

SFDA Annual General Meeting

July 3rd, 2025 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Opening & Introductions

Chair Shaheem Ali opened the meeting, introducing the district board: Krista (new registrar), Ilona (registrar), Dave McEwan (vice chair), Jay Nagra (discipline, governance & nominations), Irfan (financials), and Terry (secretary). He noted the district serves 10 clubs, with an 11th club in Surrey being added for the upcoming season.

Agenda

Ali Wilkinson flagged that bylaw amendments were missing from the agenda. Shaheem confirmed 5 amendments would be added after the budget presentation.

AGM Timing

The AGM was held 3 days past the June 30th bylaw deadline, due to a delay at the audit firm. The society confirmed no formal extension was needed as long as the AGM was held before December 31st. A vote was held and 96% of members approved proceeding with the meeting as scheduled.

Previous Minutes

The minutes from the June 12, 2024 AGM (posted on the website) were presented and approved unanimously (100%).

Audited Financial Statements (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025)

Treasurer Mohammed Irfan Rafiq presented the audited financials:

- Revenue was lower than the prior year, primarily because fines that previously flowed through the district are now billed directly to clubs by BCCSL.
- Player registrations came in at 11,925 vs. 11,192 the prior year.
- A double payment by one club was flagged as a miscellaneous item to be refunded.
- BC Soccer registration fees collected: \$376,158 vs. \$372,609 the prior year.
- Net assets at start of year: ~\$250,000; net assets at end of year: ~\$141,000, reflecting a deficit for the year.
- Cash at end of year: ~\$122,968.
- Accounts receivable of ~\$33,000 outstanding from winter league billing.

The audited statements were approved — 96% in favour, 4% against.

Budget Presentation (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)

Shaheem presented the upcoming year's budget:

- Player registration rates increased from \$30 to \$50 per player to cover rising BC Soccer fees (which rose ~\$7 on both youth tiers).
- ~341–350 BCSPL players will be absorbed into the district this year, though the financial methodology is still being clarified with BC Soccer.
- District scholarships: \$2,000 each to one male and one female player through BC Soccer's screening process.
- Provincial cup play payouts: \$500 per team for out-of-town provincials, \$250 for in-town.
- A new Directors & Officers (D&O) insurance line item was added due to increasing threats and allegations directed at board members.
- Registrar costs budgeted at ~\$98,867, with some overlap costs due to ongoing contract negotiations.
- Professional fees are rising due to audit costs, CRA filing requirements, T4A issuance, and legal/HR compliance review.
- Total budget: ~\$611,000 revenue and ~\$611,870 in expenses — a near-breakeven budget.

The budget was approved — 92% in favour, 8% against.

Bylaw Amendments

Five amendments were voted on:

Amendment 1 (Board-proposed): Expanded the definition of a "director" beyond the previous minimal wording. The new language specifies directors must be 19+ years old and a member in good standing as of March 31st of the election year, aligning with the district's fiscal year. Approved — 92% in favour.

Amendment 2 (Board-proposed): Strengthened membership voting eligibility language. Members must be in good standing and registered as voting members by March 31st of the AGM year. Clubs may send a maximum of 3 officials, with a maximum of 2 being executive members. Approved — 96% in favour.

Amendment 3 (Member-proposed by Ali Wilkinson): Brought forward following a situation involving the merger/absorption of a club into the district, where the board had consulted only a small number of clubs rather than the full membership. Ali explained that under current bylaws, the board can make significant decisions — including adding new member clubs — without consulting all clubs. This amendment, informed by input from the City, BC Soccer guidelines, and legal counsel, establishes clearer rules around new club membership so that any future changes would require a member vote on a bylaw change, giving all clubs a meaningful say. The poll for Amendment 3 resulted in 40% in favour and 60% against. As a 75% supermajority was required to pass a bylaw amendment, the motion did not pass.

Amendment 4 (Member-proposed by Ali Wilkinson)

The current bylaw requires clubs to submit a minimum financial compilation, proof of annual report filing, a list of officers and directors including personal contact details, a discipline report, criminal record checks, and confirmation that club books are open to inspection by the SFDA.

