regular season) – Mike O'Brien, Holy Cross

Ed Moyst award (Rookie of the Year) – Owen Sheppard, Holy Cross

Al Slaney award (Goalkeeper of the year) – Sam Hawco, Holy Cross

Gerard Quirke Memorial Award (Playoff MVP) – Jacob Grant, Holy Cross

Breen's Jubilee Trophy (Senior women)

Gold – Holy Cross Avalon Ford

Silver – Feildians

All-star team:

Sydney Walsh, Feildians

Keisha Young, Holy Cross

Kristyn Lee, Holy Cross

Jamie King, Feildians

Briana Pender, Feildians

Nicole Torraville, Holy Cross

Bethany Hynes, Feildians

Katie Joyce, Feildians

Zoe Rowe, Feildians

Kat Hickey, Holy Cross

Holly O'Neill, Holy Cross

Individual Awards

Jean Thompson award (first place regular season) - Holy Cross

Top Defender - Briana Pender, Feildians

Joy Burt award (Most Spirited) - Katie Joyce, Feildians

Raeleen Baggs Award (MVP regular season) - Holly O'Neill, Holy Cross

Rookie of the Year - Laura Murray, St. John's Soccer Club

Sandy Faulkner award (Top scorer) - Holly O'Neill, Holy Cross

Sherry Morrissey Award (Playoff MVP) – Nicole Torraville, Holy Cross

Ann Woodford Award (Most effective and sportspersonlike) – Bethany Hynes, Feildians

Premier Youth League – SJ Region medalists

	BU13	BU15	BU17	GU13	GU15	GU17
Gold	SJSC		Feildians	SJSC	SJSC	SJSC
Silver			SJSC			
Bronze	Feildians	SJSC	Feildians			

NLSA Awards

Youth player of the year - Taj Exley, Feildians

Team of year – Feildians U-17 boys

Mount Pearl Region Report

Presented by John McCarthy

Introduction

2020 has been a hard year for soccer in Newfoundland and Labrador. I would like to thank all members of the NLSA board and staff that worked to get the Return to Train and Return to Play documents completed and approved from government. It is through this hard work that the soccer that did occur took place in 2020 with no issues.

With these guidelines outlined in these documents soccer in Mount Pearl ran with less numbers but great success. It is through the hard work from the Mount Pearl Soccer Association Office and Summer Staff under the direction of Mount Pearl board members that the program ran as well as it did. This was very evident by the noise on the field that the kids had fun throughout the shortened summer soccer program.

The board continued to support the past players and current players in 2020 to be a part of our coaching staff. I would like to congratulate many of our coaches in our All Star program that have committed themselves to be better coaches for their players (many of which have started and completed the C license). The NLSA should also be applauded for their efforts in 2020 for their efforts in developing better coaches for soccer players under the direction of the technical staff. It is these coaches that must be supported as they are the future of the sport in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Lastly, I would like the City of Mount Pearl that has always been a supporter of sport especially soccer in Mount Pearl. It is with this support that MPSA can provide exceptional facilities for the players of Mount Pearl and the surrounding area.

All Star and Senior Competitive Division

Mount Pearl Soccer Association was able to field 3 teams in the Provincial League for the summer of 2020. Girls Under 13, coached by Pamela Reid and the Boys Under 13 and Boys Under 15 teams, both coached by Andrew Moyst. Mount Pearl also entered the Metro league for ages under 7 to under 15. It is through the hard work of all coaches and players for the season that we have increased our players interested in a higher level of soccer from 2020 to the winter programs of 2021 by over 50%. It is my hope that we continue to support coaching development and in turn attract players to our programs to bring Mount Pearl Soccer Association back to fielding teams in all Provincial Leagues and Senior Leagues (including Challenge Trophy and Jubilee Trophy)

I would also like to welcome Steven Jamieson to the role of Technical Director. I feel, through his support of the coaches and players, he will ensure that Mount Pearl will be able to achieve their goal of fielding teams in all leagues in the coming years.

