Nelson Soccer Association

Chair's Report – 2026 Annual General Meeting

November 16, 2026 | The Prestige | Financial Q&A 6:00 pm, AGM 7:00 pm

This report summarizes the Board's highlights for 2025–26 and where we are headed. Separate reports for: 1) financial results are provided by Moneywell Accounting; 2) programming in our Technical Report from our Technical Director; and 3) Ethics & Conduct Review Board (ECRB) report.

1. Overview

It has been a big year for the NSA Board. Volunteers have put in countless hours behind the scenes to keep our association growing and thriving.

2. Recognition

This year marks 15 years with NSA for Sveta Tisma, who has been central to every step of Nelson soccer's evolution, from Nelson Youth Soccer to the Nelson Soccer Association and now Kootenay United Football Academy (KUFA). NSA would not be where it is today without Sveta's years of commitment. Thank you, Sveta.

3. Community Events

Terry Walgren Memorial Tournament. This was Nelson's biggest turnout yet: 85 teams played more than 120 matches over two and a half days at three venues (Bonnington, Balfour and Lakeside).

FIFA Canada Celebrates Caravan. Nelson was one of only 10 stops in BC for the FIFA Canada Celebrates Caravan, which was a nationwide travelling celebration of the 2026 FIFA World Cup. NSA board members led the successful Caravan application and the BC Government grant, which won $100,000, the highest of any municipality in BC. The execution of the highly successful event was led by the Nelson District Arts Council (NDAC), and the NSA Chair was a co-Chairs along with the City of Nelson. NSA took the lead on the Beer Garden and the volunteer staffing for the event. There was an estimated 3,500 attendees, with NSA volunteers contributed about 300 hours. Other activities included free NSA camps and a downtown celebration with cultural acts.

The legacy of this event for NSA was:

- Two new water dispensing stations at the outdoor fields
- $5,200 from the Beer Garden for rep and rec training equipment
- $925 in tips donated to the Fairplay Initiative fund
- Increased exposure to the local community but also the BC and Canada Soccer communities

4. Fairplay Initiative and Giving Back

This year the Fairplay Initiative provided $350 each in rep-fee support to 8 youth players, $2,800 in total. Significant proceeds for this fund come from the daytime masters scrimmages organized by Shawn Zukowski and sponsored by CIBC Wood Gundy (Matt Peschke). The Board has approved a Reserve Fund Policy covering the Fairplay Initiative, which includes 100% of donations like the ones from the daytime scrimmages, and a minimum contribution from NSA of $2,000, provided there is a surplus.

We also organized other charitable events such as the "Stronger Together" tournament to raise money for cancer research, the Kerry Dyck fundraiser and the Everest Legacy Fund.

5. Governance and Administration

New website. The Media Committee spent months building our new website with i9design. It holds all policies, programs and staff profiles in one place, and a new Locker Room section gathers resources for volunteer coaches and team managers.

Policies. Updated or approved this year: the Reserve Fund Policy, the Media and Rep Policies, the Rep Program Philosophy and the Travel Safety Procedure (Rep and KUFA).

Safety and education. We appointed a SafeSport Representative (Scott Rothermel) at the February board meeting. Board members and staff took the DEI "Unconscious Bias" course, and BC Soccer held a townhall in Nelson.

New forms and resources. The Parent, Player and Coach Codes of Conduct, Kudos and Feedback forms, the Fairplay Initiative Financial Aid application, the Kerry Dyck Bursary application, and the Game Side Action Plan for coaches and managers are now on the website.

ECRB. The ECRB is confidential and operates at arm's length from the Board and the association. It acts only when a complaint is received. A separate ECRB report is provided.

6. Indoor Facility Update

The City of Nelson addressed a lobby leakage issue in August and September 2026 and will carry out structural roof upgrades in the field area in 2027. For winter 2026–27 the same snow load limit applies as in 2025–26. Members will be notified as soon as possible if the facility must temporarily close due.

7. Looking to the Future

At the 2025 AGM we indicated we consulted with Columbia Basin Trust who conducted an “Organizational Assessment”. The Organizational Assessment indicated we ranked lowest in: Planning & Direction; Governance (Board); and Human Resources (Staff and Volunteers). CBT indicated two priorities: 1) Governance and a 2) a Strategic Plan.

Staffing. In 2026, we hired a Competitive Program Coordinator, and we are now recruiting an Executive Director to lead us into the future. The HR Committee first posted the position as part-time, and, after months of evaluation, including staff interviews and an association review supported by Paul Varian, we concluded the position must be full-time. The full-time posting went up last month.

Strategic Plan and bylaws. With Paul Varian and Capitis Consulting we have completed a new four-year Strategic Plan, informed by a member survey and community input. Capitis also assisted us with updated our bylaws and constitution. **Members will vote on the updated bylaws and constitution at this AGM.** Capitis Consulting will present the details and rationale, and members can review the updated bylaws beforehand: Updated bylaws and constitution.

Join the Board. For 2026–28 we are looking for Board members with interest or experience in grant writing, human resources, governance, finance, communications and community development. We will also be looking for separate committee volunteers (committees to be determined). Please contact chair@nelsonsoccer.ca or any Board member.

8. Thank You

None of this happens without our volunteers, coaches, managers, staff, sponsors and families. Thank you for another great year of Nelson soccer.

Stefan Humphries

Chair, Nelson Soccer Association