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It has been a year since I came to Prince Albert to be the Technical Director of PAYSA. First of all, I would like to thank all players, coaches, parents, and board members, for a warm welcome and everything we did this past year.

Based on my experience, I really think PAYSA has good conditions and more than enough potential to become a competitive club in Saskatchewan. It will be long process and by saying long I mean years. It will take one full generation, starting from the youngest age until they have their first Premier Soccer League (PSL) games. That is why my focus was and will be in forming the youngest group of players. For the very first time we have formed U8 Celtic teams, boys and girls. We not only established good coaching staff, and provided them with the chance to realize what it means to be part of a team, but also with organized sport training, they played competitive games in Regina and Saskatoon. We were fortunate with enough numbers and hope we will continue that way in coming years.

We are planning to organize a tournament, featuring ages 8-12, and invite teams across the province because that is another way to establish ourselves as a serious club. We already asked permission from Saskatchewan Soccer Association (SSA) and hope to be able to host one in late November.

PAYSA and the City, should build an outside field as soon as possible, in order to give us better conditions to compete in PSL alongside the other teams in the province. Also, it will be a lot easier to organize the outside House league, because currently the outside league is all over the city on different fields, which is hard to monitor and scout for potential Celtic players.

Beginning November 1st, PAYSA will start a High Performance program, which is already established in Saskatoon and Regina. It will be invitational only, and the final call will be made by a Technical Committee based on each Celtic coach's list of best players. The program will divide players into two mixed age groups and train twice a week. I will be coaching both groups and will be assisted by different Celtic coaches that will also give them a chance to improve and work at a higher level.

Celtic coaches have been selected this week and we expect them to do a good job. Tryouts will be held at the end of September, and I hope we will be able to form decent competitive teams. When speaking about the future and upcoming fall season, besides regular tournaments, we will keep trying to bring the best clubs and academies on Club Day in Prince Albert, because there is no better way to improve as player and team than to play at the highest level as possible. This will give us a clear picture as to where we are at the moment and what we should improve on.

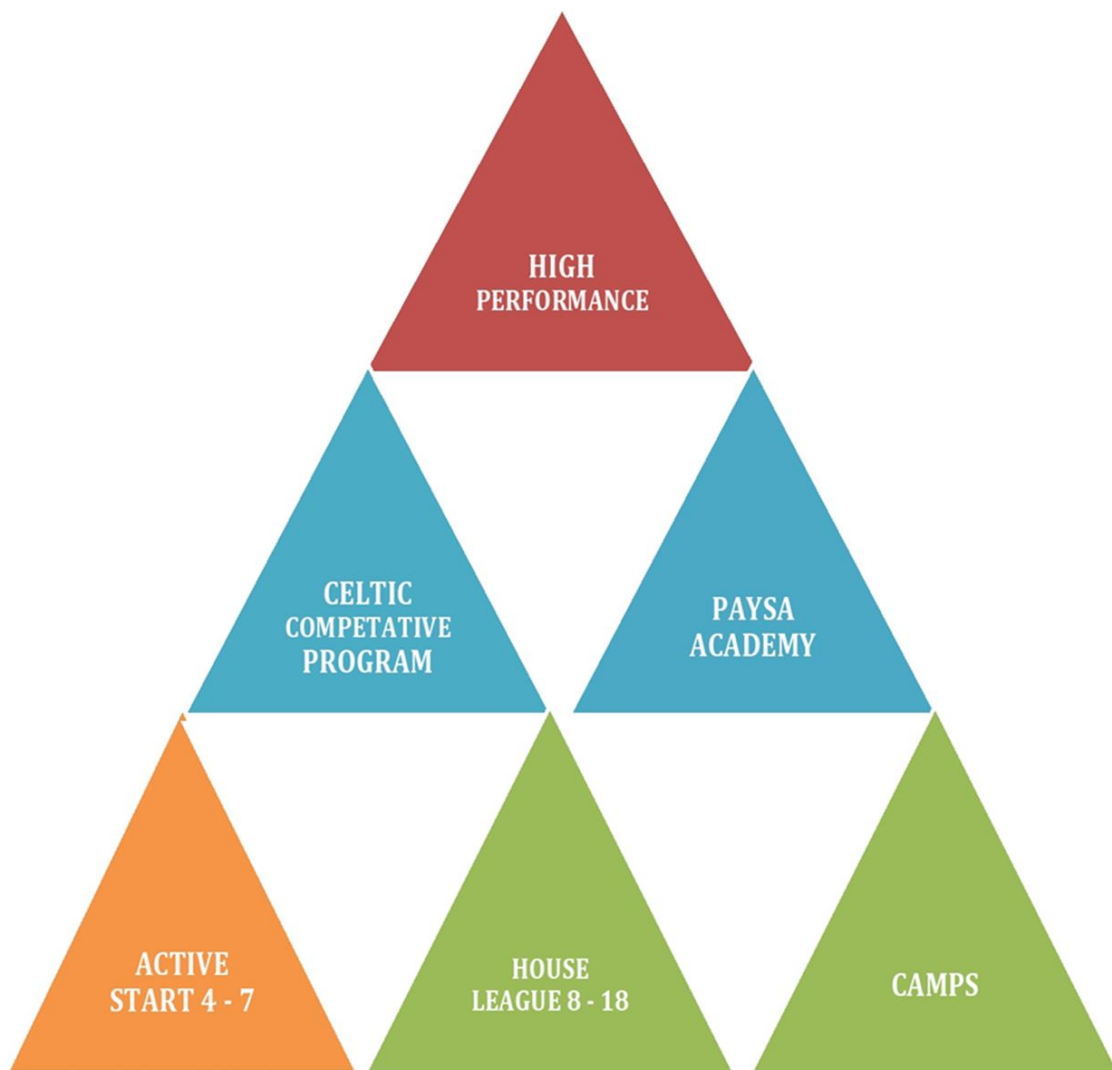
We will keep Celtic Academy for anyone who would like to have another training opportunity, but at the same time, we will organize regular Goalkeeper Academy sessions. This is something that had been missing so far and what is absolutely necessary to have in our club.

In regards to organizing PAYSA's House league, there will be no more mixed teams until age 12. I really think that this change will be a better option for the majority of players. Developed players will already be involved in Celtics; therefore, we want the rest of the kids to give joy and pleasure of playing the best and the most popular game on the world.

During House league we also are focusing on building our referees, whom are part of the game almost equally important like players and coaches. There will be more than enough games and guidance for many of them to become PSL referees that should be our final goal.

There will be minor changes in organizing summer House league and PSL teams, but it is still too early to publish it. We will keep format as it is, but most likely will change days and fields of playing.

PSL league should be competition that will give our kids a chance to play at the highest level and opportunity to be noticed by University coaches and possibly be invited to play for some of them. PAYSА will do whatever we can and know to make their dream possible.



Dragutin Ivkovic

Technical Director
Prince Albert Youth Soccer Office