

Membership Benefits

The [Saskatchewan Soccer Association](#) (SSA) is the designated provincial sport governing body for the sport of soccer in Saskatchewan and is a full member of Sask Sport and of Canada Soccer. As such, SSA is entrusted by the statutes of the FIFA with the mandate of fostering, developing and promoting soccer in Saskatchewan. Registration is the only pathway to “membership” in SSA and the worldwide soccer community including Canada Soccer, CONCACAF, and FIFA.

SSA’s staff team has a diverse skill set and a passion for the game of soccer in our province. Give us a call! We are available and happy to support your organization to reach its goals and overcome its challenges. See our webpage for [contact](#) information.

1. Part of the Saskatchewan Soccer Community

With SSA Membership, you will be part of the SSA Soccer Community, consisting of over 58 organizations. You will have the opportunity to collaborate with other SSA Organizations to share ideas and offer more competitive opportunities to your participants. Your teams and players will also have the opportunity to attend tournaments and competitions across the province. Your organization will have a voice at the SSA Member Consultations and at the SSA AGM, and you will be able to contribute to the overall growth and success of the game in our province.

SSA offers a variety of resources and tools to assist your organization in your operations and to help you focus on what matters most - the game and your players!

2. Free Website and Registration Platform

Free to all Member Organization’s, [RAMP Interactive](#) is one of North America’s leading providers of sport websites and online registration solutions. The system includes a Website Platform, Online Registration System, and Official Assignor Tool, along with countless other features, giving Member Organizations the ability to manage their operations in one easy to use system.

3. Online Criminal Record Checks

As part of our commitment to the Responsible Coaching Movement, led by the Coaching Association of Canada, we have partnered with [Sterling Talent Solutions](#) to provide an online criminal record check process for coaches, team personnel, board directors and officers, staff, and volunteers. Organizations have administrative abilities to track and request criminal record check through the system - no more paper!

4. Support from SSA Staff

SSA Staff provide organizational support in multiple areas in order to assist in the development of your organization, including policy and bylaw development, board and committee development, and formal complaints and discipline support.

5. Insurance

Have peace of mind knowing we have you covered - a primary membership benefit is coverage under [SSA liability and accident insurance policies](#).

6. Club+

Club+ is an online platform provided by Canada Soccer aimed at supporting community soccer clubs. This platform includes tools, templates, and resources to help clubs grow, engage their communities and enhance participation. It offers practical resources for areas like volunteer recruitment, marketing and community events. Click this link to learn [how to register](#).

7. Safe Sport Policies

In everything we do, safety is of utmost importance. SSA has a variety of policies and procedures in place to ensure the safety of all of those participating in soccer. This includes Code of Conduct, Competitions, Sanctioning, Risk Management, and Formal Complaints Policies.

It is crucial to SSA that the game time environment is respectful for all; Referees, Players, Coaches, and Parents. All activity leaders are required to complete a free online [Respect in Sport](#) Course prior to beginning their leadership role. [Respect in Sport for Parents](#), and [Respect and Sport in the Workplace](#) are also platforms that are offered to Member Organizations, and are courses involved in the Club Licensing. Additionally SSA has policies in place, and has a fair and effective process to handle formal complaints, and offers formal complaints training to our Member Organizations and support organizations through difficult situations when needed.

8. Canada Soccer's Club Licensing Program

SSA Member Organizations have the opportunity to participate in Canada Soccer's Club Licensing program. The program is designed to guides soccer organizations throughout the country toward best principles for organizational development both on and off the field. There are four classifications within the program that a Member Organization can work toward based on their vision and desire to develop their organization. Achieving Club Licensing standards is external recognition that your organization is committed to quality in all aspects of your operations.

9. An Inclusive Game

SSA believes that all participants deserve the opportunity to reach their goals through soccer, and therefore offers a wide variety of resources, education and support to ensure both SSA and its Member Organizations are equipped to provide an inclusive environment. Current initiatives to foster inclusivity include:

- a. [Everyone's Game](#)
Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy: SSA has a responsibility to take decisive action to acknowledge and address diversity gaps, and to create a safe and welcoming environment for all individuals to enjoy the sport of soccer. We know that we need to do more to accomplish this vision and this strategy demonstrates that we are striving to achieve this goal.
- b. [Adaptive Soccer Resources](#)
Initiatives include Walking Soccer (an exciting program gaining popularity across the country!), a Guide to Adaptive Soccer, and a 'Try-it' kit of adaptive soccer equipment for Member Organization use.
- c. Partnership with Special Olympics Saskatchewan with teams participating in Provincial Championships.
- d. [Newcomer Strategies](#) and member education opportunities.
- e. [Women's and Girls Strategies](#)
Includes free access to the online course 'Keeping Girls in the Game', a Female Coach Mentorship Program, and grant opportunities.
- f. [Indigenous Strategies](#)
Includes a partnership with the Federation of Sovereign First Nations, and support to Team Saskatchewan Teams in the North American Indigenous Game.
- g. [Diverse Gender Member Strategies](#)
SSA has progressive policies that reflect our values relating to diverse gender athletes and female representation in our sport.

10. Grants & Funding

The following are grants and sources of funding available to Member Organizations and their individual members by Saskatchewan Soccer:

- a. [Member Assistance Program \(MAP\) Grant](#)
Funding is allocated directly to Member Organizations, to support their efforts to align with the SSA, increase their number of participants, expand sport and organizational development opportunities and strengthen local capacity to grow and promote the game of soccer in Saskatchewan.
- b. [Professional Coaching Development Grant](#)
Offered annually to assist coaches in acquiring national coaching certifications.