Ali Wilkinson proposed cleaning up this language to protect privacy — specifically, removing the requirement to share board members' personal phone numbers and emails, and invoking the BC Societies

Act (amended in 2020), which allows societies to restrict access to their books and records to their own members only, rather than anyone who asks.

BC Soccer was consulted and responded that they could not support the amendment, as their own bylaws require districts to have these same provisions in place to ensure club compliance — a requirement that traces up through Canada Soccer and FIFA/Concacaf.

A discussion followed:

- Rick Ocean asked whether outside legal counsel had been sought given the apparent conflict between BC Soccer's requirements and the BC Societies Act. Dave confirmed only BC Soccer had been consulted.
- Ali noted this is not the first time BC Soccer's requirements have conflicted with the Societies Act, referencing a prior dispute over the National Youth Club License and financial compilation requirements. She argued clubs are being held to a higher compliance standard than the provincial organization itself.
- Rick flagged the risk: if the district adopted the amendment, it could put them in a legal standoff with BC Soccer, potentially jeopardizing their membership.
- Shaheem acknowledged the risk and suggested the matter may require a broader committee discussion with BC Soccer rather than an immediate vote.
- Ali agreed to withdraw the amendment from a vote, on the condition it be recorded in the minutes that the district will take this conversation forward with BC Soccer to properly address any conflicts between the Societies Act and BC Soccer's requirements.

This was agreed to and noted for the record. No vote was held on Amendment 4.

Amendment 5 (Member-proposed by Ali Wilkinson)

This amendment proposed moving toward a proportional, member-based voting system at the district level — meaning clubs with more registered members would carry more weight in votes, rather than each club having equal say regardless of size. Ali explained this was driven by equity principles pushed down from FIFA and Concacaf through Canada Soccer and BC Soccer, and had been discussed at prior AGMs without being formally proposed until now. The intent was also to allow the district chair to represent the district's member count more accurately at BC Soccer AGMs.

The motion was moved by Ashley Bunting (Surrey United) and seconded by Paul Walker (Surrey United). The vote resulted in 17% in favour and 83% against. The motion did not pass.

Election of Officers and Directors

Three positions were available. Rick Ocean raised a point of order, arguing that two nominated candidates — recently transferred from Fusion FC — should be considered eligible under BC Soccer's definition of the playing season (September 1 to August 31), and that the board's use of March 31 as the eligibility cutoff was not defined in the SFDA bylaws, only verbally stated and in an email.

Shaheem maintained the March 31 fiscal year-end cutoff has been the district's interpretation since 2018. Rick proposed a motion to postpone the election until a properly noticed meeting could be held with all eligible candidates included, in accordance with SFDA bylaws and BC Soccer policies.

The motion to postpone was voted on and failed — 12% in favour, 85% against, with 3% abstaining.

As a result, the election proceeded. With exactly three nominees for three positions and no further nominations, no vote was required. The following were acclaimed:

- Dave McEwan — re-elected as Director (currently Vice Chair)
- Mohammed Irfan Rafiq — re-elected as Finance Chair
- Gurpreet Rana — re-elected as Director

Round Table / Other Business

Shaheem raised two concerns heading into the new season:

First, the district has seen a significant increase in disciplinary matters being escalated to the district from the club level — including complaints about coaches and staff. He encouraged all clubs to establish internal processes for handling discipline before escalating to the district, and noted Jay Nagra is available to assist clubs in developing best practices.

Second, Jay Nagra addressed the sharp rise in red cards, fines, and suspensions across the league. He noted one weekend alone saw 60 red cards, and that BCCSL is now applying Canada Soccer's full sanctioning guidelines rather than minimums. Fines and suspensions — some lasting months — have increased significantly. The majority of complaints involve adult behaviour: coaches screaming at referees, parents entering the field of play, and games being abandoned.