Registration

Even though soccer registration was affected by the COVID 19 pandemic we ran a strong summer program for 4 weeks. I would hope that the Mount Pearl soccer Association (MPSA) continues to see the value in their summer programs to attract kids to the game of soccer. MPSA has a strong showing in

our micro program for players aged 3 to 6 and large number in our Under 8 and Under 12 programs in both Girls and Boys. MPSA youth registrations numbers total was 650 players for 2020. We will continue to attract players to grow our younger aged players with the goal to have all age divisions in both boys and girls in the metro and PYL leagues by 2022. This seems to be the direction that we are going in based on the numbers of players entering our winter 2021 program.

Provincial Tournaments

No provincial tournaments ran in 2020 due to COVID 19 health restrictions. I am confident with the work put into getting the season up and running for 2020 and the successes that we achieved the summer 2021 soccer season will be better and stronger due to the efforts made in 2020.

Senior Divisions

I would like to thank all the players that committed to a shortened season in 2020 but still decided to come out and play. Mount Pearl entered both a Men's Intermediate Team and Masters' Team in the St. John's Soccer Senior League. I would like to thank Brian Murphy for all the effort he put in to ensure that the season ran as smoothly as possible during this year.

Referees

There were no referee clinics hosted by MPSA in 2020 due to the late season and uncertainty. I would hope that MPSA continues to support their referees in the summer program, PYL and Metro leagues by expressing their importance to the game and supporting them both on and off the field. It is these people, who when supported, who will help the game be the best it can be.

Looking Forward

We must strive to listen to what our membership is saying and ensure that the main focus is the players, coaches and referees. The NLSA must act as a facilitator when it comes to ensuring all clubs are playing by the same rules, this will help in making clubs strong again by having players feel a sense of belonging to a club and not just moving from club to club because they feel there may be more opportunity elsewhere.

The NLSA Board needs to look to the clubs to encourage more players to become referees. The NLSA must support this development by constantly supporting young and experienced referees through opportunities to learn the rules of the game and be mentored in the game setting to ensure they continue to love the game in this capacity. It is through these referees' love of the game that the game can and must grow in the future.

In closing I would like to thank all the board members that for all they have done over the past year. To staff that without their dedication and hard work the programs would not operate as smoothly. I would also like to congratulate all players, parents, volunteers and employees of the Association for a great year and looking forward to working with them in future to make next year better than this one.

Paradise Region Report

Presented by Paul North

No Doubt the 2020 soccer season was a challenge for all Clubs and that was no different for PSC. The COVID-19 Pandemic played havoc with the season and will continue to for at least the near future. In spite of the Pandemic, PSC ran programs and teams for most age groups and saw a summer program that was enjoyed by many players. Registration numbers were about half of what would register in a normal year but there was an increased number of players in the Development and Competitive Programs.

2020 saw PSC win its first PYL Championship in club history with the boys U15 winning gold and saw the u13 girls win silver on NLSA Final Weekend. PSC also participated in most divisions of Metro League and won gold in Boys u15 in that league as well.

2020 also saw the continued improvement of the PSC Challenge Cup team as well as the men's intermediate team. The PSC women's intermediate team won silver in the Tier 2 division. In December of 2020, the long-awaited announcement of a synthetic turf field would be built at the Diane Whelan Memorial Soccer Complex was tremendous news for PSC. This is something that both the current and past Executives have worked tirelessly to achieve.

2021 is lining up to be an exciting year for soccer in Paradise. Challenges will remain as COVID-19 is still expected to be a challenge for 2021. Rebuilding membership and continuing to improve all teams and facilities and hopefully will see a return of the Annual SunSplash Soccer Tournament will remain priorities for PSC in 2021.

Trinity-Conception-Placentia Report

Presented by: Chris Bartlett

This was a hard but successful season for the Trinity Conception Placentia (TCP) region given the COVID-19 pandemic. We had three clubs operating this summer with player registration numbers below the 2019 season, again due to COVID-19.

Without any MEGAs or Jamborees, clubs within the region had no options for tournaments.

Our goal for the 2021 season is to continue to improve club cooperation and regrow club registration to their pre-pandemic levels.

I think in 2021 outdoor season we will be operating under the same COVID-19 rules as we finished the 2020 season, so we need to plan things to have recreational stream of competitions within these rules.

Central Region Report

Presented by: Terry Goulding

In a time when being negative is a good thing there were positives in Central Soccer this year. Central Soccer Associations were patient and determined to see a resemblance of soccer offered to its members in 2020. Covid precautions and protocols proved to be a challenge that affected registration and kept many of our participants at a distance.

Exploits Soccer Association operated at a reduced registration and a more compacted program. For this season, it was agreed upon to not provide programming in the younger divisions. Exploits reported a satisfying season under the circumstances and were particularly pleased with the support and cooperation from all users. President Tammie Greening has made it known that she will be stepping away from her role. A big thank you to her for her time and leadership in Exploits Soccer.

“If you build it, they will come.” Optimism for soccer in the central region comes with the announcement of a new turf soccer complex in Gander. Gander has maintained a soccer program for years despite not having a quality pitch. This announcement should renew interest in the area with the greatest potential for growth. Gander Minor offered a full program this season and were successful under Covid protocols.

No report available from Springdale or Botwood at this time.

On a personal note, I was sidelined the entire season with a severed Achilles' tendon and had limited involvement this year.

It's great to know Soccer goes on regardless. Looking forward to Soccer 2021.

Western Region Report

Presented by: Renee Sherstobetoff

In our region we have minor programs in Stephenville, Corner Brook, Pasadena and Deer Lake. We are continuing to build relationships and work together and hope to strengthen these relationships, and continue to build others, during the 2021 season.

Covid-19 did affect the start-up of the programs in our region. However, we are pleased that the communication and guidance from the CSA and the NLSA, as well as teamwork and attention to the necessary Return to Train and Return to Play guidelines at our local levels, resulted in a successful season in our region.

Some Highlights:

League Play

- We had a six-team women's league comprising of five Corner Brook teams and one team from Stephenville.
- We had a seven-team men's league comprising of five teams from Corner Brook, one team from Stephenville and one team from Deer Lake. The Masters and the U17 Boys made up the two new teams.
- We did move forward with appointing coaches to the Western Summer Games teams and we are waiting for the announcement of the games going ahead or otherwise.

Training

- We are fortunate to now have a qualified trainer for referees on the west coast. Greg Keats is now qualified to hold entry-level clinics and it is our hope that we will avail of this in the Spring of 2021. It was observed that with Greg Keats being involved with the referee program that the level of officiating has improved in the various leagues over the past summer/fall.
- Because of Covid-19, our planned soccer camp sponsored by the Leicester City group did not materialize.

Coaching

- We had 17 coaches do online courses through the NLSA this past summer. We see this as a way forward and we are anticipating that we will have a group of C License and goalkeeper coaches emerge from this group. Each of our Western Clubs have diamonds in rough when it comes to our coaching ranks.

Tournaments

- We were able to follow all Covid-19 guidelines and still host a U9 and U11 girls and boys jamboree within our health region. Corner Brook hosted both tournaments that included teams from Corner Brook, Deer Lake, Pasadena and Stephenville.

Provincial League

- It was unfortunate that this past summer we were not able to play in the Provincial leagues. The boys played in the men's league and this was beneficial but not ideal as 7 of the team decided to play with club teams instead of the U17 team. The U15 boys' group did not fare as well as they managed to play only a few games over the summer and the motivation was not there to go further.
- What will happen in 2021 and which way forward is a large issue for the Western region.

Labrador East Region Report

Presented by: Ronnie Elson

This year was a tough year all around. Before Covid-19 hit us, we started off with what was promising to be a good year. In January and February we partnered with our local Subway restaurant to hold a skills camp. We maxed out the camp based on the capacity of the venue and how many children we could accommodate with our coaches. This was to learn basic rules and skills of the game. The ages ranged from U9-U15 in both the male and female groups. It was a very quick and learning program and you could really see progression in kids along all levels.

After the Subway programs we hosted a fun tournament for some of the kids that wanted to sign up and held that the end of February. We held a fun tournament for U9 and U11 boys and girls. We even had some players from Churchill Falls swing over and join in. Nice turnout with I believe 4 teams in each group. With so much positive feedback and ease of planning we quickly planned for another one in the near future. We were able to plan for another one for the U13 and U15 rather fast and had planned March before the Covid pandemic.