- c. [Female Development Grant](#)
Offered annually for female participants to support coaching or referee courses and clinics.
- d. [Referee Development Grant](#)
Offered annually to assist referees in advancing their referee careers through professional development opportunities.
- e. [Athlete Assistance Program](#)
Offered to SSA identified, high performance soccer players who require financial support to assist in their continued development.

11. AGM

Have a say in the direction of the SSA with voting privileges at the [Annual General Meeting \(AGM\)](#)

12. Learn & Provide Feedback

- a. Attending member info sessions throughout the year and at the AGM.
- b. Providing input and feedback in the strategic planning process which informs SSA planning.
- c. Member surveys.
- d. Receive information about new programming that can be brought to their community.
- e. Receive information on strategies to increase inclusivity for all members.

13. Recognition Awards.

Nominate individuals and teams for the [Annual SSA Awards and Recognition Program](#).

14. Communications

- a. Presence on SSA's website
- b. Interactions on social media
- c. Opportunity for collaboration on news stories

Community Benefits

1. Lifelong benefit to your community through the increase of health and well-being
2. Building of social skills, including communication, teamwork, and leadership for participants.
3. Become a part of the global soccer community including opportunities for participation at the local, regional, provincial, national and international levels.
4. Volunteer opportunities for those in the community as coaches, managers, board members, and more.

5. Opportunity to host sanctioned events in your community providing an opportunity to bring your community together and provide economic spinoff in your community.

Player Benefits

Saskatchewan Soccer strives to ensure every player gets the chance to learn, enjoy and reach their goals. Being a member of Saskatchewan Soccer unlocks the following opportunities for your players.

1. Access to National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) trained coaches
2. Access to SSA [sanctioned competitions and events](#)
3. Access to SSA Provincial Championships
4. Access to SSA camps and festivals
5. Opportunity to be identified to compete at a [Multi-Sport Games](#)
 - a. Saskatchewan Summer Games – Soccer
 - b. Saskatchewan Winter Games – Futsal
 - c. Western Canada Summer Games
 - d. Canada Summer Games
 - e. North American Indigenous Games
6. Opportunity to be identified for [EXCEL](#) high performance Programs

Coach Benefits

1. Access to Canada Soccer coach education pathway and coach education programs
Courses and Workshops are offered both online and throughout the province regularly.
2. Access to [Respect in Sport](#), [Making Ethical Decisions](#) and other National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) courses.
3. Coach Development Grants to help offset the costs of higher coaching education.
4. Support with coaching related matters at your member organization.
5. Opportunity to join online coach's group on Facebook.
6. Opportunity to coach at a [multi-sport games](#).
 - a. Saskatchewan Summer Games – Soccer.
 - b. Saskatchewan Winter Games – Futsal.
 - c. Western Canada Summer Games.
 - d. Canada Summer Games.
 - e. North American Indigenous Games.

Referee Benefits

1. For Member Organizations
 - a. Access to a coordinated vertical and unified system for referee development through Referee Development Best Practices.
 - b. Access to referees trained through SSA to Canada Soccer Standards.
 - c. Access to online course material to recruit new referees.
 - d. Opportunity to host [referee clinics](#) with accredited instructors and assessors.
 - e. Opportunity to host in person and online education sessions.

2. Registered Referees

- a. Access to education sessions to:
 - i. Increase your knowledge to become a better referee/mentor/local education session instructor.
 - ii. Perform to the best of your abilities on every match assigned (locally or SSA)
 - iii. Pass along the knowledge to other local referees.
 - iv. Provide you with more information and enhance your existing opportunity to pursue your goals.
 - v. Increase the quality of programming offered by your Member Organization, through your on-field performance,.
 - vi. Be identified for Elite Referee Program (SERP). SERP works with identified referees to improve overall knowledge, fitness, and game experience with an opportunity to be assessed by provincial and national level assessors.
 - vii. Access to the Candidates Program – The prerequisite to SERP, this program works with a larger pool of identified referees and assists them in reaching higher levels of officiating, and entrance into the SERP program with an opportunity to be assessed by regional and provincial level assessors.
 - viii. Access to the Rural Candidates Program – the prerequisite to the Candidates Program, this program works with all interested Rural referees that are interested in expanding their knowledge.
 - ix. Access the Referee Development Grant to help offset the cost of advancing refereeing careers.

How to Become an SSA Member

Specific details on the membership application process can be found in section 1.3 of the [Member Rights & Responsibilities Policy](#) located on the SSA website.

1. Complete the [New Member Application form](#) and pay the associated fee to initiate the following process for membership in the SSA.

The applicant must:

- a. Complete the application form and submit a \$100, non-refundable, application fee.
- b. Acknowledge that they have read and understand, Section 1.3 Member Applications of the [Member Right & Responsibilities Policy](#).
- c. Demonstrate to the Board that they will meet and maintain the standards outlined in the criteria for membership.
 - i. All information provided during the application process shall be considered a part of the ongoing Conditions of Membership in the SSA.
- d. Attach a copy of (when such materials exist):
 - i. Articles of Incorporation.
 - ii. By-laws.

- iii. Organizational structure, including current board members and signing officers.
 - iv. Policies, rules and regulations.
 - v. Date and details of their AGM.
 - vi. Provide any additional information requested during the review process.
 - e. Indicate the facilities where the club intends to provide programming.
 - f. Indicate what age groups will be participating.
 - g. Confirm that they will adhere to the SSA Policies
2. The SSA Board will review the application and either:
 - a. Approve a probationary membership for one year or,
 - b. Deny the application.
3. Upon completion of the probationary period, the SSA Board may:
 - a. Deny the application and remove rights of membership or,
 - b. Refer the applicant to an existing member organization to apply for membership under their authority or,
 - c. Extend the probationary period or,
 - d. Approve full membership.