Jay and Jeff Clark of Surrey United are working together on alternative discipline approaches — such as community service hours instead of lengthy suspensions — to keep kids on the field and out of harmful situations. Jay noted the district serves a community where gang involvement is a real risk for youth who leave the sport. Rick Ocean offered to share initiatives already in place at his club, and Jay welcomed broader collaboration across the district and with other districts including Burnaby, Coquitlam, and Vancouver.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was put forward by Jay Nagra and seconded by Rick Ocean. The meeting was adjourned.



Proposed Amendment Form

South Fraser District Association Full Member: SFDA BOARD MEMBER ☒ CLUB EXECUTIVE ☐ CLUB COACHING STAFF ☐			
Main Contact Name: SDFA		Email:	sfdayouthsoccer@gmail.com
Role: CHAIR		Phone:	
Select the action being proposed:			
☐ Revise current wording			
☒ Revoke current wording			
☐ Propose new wording			
Current bylaw wording:			
b) A Director shall be nineteen (19) years of age or older and shall not be an undischarged bankrupt;			
Proposed text for the existing or new wording:			
b) A Director shall be nineteen (19) years of age or older, shall have been a member in good standing with the Society for a period of at least three (3) consecutive years ending March 31 in the year that Director stands for election as a Director of the Society, residing within the boundaries of SFDA and shall not be an undischarged bankrupt			
RESOLVED, AS SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS, THAT THE EXISTING BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY BE AMENDED AS FOLLOWS: 3. Any one director or officer of the Society, signing alone, be authorized to execute and deliver all such documents and instruments, and to do such further acts, as may be necessary to give full effect to these resolutions or as may be required to carry out the full intent and meaning thereof; and 4. It is a condition of these resolutions that the alteration to the By-Laws of the Society referred to in paragraph 1 does not take effect until the By-Laws have been filed pursuant to the Societies Act (British Columbia). 5. Execution of Resolutions These resolutions may be executed and delivered: (a) in any number of counterparts which, if read together, will constitute one and the same resolution; and (b) either in the original or in electronically transmitted form.			
Reason/rationale for amendment:			
This amendment is proposed after review by legal professional on constitution&bylaws to expand on directors and requirement to be in goodstanding in the District and be a member from Surrey/ Delta region within the boundaries as set by BCSA for SFDA.			
Per SFDA Bylaws: Article 8 Procedure for Amendment. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or bylaws will only be considered if submitted, in writing, to the Society the Board, or submitted by a member to the Association.. Notice of mention of the proposed amendments must be received by the Society at least 21 days prior to any meeting of the members. All voting Members entitled to vote shall be notified of the proposed Bylaw amendments. All Voting Members entitled to vote shall be notified of the proposed Bylaws amendments referred to in subparagraph (20). Such notification shall be made a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting called for that purpose..			
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Proposed Amendment Form

South Fraser District Association Full Member: SFDA BOARD MEMBER ☒ CLUB EXECUTIVE ☐ CLUB COACHING STAFF ☐			
Main Contact Name: SFDA BOARD		Email:	sfdayouthsoccer@gmail.com
Role:	CHAIR	Phone:	
Select the action being proposed:			
☐ Revise current wording			
☐ Revoke current wording			
☒ Propose new wording			
Current bylaw wording:			
ARTICLE 3: Membership 1) The members of the Association are the applicants for incorporation of the Association, and those clubs/individuals who subsequently become members, in accordance with these Bylaws and, in either case, have not ceased to be members in good standing. 2) Every member must uphold the Constitution and comply with these Bylaws. 3) There are three (3) classes of Membership (Club, Voting and Life) 4) South Fraser District Association with affiliated youth clubs shall adopt, by December 31, 2023, a clause in it's bylaws or regulations that it's youth clubs must comply with the principles of the			
Proposed text for the existing or new wording:			
"ARTICLE 3 Voting Membership VOTING MEMBERSHIP Provided that: a. persons that are in good standing and registered as a Voting member in the records of the Society as of March 31 in the year of an Annual General Meeting of the Society for the purposes of voting at that Annual General Meeting of the Society; or b. a person that is in good standing and registered as a Voting member in the records of the Society on the day that is ninety days prior to a Special General Meeting of the Society; and c. the person is not disqualified nor has the person been expelled as a member; the following persons shall be Voting members of the Society:			
Reason/rationale for amendment:			
This amendment is proposed after review by legal professional on constitution and Bylaws to formalize the policy to align the voting members to bring in line with Fiscal Year of the district.			
Per SFDA Bylaws: Article 8 Procedure for Amendment. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or bylaws will only be considered if submitted, in writing, to the Society the Board, or submitted by a member to the Association.. Notice of mention of the proposed amendments must be received by the Society at least 21 days prior to any meeting of the members. All voting Members entitled to vote shall be notified of the proposed Bylaw amendments. All Voting Members entitled to vote shall be notified of the proposed Bylaws amendments referred to in subparagraph (20). Such notification shall be made a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting called for that purpose..			
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PUSH YELLOW SUBMIT BUTTON TO SEND FORM



Proposed Amendment Form

South Fraser District Association Full Member: SFDA BOARD MEMBER ☐ CLUB EXECUTIVE ☒ CLUB COACHING STAFF ☐			
Surrey United Soccer Club			
Main Contact Name: Ali Wilkinson		Email: president@surreyunitedsoccer.com	
Role: President		Phone: 604-230-1577	
Select the action being proposed:			
☒ Revise current wording			
☐ Revoke current wording			
☐ Propose new wording			
Current bylaw wording:			
Article 3 New Membership Applications - Club Membership shall be open to Clubs that meet the following criteria: a) Are properly constituted Sporting Corporations, registered with the province of British Columbia as a society, sole proprietor, partnership or incorporation and a full member of BC Soccer Association. b) Operate within defined boundaries of the District as set out in the BC Soccer Bylaws c) Submitting an application to the Board showing good and sufficient need for such an application and other documentation as required by the Board evidencing full membership status with BC Soccer, appropriate constitutional evidence in support of (a) above, and written evidence of at least 200 individually registered players for the season in which the club is seeking Membership which have not previously been registered with another Member Club of the Association in the previous 18 months and meet the criteria of the City of Surrey for City-based residents for the purposes of meeting the City's field allocation policy, and d) Obtaining the approval of the Board e) Upon acceptance by the Association pursuant to the terms of this Article 3, becomes a Club Member. New Member Applications f) In recognition of the COVID-19 impacts on Member Clubs and to maintain a healthy and sustainable District, no new club applications will be accepted by the Association starting from October 1, 2020. New Club Applications will be considered by the South Fraser District Association when registrations reach a level of 80% of pre Covid-19 player registration numbers (based on 2018-19 season 18,050 confirmed registrations), or the sport returns to post-pandemic game play as defined by BC Soccer Association's Rules and Regulations, unaltered (dated June 12, 2010), or the date of September 30th, 2022, whichever occurs first. g) The Board of Directors shall review on September 30, 2022 and determine if this date requires further extension based on any Pandemic effect as it relates to rules and regulations of play and the evidenced number of confirmed registrations (as outlined in f above) within the District and confirmation with the City of Surrey			
Proposed text for the existing or new wording:			
Article 3 New Membership and Club merger Applications - Club Membership for new or merging Member clubs shall be open to Clubs that meet the criteria of the Association's Club Mergers and Acquisitions with Non-Member Organizations Policy in place at the time of the application or merger proposal and, in addition: a) Are properly constituted corporations, registered with the province of British Columbia as a society, sole proprietor, partnership or incorporation and a full member of BC Soccer Association. b) Operate within defined boundaries of the District as set out in the BC Soccer Bylaws, in the case of a merger, both parties must be operating within the District boundaries. c) Submitting an application to the Board showing good and sufficient need for such an application and other documentation as required by the Board evidencing full membership status with BC Soccer, appropriate constitutional evidence in support of (a) above, and written evidence of at least 200 individually registered players for the season in which the club is seeking Membership which have not previously been registered with another Member Club of the Association in the previous 18 months and meet the criteria of the City of Surrey for City-based residents for the purposes of meeting the City's field allocation policy d) Obtain the approval of the City of Surrey Parks Department with respect to the field and facilities available for programming that does not negatively impact the same for current Members e) Obtaining the approval of the Board of Directors who may deny the application for any reason at their discretion e) Upon acceptance by the Association pursuant to the terms of this Article 3, becomes a Club Member. New Member Applications - delete (f) & (g)			
Reason/rationale for amendment:			
This bylaw establishes a structured and transparent framework for new membership and club mergers, ensuring that the integrity, sustainability, and operational efficiency of the soccer association are maintained. - Legal and Organizational Stability – By requiring clubs to be properly constituted corporations registered with the province, this ensures financial and legal accountability, reducing risks associated with informal or unstable organizations. - Geographical Alignment – Operating within district boundaries as defined by BC Soccer ensures that club mergers do not disrupt existing competitive structures or interfere with established territorial allocations, preserving fairness for all members. - Demonstrated Need and Membership Base – The requirement to submit an application with supporting documentation, including a minimum of 200 registered players, ensures that new clubs or mergers have a substantial base to justify their inclusion, preventing the dilution of resources and ensuring robust participation. - Field Availability and Municipal Approval – Ensuring approval from the City of Surrey Parks Department guarantees that new clubs have access to suitable facilities without negatively impacting existing member clubs, thus maintaining equitable distribution of resources. - Board Oversight and Discretion – Granting the Board of Directors final approval authority allows the association to exercise strategic discretion, preventing potential disruptions, conflicts, or unsustainable expansions that could compromise the organization's mission. - Preserving Competitive Integrity – The stipulation that players must not have been registered with another member club within the last 18 months prevents clubs from simply shifting existing players, promoting organic growth and strengthening long-term membership development. - Streamlining Governance and Membership Criteria – Deleting unnecessary clauses (f) and (g) ensures the bylaws remain focused, precise, and aligned with evolving organizational needs. This structure supports responsible club growth while balancing the interests of current members and new applicants, fostering a stable and thriving soccer environment.			
Per SFDA Bylaws :			
Article 8 Procedure for Amendment. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or bylaws will only be considered if submitted, in writing, to the Society the Board, or submitted by a member to the Association.. Notice of mention of the proposed amendments must be received by the Society at least 21 days prior to any meeting of the members. All voting Members entitled to vote shall be notified of the proposed Bylaw amendments. All Voting Members entitled to vote shall be notified of the proposed Bylaws amendments referred to in subparagraph (20). Such notification shall be made a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting called for that purpose..			
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Please print the form and send it to SFDAYouthsoccer@gmail.com