We had no indoor program, which brought our numbers down significantly. Without the indoor program we could not do our training for travelling teams in August to the jamborees. This left some 600+ kids without organized soccer. That being said, we did have a small 4 week session of games for ages U9, U11, U13, and U15 both boys and girls groups. Due to Covid-19 we had to reassess how we played, with smaller numbers allowed on the field and no extra people inside the facility. We capped off the number of participants to 20 per age group and held small-sided games. This allowed for a better visual of the athletes and opened up the playing field for them to work the ball. With all the restrictions, it seemed like all who were involved enjoyed the games.

We have partnered with a local school to take over the soccer field and do the upkeep and fix up for future use. We are also in the process of completing a long-term agreement to improve playing conditions and to continue the improved conditions to the field. We also hope to build a building next to the field as a headquarters for the Happy Valley-Goose Bay Minor Soccer Association. This will be for storage of equipment and to host meetings as well as to view practice and games comfortably.

This year we have sent out a total of 22 players to try-out for NLSA teams and 5 to try-out for the Canada Games (CG) teams. These players were:

Boys:

Logan Smith (CG)
Wyatt Coombs (CG)
Noah Marques
Senula Jayasinghe
Raymond Kearney
Brady Pittman

Girls:

Tia Auchinleck (CG)
Emma Russell (CG)
Rihanna Montague (CG)
Madison Mugford
Rebecca O'Brien
Ashlynn Kelly

Kyle Crawford

Kensley Callahan

Philip Snow

Ashlee Adams

Brady Warr

Taryn Wallace

Allan Hancock

Gracie Goudie

Jackson Winters

Laura Martin

Aaron Porter

Abby Warr

Jacob Sheppard

Ryan Matthews

Matthew Cornect

We have heard a lot of positive feedback from both players and coaches that were a part of these try-outs. Of the 22 players we had try-out we have had 3 that made their respective teams. They were Philip Snow, Matt Cornect and Ashlee Adams. We are very proud of everyone that had the opportunity to tryout.

Our club has come a long way this year considering Covid-19. A number of coaches increased their coaching certifications and look forward to coaching older age groups. Our Association has updated policies into how everything is ran through our association and is now certified through Canada Soccer as a Licensed club. This has come with the tremendous dedication from our president Gary Dewhurst.

Burin Peninsula Region Report

Presented by Marc Pittman

Introduction

2020 was a difficult year for the BPSA. With the onset of COVID-19, the uncertainty surrounding soccer for the 2020 season, and feelings of players and parents made the 2020 season hard to navigate.

Personally, I want to thank all coaches, assistant coaches, and team managers for their dedication throughout the year. Also, thanks to those who work within each local organization within the BP to continue delivering soccer in each community.

I also must recognize the towns of Marystown (Rob Warr) and St. Lawrence (Hubert Beck) for their contributions to allowing us to use their facilities for the PYL season at no cost. Your support does not go unnoticed.

Registration

At the local level, we still have minor programs in Grand Bank, Marystown, Burin, and St. Lawrence. Numbers have dropped significantly in GB, a small drop in St. Lawrence and Marystown, and a big increase in Burin's program. Burin initiated the Timbits program this summer, which I hope all other clubs will follow suit next year and beyond.

We continue to try and keep our finances healthy to ensure long term growth. We would like to try and put some money back into the program and try and meet some of our needs to continue to move in the right direction. Our BPSA team will be looking for someone to oversee the finances in the near future.

All Stars Competitive Division

Essentially, the BPSA teams are our All Star teams, chosen from players out of our local clubs on the BP. This year, we've seen a growth in the number of teams represented in either the Metro League or the PYL.

Metro League – U11 G x 2, U13 B x 2, U15 G

PYL – U15 G, U17 B & G

Congratulations to our U15 PYL female team who earned a silver medal during final weekend, and our U17 Girls won bronze.

Provincial Tournaments

The BPSA travelled to the metro area to take part in NLSA's final weekend.. By all accounts, it was a great weekend of soccer. BPSA had the U15 girls winning silver, and the U17 girls earning bronze. We thank the host committee of the NLSA for a well-planned weekend!

Senior Divisions

This year BPSA had 1 senior team this year.

St. Lawrence Laurentians competed in the Johnson's Challenge Trophy, losing out to Strikers FC in the semi-final. Special congratulations go out to Marc Pittman, and Jordi Slaney who were named to the All-Star team.

