



SASKATOON ADULT SOCCER INC.

150 Nelson Road

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President's Report – 2020 Annual General Meeting

Wow. I'll say it once more...WOW!

Who would have thought we'd be looking back at a year as interesting as this one. As our 2019-20 Indoor Season was winding down to a close and the annual JFK tournament just around the corner, the word COVID wasn't even in our minds let alone on our lips. And yet within days that word would become part of nearly every sentence we'd speak moving forward.

With the pandemic taking away the opportunity to play the game we love in the manner we were accustomed, I am impressed at the way our board, our staff, and our members handled themselves...and I want to say thank you.

Thank you to the Saskatoon Adult Soccer board members. These individuals gave up countless hours of their time to meet virtually, discussing the impact the pandemic was having on our members, our staff, and preparing for when we were allowed to bring back the game we love in a safe manner for everyone.

Thank you to our Saskatoon Adult Soccer staff. With Danielle on maternity leave Ifman stepped up as a leader and, along with Rebecca, went above and beyond what we had anticipated all to help keep our organization operating and preparing to bring back our game in the new COVID world. Now with Danielle back in the Executive Director role since October, our staff team continues to work diligently at running our leagues and keeping our players safe. Add in the brand new RAMP system to both learn themselves and teach everyone else to use, plus providing us with a brand new website, the office continues to be a busy place.

And thank you to our members. Thank you for understanding that when due to safety we had to end the 2019-20 indoor season early and cancel the JFK tournament. Thank you for your patience in waiting for the government to open the doors for us to play outdoor soccer again. Thank you for continuing to enter your teams in our leagues and play soccer even with the new COVID restrictions like smaller rosters, ¼ field games, and limited change room access. Thank you for showing concern and respect for each other by doing your part in wearing masks in the soccer centres, sanitizing your hands, being physically distanced as best you can in the change rooms and benches, and not lingering around after games. It's the members that make this league great, and that continues to shine through even in the darkness of this pandemic.

Our seasons looked different this year as we pivoted from what we were used to. Creating the new 7 v 7 outdoor league with mini divisions/bubbles and all games on the turf was an innovative idea from our board and staff to relaunch soccer in the safest manner after the shutdown. Shifting to all ¼ field games for indoor to accommodate the smaller roster sizes provided the opportunity for players to maintain that weekly mental health break they needed to keep them going through this COVID time.

It's unfortunate and disappointing Premier Moe and Dr. Shahab didn't take the effort to understand and respect the due diligence our league, the soccer centres, and each of our members have and are taking to ensure the safety of our players. The goal of the Saskatchewan Health Authority is to not have outbreaks causing the spread of COVID. I can honestly report there have been zero COVID outbreaks or spread in Saskatoon Adult Soccer, and this is due to the diligence we are taking to ensure the safety of



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everyone in the soccer facilities and in our leagues. The fact the government ignored that and recently chose to not just take away soccer for the remainder of our Fall season, but take away one of the only ways many of our members are dealing with COVID fatigue and even more importantly their mental health, is discouraging. I hope they will make future decisions with better due diligence, rewarding organizations like ours that adhere to great safety measures and without COVID spread by allowing us to continue operating, providing our members with needed exercise for their mental health.

However, no matter what, Saskatoon Adult Soccer will continue to be resilient! As we head into 2021, our board is determined to press forward through this pandemic, continuing to offer Saskatoon the best competitive and recreational soccer leagues, in the best soccer facilities, with the best soccer players and members around...all with safety being the top priority and of utmost importance.

This upcoming year will be interesting...and we'll likely encounter new hurdles and challenges to overcome...but I'm excited to continue pushing forward with the following question always at the top of each discussion: ***What is best for our members?***

Thank you for battling through this past year, and let's get fired up to make 2021 a great soccer year together! Stay safe and stay healthy!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheldon Mathies'.

Sheldon Mathies
President
Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc.