



SASKATOON ADULT SOCCER INC.

150 Nelson Road
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President's Report – 2021 Annual General Meeting

Normal. I sometimes wonder what normal even means anymore.

It's been another interesting year as we've navigated our leagues inside this COVID world, and another year where things didn't seem as normal as we've known from the past.

The COVID pandemic continued to put a twist into how we could operate our leagues this past fiscal year. It was exciting in the fall when we could launch our indoor season within COVID bubbles. Things were running smoothly, we were keeping everyone safe with our protocols, and everyone was enjoying playing again...so I was greatly disappointed when the province shut down adult sports in November. Our indoor season was forced to end early and we also missed out once again on our January Chills and JFK tournaments.

We were minutes away from having to cancel the outdoor season too, but the joy returned when in the 11th hour we received word we could open up our outdoor league in June within COVID bubbles. The new short field game, while not the full 11 v 11 we are used to, was met with a lot of optimism and positive feedback as our members enjoyed the new format and playing soccer once again. The June league along with the July/August league were a great way to get our members playing again while still ensuring safety for all.

Our overall numbers have been down this year and that is expected. Comfort levels are different for people, and while some want to play soccer no matter what, others are more cautious in how fast they return. However I am excited for the excellent response we have had in our outdoor season and also the current indoor season.

We had a difficult decision to make heading into the 2021-22 indoor season in terms of vaccinations. Our board discussed this multiple times and weighed the repercussions our decisions would make. In the end, we felt it was in the best interest of the majority of our members to implement a vaccination policy in order to play. While I know not all members agreed with that decision, it is allowing us to play the game we love without masks, it provides a level of safety to all our players on the field, and it shows that Saskatoon Adult Soccer is doing its part to stop keep people safe during this pandemic. A big thank you to the team contacts for all the work they did in recruiting players for their teams.

With the pandemic taking away the opportunity to play the game we love in the manner we were accustomed, I once again 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. Our board usually meets at set times during the year to make decisions, provide leadership, and ensure our leagues are the best place to play soccer in Saskatoon. This past year during COVID, these individuals continued to give up countless hours of their time above and beyond normal years to meet virtually, discuss the impact the pandemic was having on our members, our staff, and working to bring back the game we love in a safe manner for everyone. We had a couple board members resign their positions during the year due to moving away from Saskatoon. To both of them along with board members choosing not to run again, thank you for your time and devotion this past year.



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Thank you to our Saskatoon Adult Soccer staff. It was so good to have our Executive Director Danielle back from maternity leave and able to lead our staff through this time. Our staff team continues to work diligently at running our leagues and keeping our players safe. They continue to navigate and learn the new RAMP system, assign referees, update game sheets, deal with discipline matters, plus providing us with a brand new website, the office continues to be a busy place.

I don't think it can be said enough, but thank you to our members. Thank you for understanding that so much is beyond our control in terms of what we could do to get soccer going again. Thank you for your patience in waiting for the government to open the doors for us to play outdoor soccer again. Thank you for trusting our board and staff to make the best decisions possible in terms of the getting our leagues up and running while keeping everyone safe. Thank you for continuing to show concern and respect for each other by doing your part in wearing masks in the soccer centres, sanitizing your hands, and being vaccinated. It's the members that make this league great, and that continues to shine through even in the darkness of this pandemic.

As we head into 2022, our board is excited for a number of reasons. We can continue to run our leagues and play without masks due to our vaccination policy. We are excited to announce that our January Chills tournament is scheduled to run again and provide that level of tournament fun we've all been missing. And if things continue to go well with the COVID numbers, we hope to continue offering our tournaments and ending the season with our beloved JFK...but we'll continue to see how things go.

As President, thank you for being a part of SAS which offers the best competitive and recreational soccer leagues in Saskatoon, providing you the opportunity to play in the best soccer facilities in the province, with the best soccer players and members around...all with safety being the top priority and of utmost importance. I'm excited to continue pushing forward to make our leagues better and better for our members each year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheldon Mathies". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Sheldon Mathies
President
Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc.