

## **Decision: To BCSA or not to BCSA**

### **Background**

- BCGESS began as an independent league in the late 1970s. More recently, the league joined the BC Soccer Association, mainly to secure insurance and access to BCSA certified referees.
- There are other benefits to BCSA membership [listed below], which we do not use.
- In the past few years, insurance costs have risen, but BCSA fees have risen much faster, most recently rising from \$6500 in 2022 to an estimated \$11400 in 2023, based on new membership categories and fees. After much discussion, we have been steered towards a competitive membership category which would reduce our fees to \$7900.
- The men's classic league [South Vancouver Island Classic Soccer Association] is not BCSA affiliated. It pays \$2800 for insurance for 32 teams and uses accredited referees.

### **Discussion of withdrawing from BCSA**

- The recent fee increases, and amount of bureaucracy associated with BCSA membership has raised the question of becoming an independent league again.

#### Pro:

- Save \$5000/yr on insurance in 2023, and eliminate the administration of BCSA registration.

#### Con:

- Lose direct contact with soccer developments communicated thru BCSA.
- Lose the services of the current head ref [Al Moir] who cannot continue with BCGESS in an official capacity while having official roles with BCSA.
- Possibly lose the services of some referees who will not ref non-affiliated refs.

### **Recommendation:**

**At the AGM on July 29<sup>th</sup>, ask the members to give executive a mandate to make this decision in the next few months, after gathering input from the membership.**

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The benefits included in BCSA are: [BCGESS only uses the bolded ones]

**-Access to BC Soccer Referees**

**-Insurance**

-Ability to apply for tournament sanctioning

**-Ability to register participants**

-Ability to request/host BC Soccer coaching clinics

-Ability to request/host BC Soccer referee clinics

**-BC Soccer Communication**