



PAYSIA AGM

Technical Director's Report – October 24th, 2021.

The 2020-21 indoor season was very demanding in every aspect, registration, organizing age groups due to Covid restrictions (“bubbles” of 50, distance, no games, pause between games and practices, etc). We had close to 600 players involved in House league and close to 150 players involved in Celtic program.

The House league teams from last indoor season started on time. Having one age group coordinator and being able to see her every day, helps a lot. We want to thank Trina Bell for doing great job! We made all HL teams with the maximum number of players per team, to avoid any problems if players did not show up and reduce short rosters for HL coaches. However, due to the Covid problems still started when First Nations reserves were in lock down from time to time due to Covid. That is why they could not show up for their games. We reacted on time and changed our schedule a couple of times. On November 27th the Health Authority shut down all competitive sports and games. So we paused everything until January 4th, when we were able to continue only with Celtic program. Even that was tough and not so interesting for the kids, since there could not be any small side games or any 1v1 drills or contacts.

Unfortunately, there were no games for the Celtic teams during the indoor season, so we had only practices until the second week in March.

Goalkeeper Academy was going on every Friday night, free for Celtic goalies. There was the same break as all other groups, middle November to early January. We will continue it the same way this year following COVID 19 guidelines.

Because of Covid19, we had to cancel our spring season with trainings only. For the very first time, there were almost all Celtic coaches involved in House league. That was the only way, since there could not be any games. On May 2nd, Government decided to let us play and I am sure we made up some fun time. We then extended the season for a week and gave all age groups two more games than planned.

Celtic groups started middle April and were able to finally get some friendly games, since there were no organized tournaments. We hosted Lakewood, North Battleford and Warman teams in all ages.

Unfortunately, it is another "Covid year" and this will have a big impact on our club and it will take time for things to return to the previous level. But financially and with numbers of players, things are much better than last year. However, the entire situation is still causing us huge problems in organizing and have more kids involved.

House league started already last Saturday and hope it will continue as scheduled. It was so challenging to make all schedules due to all necessary requirements and guidelines from Health Authority and our governing body, Saskatchewan soccer association. We had close to 700 players involved, before mandatory proof of vaccination was implemented which is an excellent achievement, especially with all restrictions. There is 4 Bands involved. (Big River, Montreal Lake, Sandy lake and Mistawasis).

We have 10 Celtic teams formed with about 140 players, they started their practices October 5th. Hopefully there will be some tournaments within the Province where we will be able to participate. So far, I have two Club Days scheduled, Lakewood and North Battleford.

At this time, Mitzi (our office manager) and I are confident things are well prepared and safely going well.

Organizing House league for spring 2022 (U13 to U19), there will only be mixed teams. I really think that is the best option, easier for everybody to make teams and have enough numbers in all age division

During House league we also will be focusing on developing our referees, it is an important part of game as well. Hope there will be enough games and with strong guidance of Rory McIntosh, our referee assignor, many of them will become PSL referees, which is our final goal.

At the end, I would like to thank the PAYSA President, Office Manager, all the Board Members, Age Group Coordinator and all volunteers for their hard work during the last year.

Have a great indoor season, good luck and stay safe.

Ivkovic Dragan

PAYSA Technical Director