



MANITOBA MAJOR SOCCER LEAGUE

MMSL Competitions Committee Report 2025

MMSL team representatives, associates, and key stakeholders,

The 2025 Competitions committee consisted of Chris Deane, Josh Krcadinac and myself, Matt Gowdar as Chair.

Please find below a summary of the work done by the Competitions Committee over the course of this fiscal year:

Indoor 2024-2025: Indoor 2024-2025 saw a concerning increase in the numbers of violent conduct incidents across all divisions. Violent conduct damages the reputation of our league, dissuades new teams from entering the MMSL, and can cause current teams and players to consider walking away from the game. We urge all team reps to do their part in curbing violent conduct and communicating to players that these actions are unacceptable.

Outdoor 2025:

This year, more than ever, wildfire smoke severely impacted our league. Working with the MSA, our league shifted to more precise tools for measuring local air quality, giving games the best chance to be played even in smoky conditions. The housing of wildfire evacuees at soccer facilities also impacted our ability to play matches during the summer. However, these challenges are likely now a permanent reality for our league – more thought will need to be given across the soccer community as to how the risks of poor air quality can be mitigated.

In 2025, we saw a concerning rise in the number of teams defaulting when required to travel outside of Winnipeg. Rural teams have always had an important place in our league, and are amongst some of our longest-serving members. Further, rural teams are required to travel to Winnipeg for 50% of their fixtures, are rarely forfeit. It is the responsibility of team reps to ensure players are aware of when their road games are, and to plan accordingly. In 2026, penalties for forfeiting road games will be increasing, to ensure that more of these fixtures are played.

Lastly, the demise of Valour FC also marks the end of MMSL Pro-Pitch games. These games created lasting memories for many teams, and we hope that one day we can again schedule fixtures at a professional venue.

Looking Forward: In 2026, the Competitions Committee will be looking to expand the MMSL's offerings for competitions. We have already begun this work by partnering with the Manitoba Futsal League to provide Winnipeg's first-ever MSA-sanctioned futsal competition. We are also exploring the return of the Bison Cup in a reduced format. We will also continue our efforts to maintain the integrity of our

Unit 104A - 750 Marion Street • Winnipeg, Manitoba, R2J 0K4 • (204) 654-9574 • office@mmsl.ca • www.mmsl.ca





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competitions by issuing significant punishments to teams found to be using illegal players and attempting to subvert suspensions issued by the MMSL.

Warm Regards,
Matt Gowdar
On Behalf of the MMSL Competitions Committee

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