

Position: President (Since March 2021)

Seasons Served on Executive: 8

Season: 2023

Name: Amanda Samaddar



2023 President Annual Report

OBSERVATIONS:

1. The referee and AR fill rate this year was at an all time low, lowest numbers we have seen since the KWSL conception again in 2023.
2. Running the "playoffs" was a welcomed addition by the KWSL members but not all final games were played.
3. Allowing new players into the league after the registration deadline appeared challenging.
4. No title sponsor or beverage/food sponsor for 2023 season
5. Massive issues with our current bank (Scotiabank) and the payments on the website

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the executive look for ways to streamline some of the workload, these are volunteer positions and maybe some of the duties can be shared between positions.
2. Try to find new and creative ways to help our Referee in Chief attract and retain refs and AR's
3. For the league to try and continue to bring back the master's division
4. Implement a better format for playoffs so it's more enticing for the members to show up for the final games.
5. Really push our executive members and mainly media board members to try and get a title sponsor and beverage/food sponsor for 2024.
6. Complement the current website with an online platform to allow online player cards.

GOALS:

1. For the executive to work together collectively and continue to implement new ideas to help grow the league and really strive to get the youth league involved
2. Revamp our website to make it streamlined and easier for our members, including online player card and payments.

Sincerely,

Amanda Samaddar

League President



Position: Treasurer (Since January 2022)

Seasons Served on Executive: 2

Season: 2023

Name: Jan Nicholls



2023 TREASURER ANNUAL REPORT

2023 Treasurer Report

The 2023 KWSL Financial statements for fiscal year-end October 31, 2023, were emailed to all Team Managers/Representatives prior to the Annual General Meeting. Team Managers and Representatives please distribute these financial statements and information to **all** team players.

Comments, Observations and Goals

Last year, the league voted to operate the 2023 season with reduced league fees of \$3200 per team. This was \$300 less than 2022 league fees. The calculation for league fees was based off 29 teams and a 21-week season. (18 weeks of league play and 3 weeks of playoffs.) Before the season started, team managers and reps were responsible for submitting team league fee payments in two installments. Payment 1 was due March 30 and Payment 2 was due April 30. We practice this accommodation to allow team reps adequate time to collect fees from registered players.

All games were played, except for the 14 which were cancelled due to the McDougall Creek wildfire. Divisional Playoffs were very successful. The season ended the second week of September.

We did experience difficulty processing team league fee payments with our E-transfer payments@kws1.ca link. It was complicating and time consuming from our perspective as some payments were processed, while others were not. We would like to thank those who experienced these payment delays for their patience and understanding. The executive has chosen to go with another banking institution. Next year will be smooth sailing for everyone.

The 2023 League fees were decreased as the Kelowna Women's Soccer League had a substantial surplus due to many factors. This year, we will not have that surplus. We also experienced another season of decreased referee availability, albeit it was better than last season. We did see and appreciate the creative ways that our referees managed this shortage. (2 refs per field; both managing the play on the field not from the sidelines.)

The KWSL Executive continues to strive forward to supporting development opportunities for referees and offering competitive wages. This year, two \$500 bursaries will be awarded to two outstanding young referees, Erika and Anderson.

In closing, we love hearing new and innovative ideas from you all. Please continue to reach out to us.

Also on a personal note, I will be leaving this executive.

I will continue to cheer from the sidelines.

Kind regards,

Jan Nicholls

Kelowna Women's Soccer League Treasurer



Position: Media-Rep (November 2021)

Seasons Served on Executive: 2

Season: 2023

Name: Val Kurtenacker



2023 MEDIA-REP ANNUAL REPORT

ROLE:

Attend Executive meetings, AGM, give input on League business, redirect and answer emails, collect media reports from all teams and input wins, draws and losses on our website.

OBSERVATIONS:

Again this year, there were some issues sending in media reports using our website. I would like to change our website provider to a more user friendly platform. I did not enter goal scorers into the system. There was some confusion about who was in charge of that. Playoffs were not used for statistical purposes in creating parity in divisions.

