



# MANITOBA MAJOR SOCCER LEAGUE



## MMSL Competitions Committee Report 2023

MMSL team representatives, associates, and key stakeholders,

The 2023 Competitions committee consisted of Brian Mintenko, 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 2022-2023:** Last winter's indoor season the MMSL continued to experiment with the functionality of our VEO cameras, while hosting competition across 6 divisions. Little of note occurred, except for the expulsion of a team for extreme misconduct by the Board. This team is banned from participating in league play for the foreseeable future.

**MMSL Draft Day 2023:** Based on the success of Draft Day 2022, the MMSL brought back this event for a second year, in partnership with community soccer program SWB. Once again, we were able to provide value to both players and coaches, with over 50% of the registered players picked up by MMSL teams across all divisions. Draft Day 2024 will be held in on March 23<sup>rd</sup> at the University of Winnipeg RecPlex.

**Divisional Re-Structure:** Restructuring the MMSL's divisional alignment had been frequently discussed at board level for several years, and in 2023 this task was completed. The competitions committee engaged teams through a survey and public meeting to arrive at a solution that was well-supported and served the needs of members old and new. The resulting change was an expanded Division 3 with 20 teams, and two different possible points of entry into the league for new teams (Divisions 7 and 3). As a result, we were able to welcome many new teams at a level which more suited their skill level.

**Outdoor 2023:** This past outdoor season had some notable successes, but also some challenges which need to be addressed. With more teams in the league than even prior to Covid, league resources became stretched with a single staff member. As a result, scheduling did not occur as smoothly as in years past. Additionally, our lack of capacity meant that the 2023 Bison Cup had to be cancelled, with teams receiving a credit on their accounts. Referee shortages also created extra headaches, particularly for games held outside of Winnipeg. However, there were many positives to be taken. Our use of the VEO cams kicked into high gear, with more games recorded than ever before. The divisional realignment worked as intended, and regular league competition was completed without major issue.

### Looking Forward:

It is clear that with a single staff member, administering pre-Covid levels of competition is not a reasonable expectation. The Board has already taken steps to address this matter and provide Jean with additional supports to help competitions run more smoothly in 2024. We will also be taking the Bison cup



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back to the drawing board for 2024, and putting the competition on hold until 2025, giving us a chance to address some the recurring challenges we have faced in successfully completing the cup.

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



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

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