Proposed Amendment Form

South Fraser District Association Full Member: SFDA BOARD MEMBER ☐ CLUB EXECUTIVE ☒ CLUB COACHING STAFF ☐			
Surrey United Soccer Club			
Main Contact Name:	Ali Wilkinson	Email:	president@surreyunitedsoccer.com
Role:	President	Phone:	604-230-1577
Select the action being proposed:			
☒ Revise current wording			
☐ Revoke current wording			
☐ Propose new wording			
Current bylaw wording:			
Article 3 (4) 4) South Fraser District Association with affiliated youth clubs shall adopt, by December 31, 2023, a clause in it's bylaws or regulations that it's youth clubs must comply with the principles of the Society's rules, regulations and policies; on a defined annual basis, provide the following to the South Fraser District Association: i) Minimum Compilation Engagement financial statements prepared by a licensed CPA in public practice. Review and audit engagement are acceptable. ii) Proof of filing of the club's annual report or business registration renewal as applicable. iii) A listing of the current officers and director showing the names, telephone number and email addresses of each iv) A discipline report submitted in a format acceptable by the South Fraser District Association v) A Criminal Record Check Report in a format acceptable by the South Fraser District Association vi) Confirmation that the books and records of the clubs shall be open to inspection by the South Fraser District Association upon request.			
Proposed text for the existing or new wording:			
Article 3(4) The Members of the Association shall be required to provide the following to the Association on an annual basis: i) Minimum Compilation Engagement financial statements prepared by a licensed CPA in public practice. Review and audit engagement are acceptable. ii) Proof of filing of the club's annual report or business registration renewal as applicable. iii) A listing of the current officers and director showing the names			
Reason/rationale for amendment:			
iii) without a personal information and privacy policy in place, the Association should not be collecting personal, private information of the Board members from any Member iv) A discipline report is related to league play and/or managed by Members and BC Soccer, as appropriate under BCSA policies v) A Criminal Record Check Report is a BCSA requirement, not a District requirements vi) Confirmation that the books and records of the clubs shall be open to inspection by the South Fraser District Association upon request is not a requirement under the Societies Act and as such, Members may have restrictions in their own bylaws for providing this information to any third party			
Per SFDA Bylaws : Article 8 Procedure for Amendment. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or bylaws will only be considered if submitted, in writing, to the Society the Board, or submitted by a member to the Association.. Notice of mention of the proposed amendments must be received by the Society at least 21 days prior to any meeting of the members. All voting Members entitled to vote shall be notified of the proposed Bylaw amendments. All Voting Members entitled to vote shall be notified of the proposed Bylaws amendments referred to in subparagraph (20). Such notification shall be made a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting called for that purpose..			
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Proposed Amendment Form

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Surrey United Soccer Club			
Main Contact Name:	Ali Wilkinson	Email:	president@surreyunitedsoccer.com
Role:	President	Phone:	604-230-1577
Select the action being proposed:			
☐ Revise current wording			
☐ Revoke current wording			
☐ Propose new wording			
Current bylaw wording:			
19(a) Each Voting Member shall have one (1) vote 19(b) Voting by proxy is not allowed			
Proposed text for the existing or new wording:			
(a) Each Voting Member having fewer than 500 Registered Players, including players assigned to the Voting Member by the Society, shall be eligible to appoint one "Voting Delegate Member" at Meetings of Members. (b) Each Voting Member with more than 500 Registered Players shall be permitted to appoint one "Voting Delegate Member" for every 500 Registered Players or part thereof. (c) Votes not assignable. No Voting Member shall be permitted to assign or proxy its voting privileges to another Voting Member.			
Reason/rationale for amendment:			
A delegate voting system aligns with the bylaws of BC Soccer and allocates more votes based on the number of registrants. There are several key principles associated with this change: 1. "Representation Based on Contribution" – Members who register more players contribute more to the soccer community in terms of participation, funding, and overall engagement. Allocating more votes acknowledges their greater stake in decision-making. 2. "Fairness and Proportional Influence" – In many democratic systems, representation is tied to population size. Similarly, in a soccer environment, clubs or organizations with a higher number of registrants have a larger impact on the league's operations, so their voting power should reflect that influence. 3. "Encouraging Growth and Investment" – Such a system incentivizes clubs to grow their memberships, improving grassroots participation, fostering talent development, and strengthening the sport's overall ecosystem. 4. "Operational Efficiency and Balanced Decision-Making" – Larger organizations often have greater logistical needs and financial responsibilities. Their increased voting power ensures their voices are heard on issues that directly affect them while still allowing smaller organizations to contribute to governance. 5. "Alignment with Financial Contributions" – If members contribute financially based on the number of registrants (such as registration fees or sponsorships), a weighted voting system ensures that those contributing more have a proportional say in key decisions. This approach helps create a structured and equitable governance model that reflects the actual stakeholders' influence in the soccer community while still allowing balanced and inclusive participation. Would you like me to refine this further or tailor it to a specific soccer organization?			
Per SFDA Bylaws :			
Article 8 Procedure for Amendment. Proposed amendments to the Constitution or bylaws will only be considered if submitted, in writing, to the Society the Board, or submitted by a member to the Association.. Notice of mention of the proposed amendments must be received by the Society at least 21 days prior to any meeting of the members. All voting Members entitled to vote shall be notified of the proposed Bylaw amendments. All Voting Members entitled to vote shall be notified of the proposed Bylaws amendments referred to in subparagraph (20). Such notification shall be made a minimum of fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting called for that purpose..			
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