League Winners were:

- 1 360 Adrenaline
- 2 Three Sixty Rush
- 3 Motionworx Rebels
- 4 Team Classified

Based on these standings and amount of wins in the season, I would recommend that all divisional winners be moved up a division, except Division 1 as they have no where to go. I would also support Baby Ballers to move from div 2 to div 1 if they are wanting to do that.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Change our website to a more user friendly and reliable one
2. Create a policy for player and team complaints
3. Move each divisional winner up a division
4. Use digital player cards

GOALS FOR 2024 SEASON:

1. Find a League Sponsor

Cheers,

Valerie Kurtenacker

Media & Public Relations



Position: Secretary (March 2021)
Seasons Served on Executive: 2.5
Season: 2023
Name: Michelle Krasniqi



2023 SECRETARY ANNUAL REPORT

Observations:

The season had a few hiccups with issues with banking struggles and the forest fires that struck in August. Overall, it was a positive season for most teams and I have heard from a lot of new players looking to join the league. Great news for our growth and development of KWSL.

We did receive some complaints about player conduct, so a gentle reminder to keep games clean and respectful.

Recommendations:

I'm hoping we can get refs on board with managing conduct issues on the field. They become more difficult to resolve after the incident without cards or referee reports to support what teams are reporting.

Goals:

Continue to grow the league and have a supportive place for players of all abilities to enjoy soccer through the spring and summer months in Kelowna.

Warmly,

Michelle Krasniqi
Secretary



Position: Scheduler (Since November 2021)

Seasons Served on Executive: 3

Season: 2023

Name: Niki Siddall



2023 SCHEDULER ANNUAL REPORT

OBSERVATIONS:

For my second season as the KWSL Scheduler, I tried to focus on providing equity in field selection amongst the divisions, and between teams within the divisions. Field availability was a limiting factor for 2023 - we were allocated minimum field requirements from the City of Kelowna, and could only secure Tuesday nights for the City of West Kelowna until mid-August. The District of Lake Country was somewhat flexible in allowing us to fill in any missing gaps; however, there were not enough fields on Tuesday and Thursday nights at the end of the season, so some Monday night games had to be played.

18 weeks of league games were played followed by 3 weeks of unofficial playoffs. The goal of playoffs was to have teams finish their season against teams that are of comparable skill and competitiveness. Playoff results would not have any impact on divisional structure for 2024. All games were completed by mid-Sept with minimal adjustments made to playing time. Overall, the air quality and temperatures were favorable, with the exception of the time period caused by the 3 fires of the Grouse Complex in August. KWSL proactively canceled all matches and allowed teams to forfeit due to extenuating circumstances without penalty once play resumed to accommodate our members that were personally impacted.

Unfortunately, irregular field maintenance and a lack of officials continued to be issues in 2023. KWSL has stressed the need for fields to be properly lined to the City of Kelowna; teams need to be aware that they may need extra materials (ex. tape, bungee cords) to secure nets when hooks are missing. All youth and adult leagues have been asked to provide feedback and recommendations to promote referee recruitment.

GOALS MET IN 2023:

1. Post a schedule of available fields (reserved for KWSL) that teams can book for a practice on their BYE week or other night not scheduled to play - there was not a high number available fields but a handful of teams did use free Monday fields to hold some training sessions.
2. Minimal use of City Park in July/August to avoid the busyness of downtown, lack of parking, and parking charges
3. Schedule should end early September – fields booking request has been modified going forward

STATISTICS FROM 2023:

1. In 2023 there were 29 teams registered in 4 divisions - this is a decrease of 1 team from last year. The Masters division was dissolved due to lack of registration, and a couple of teams moved over into Div 2 and 3. The 21 week season resulted 310 games scheduled; 1 of which were rescheduled prior to the April 30th deadline and one full week of games canceled during the fire season. A number of games were forfeited during the playoffs.
2. There were numerous complaints regarding the poor lining of the fields, as well as other safety hazards. All concerns were communicated to the City of Kelowna; however, picture evidence and anecdotal information regarding the EXACT location of the hazard is required. A change was made to the media report so that teams could attach pictures to streamline the process of reporting.