Work is ongoing to establish a local intermediate league, and to enter at least one team in the Provincial Masters Championship in 2021.

Referees

The BPSA tried to work on attracting more officials in the area to help with the demand of games.

While we did not host any entry level clinics, the NLSA has built an online platform for this course to be offered to any would-be officials. To my knowledge, we had approximately 10 from this area register to complete the online portion of this course. Looking ahead to 2021, we are looking at having a local official become a course facilitator so we can offer this each coming year.

Number of officials, and the quality of officiating on the BP continues to be an issue that we are working to correct.

Area of Concern

My biggest concern for BPSA is the length of our season as compared to other areas in NL. The installation of turf fields in other areas allows the game to be played longer each year. Our fields are released to us beginning in June until October. Other clubs are putting in as much as 11 months of training, while, at most, we get 5 months. Gymnasiums and other rec centers are band-aid solutions until the BP finds a way to install a turf field.

Currently the St. Lawrence Soccer Association, in conjunction with BPSA, are communicating with St. Lawrence Town Council looking at the feasibility of installing an artificial turf field in the area! More to come.

Another concern is the lack of coaching development among our coaches on the BP. We need to take advantage of the licensing options presented by the NLSA and get our coaches more involved in these programs.

Finally, as mentioned above, we will continue to work on quality of officiating.

Hall of Fame

There were no inductees in the BPSA HoF this year, as it is on a rotational basis. Sarah Drake of Burin, and Keith Jackman of St. Lawrence were recently inducted into the NLSA HoF for 2020.

Looking Forward

Like last year, we have to be diligent towards our members and we need to operate a program that suits our needs and numbers and one we can afford. We need to make changes as we continue to provide a game of soccer to every one of our registrants.

In closing I would just like to say Thank-You to anyone who had a part in making this a successful season of soccer for our BPSA teams. To all the players, coaches, parents, etc., thank-you for your tireless efforts toward moving soccer in a positive direction.

CBS Region Report

Presented by: Tyler Antle

It goes without saying that 2020 was a year of challenges like never seen before, however, it was also a year of success and achievement both on and off the field.

Despite the cancellations in mid-January do the State of Emergency caused by the great storm and then the pandemic shutdown beginning in March, CBS Soccer continued to train players throughout. We were immensely proud that it only took 4 days between switching from on field training in March to online training. Our online efforts led to more than 1800 player videos generated from our daily skills challenges and then led to an online league where teams competed through skills challenges. Our work this year online with soccer was heralded both provincially and nationally.

Once we were back on the field our players were ready to go for another enjoyable season.

Here are some of highlights from 2020:

- Online skills competitions and league kept players in touch with our game and honing their skills through the roughest part of the pandemic.
- We had 18 teams competed in the Metro League and Provincial Youth League in 2020 from Under 7 through Under 17. We had teams representing the club in all categories in the Provincial Youth League.
- We had teams competing at all levels in Metro League from U7 through U11 plus at U13 Girls and U13 Boys and Under 15 Girls.
- Our Girls Under 17 team capturing Silver at the year end playdowns, only losing in penalty kicks after extra time.
- Our Girls Under 13 and Girls Under 15 teams captured Bronze in PYL.
- Our Challenge Cup (That Pro Look Strikers FC) and Jubilee (Calvin Randell Strikers FC) Teams went deeper into the playoffs than ever before both losing tough semi final games, but with lots to build upon for next season.
- At the younger age groups, our teams saw tremendous growth in skill and despite no scores being kept they competed and excelled in their divisions.
- Our House League Division started late but we still had over 600 participants from 2 years of age through 14.
- Lauren Rowe – our Club Youth Player of the Year in 2019 took home another NLSA Player of the Month Award

- Grace Nolan our Clubs Youth Player of the Year for 2020 also took home an NLSA Player of the Month Award
- We had 8 new coaches begin their 'C' Licence Coaching training.

I also want to offer my congratulations to our Technical Director, Andrew Murphy who was recently named 2020 NLSA Coach of the Year. I want to thank our General Manager Darrin Bent for his oversight and guidance in all matters and thank you to all staff that makes things work for the betterment of our Club.