



MEETING MINUTES

BC SOCCER BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFORMATION CONFERENCE CALL/MEETING

Wednesday February 27, 2019 5:30pm

Conference Call and BC Soccer Offices
250 – 3410 Lougheed Highway, Vancouver BC V5M 2A4

Call to Order/Roll Call 5:30pm

Present: Kjeld Brodsgaard (Chair on conference call), Carlos Grosso, Chris Appleby (conference call), Don Moslin (conference call), Leanna Napolitano, Garry Sangha (conference call), Justus Mirembe (conference call), Debbie Pudek, Ralph Luongo, Gayle Statton (conference call), Francisco Rubio (conference call), John Charlton (conference call), Rob Brown, Jason Elligott (Executive Director), Peter Schaad (Staff), Chris Cerroni (Staff on conference call), Lori D'Andrea (Staff), Stephen Wurz (Staff) and Eileen Vanderburgh (BC Soccer legal counsel).

Regrets: Rob Lennox

All the discussion is in camera.

The President opened the meeting by advising why it was called, which was specifically regarding the recent blog posting that has been circulating within the soccer community which includes very concerning information and serious allegations.

The President and Executive Director provided a timeline on activity that BC Soccer had taken in consultation with BC Soccer's legal counsel from the time BC Soccer was informed of the blog and the statement BC Soccer made on February 26, 2019.

https://bcsoccer.net/files/ArticleDocuments/2019_February_statement.pdf

It was noted that the BC SPL club that is referenced in the blog, reached out to BC Soccer and advised of the steps they were taken and subsequently informed BC Soccer on February 26, 2019, prior to BC Soccer's statement being released, that the club had placed the coach in question under suspension pending a club investigation.

It was noted that BC Soccer provided the statement to Canada Soccer and the Whitecaps FC directly. It was stated that BC Soccer requested Canada Soccer to take a leadership approach to this and commence and investigative review.

The attendees of the meeting discussed at length the situation. All expressed that as a collective group, we are deeply troubled by the details contained within a private blog, released Monday February 25th, alleging misconduct ranging from bullying to sexual harassment. Of particular concern to the BC Soccer Board and its staff, is the assertion of systemic failings that allowed the subject of the allegations, to continue coaching young women with a lower mainland club that falls under BC Soccer's Jurisdiction.

BC Soccer's legal counsel provided commentary on BC Soccer's jurisdiction specifically to the allegations and where the coach in question was working at the time of alleged incidences. Legal counsel stated that BC Soccer does not have authority of national programming or professional club activity.

The Board Members specifically expressed the need for urgency in taking a proactive, leadership position and action on this matter. It was unanimously agreed that BC Soccer initiate an independent third-party investigative review taking into consideration jurisdiction, with a focus on policy and procedures to examine if the systematic behaviour and cultural issues identified in the blog exist in the soccer community in BC.

It was stated that as part of the investigation, if evidence and information is brought forward that necessitates judicial action, it would be referred to the appropriate organization with jurisdictional responsibility.

Action #1: BC Soccer Risk Management Committee Chair to determine scope of investigative review. Completion date: March 4, 2019

Action #2: Board Members to contact the Risk Management Committee Chair directly if they want to be involved in the scope development process. Competition Date: February 28, 2019

Action #3: BC Soccer Legal Counsel to recommend appropriate independent third-party investigator. Completion date: March 4, 2019

It was agreed that BC Soccer must take a proactive approach with communication to the membership and wider soccer community and specifically state the action/next steps BC Soccer is initiating. It was agreed that once developed, it would be circulated to the entire board for review prior to sharing with the membership and posting on the front page of the BC Soccer website.

Action #4: BC Soccer Marketing and Communications Officer to prepare appropriate communication, including the next steps BC Soccer will be taking. Completion date: Circulate to board, February 28, 2019; circulate to members and website posting, March 1, 2019

It was emphasized the importance of ensuring BC Soccer has a safe environment that supports individuals coming forward when making a complaint. It was stated that BC Soccer needs to ensure when females come forward they are able to speak with an individual that makes them feel safe and comfortable.