**Comments:**

It was communicated by several teams that there was not enough time to set up nets for the 6pm games that follow youth practices. Youth leagues are given priority for field bookings and when the kick-off time needs to be earlier in the early Spring and late Summer, we are unable to get onto the field earlier or provide time for net set-up – please be flexible with the opposing team and the earlier user groups to get the field set up as efficiently as possible.

The Parkinson Rec Centre revitalization project may severely impact the number of available fields for next season. As a result, there may be more Beasley field games on the schedule as well as late games on Nonis field at UBCO.

RECOMMENDATIONS & GOALS:

1. Continue to work with the municipalities for field maintenance to ensure player safety
2. Find ways for new team formation so that people new to Kelowna, and players graduating out of the youth program, can find a place to play
3. Continue to work to create consistency in skill level in each division, following KWSL bylaws
4. Reinstate the Master's division on Monday nights - this may require a change in format to play small-sided

Thank you to our membership, the Referee Scheduler and the KWSL Executive for another great season.

Niki Siddall
League Scheduler



Position: Registrar
Seasons Served on Executive: 8
Season: 2023
Name: Meghan McCourt



2023 REGISTRAR ANNUAL REPORT

Registration Overview

- Players: 643 on 29 teams in 4 divisions (down 5.58% from 2022)
- Coaches: 9 coaches on 7 teams
- Free Agents: 3
- Transfers: 6
- Deregistered: 18

Observations

Registration didn't go as smoothly as it had in previous seasons. We were plagued with technical difficulties – many players reported they were unable to successfully submit their registration forms, banking issues leaving us unable to accept and deposit payments, players reporting they were unable to make payments via our online credit card option. Unfortunately, I was largely unable to replicate many of the reported problems which made it difficult to troubleshoot and subsequently fix the issues. This led to delays in processing registrations and extended turn-around times in issuing some player cards.

I saw an increase in the number of incomplete (missing parental consent forms, missing photos) and inconsistent (different birthdates from previous years) registration forms again this season. Despite clear instructions to only register once, I consistently have players try to register for multiple teams or register multiple times for the same team (sometimes within a short time span and sometimes weeks/months later even though their name is already listed on their online team roster).

Player registration decreased by 5.58%, which I believe can be largely attributed to the loss of the Masters division during the 2023 season. We seem to have continued interest from our members in an over-30 division so I believe we should try to reimplement Masters for 2024.

We continued with the Free Agent rosters again this season and while we received numerous submissions, only a handful of these players finalized their registration prior to the deadline. I think the KWSL executive needs to put more time and effort into promoting this option to new and/or part-time players. To the best of my knowledge, every Free Agent that has registered with the KWSL has had the opportunity to play and most have ended up transferring to a team at some point during the season.



Suggestions for 2024:

- Extend the player registration deadline to allow teams to continue recruiting throughout the season
 - This will hopefully help grow the league and allow teams to replace players that are injured during the season
 - This date needs to be set prior to the season start and upheld for the duration of the season
- Allocate additional resources to promote the Free Agent rosters as many players are unaware of this option for part-time commitment
- Network with youth leagues/teams to promote the KWSL to players that are aging out of their current youth league
- Adjust job descriptions to more closely align with the roles and duties of the KWSL executive members and reduce some of the redundancy and overlap of duties
- Switch to a new banking institution that will provide the services we need in a timelier manner and hopefully avoid a repeat of the issues we had this season
- Create a dedicated email address for fees and payments so that the payments can be tracked more efficiently for registration purposes
- Continue to invoice teams for their extra player registrations at the end of the registration period to speed up turn-around

Meghan McCourt
Registrar

