



Executive Director's Report 2018 Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

Office Staff

I, Amanda Probe, Executive Director, have now been with the organization for nearly 12 ½ years. Erin Fehr, Operations Coordinator has been with us now for 15 ½ years and continues to bring efficiencies and tremendous value to our operations. We are into our third year of having a fourth staff person, which has increased our staff capacity to be able to offer new programs to the community as well as work more closely with our member Zones and Community Associations. We formerly had two program coordinator positions, one to focus on mini and one to focus on youth programming but restructured the two positions back in December 2017 to create one Program Coordinator responsible for all programs and an Administrator to act as a support person to the remaining three staff. We hired Jordan Paul in January 2018 as our Administrator and after the resignation of our Program Coordinator, Aaron Wright in June 2018; we hired Dan Kelly in September 2018. Both Jordan and Dan have shown great dedication and enthusiasm in their roles and we are fortunate to have such a strong staff team going into 2019.

Program Coordination Committee

The SYSI Program Coordination Committee (PCC) deals with programming and technical items and is composed of 20 members with 3 members appointed by each zone and 5 mini representatives appointed by SYSI. Over this past year the PCC alongside with the SYS Program Coordinators have continued to improve various aspects of our game. Since last year's annual general meeting, the PCC's role was expanded by having the Player Coach Development Committee merge into the PCC to further involve technical experts from the zones, increase community mini representation, and involve all program related discussions at all age groups including technical aspects of the game and player and coach development. These initiatives were intended to bring efficiencies to the valuable committee work done by our member volunteers as the two committees working as one joint committee will be able to have more thorough discussions and move forward on items at a more efficient pace rather than having items circulating back and forth between committees.

Program Coordination Committee Members:

Zone 1: SUSC Delegates:	Huw Morris/ Michelle Mason / Michelle Gartner	Community: Melanie Litvenchenko
Zone 2: Hollandia Delegates:	Mark Lord / Percy Hoff / Darcy Overland	Community: VACANT
Zone 3: Aurora Delegates:	Daniel Cote / Sean Riggs / Mark Shramm	Community: Vijay Tumber
Zone 4: Lakewood Delegates:	Dan Weber/ Lewis Oteruelo / Amanda Taylor	Community: VACANT
Zone 5: Eastside Delegates:	Mike Gramiak / Dave Diebert / Craig Blechinger	Community: Alena Sheerwood

Mini Development Programs

The Mini Development and Community Head Coach Programs continued to progress.

Effective January 2013, SYSI began a grant application process in which Zones and other non-profit organizations could apply to support mini soccer player development programs. SYSI commends all Zones and organizations that have taken part in this funding program and offered development programs to mini players within and around their Zone. In addition to mini development program funding, Zones may also apply to take part in the Community Head Coach Program where SYSI will supply an honorarium of \$500 per season to help off-set the costs of hiring a Community Head Coach who is to work with and mentor mini coaches within their Zone and Community Associations which fall within their zone boundaries. Outdoor 2018 experienced a decrease in the amount of funding dispersed to zones due to insufficient submission of expense receipts to show a loss of income in the program. SYSI does not provide funding to a zone program where there is a surplus noted in their follow-up report.

The following is a list of funding granted by SYSI to organizations over the last fiscal year.

Mini Development Programs - \$10,000 per Zone per year (indoor/outdoor combined)

Zone	Grant	Season	Program Title	Age	Wks	Participation
SUSC	<i>no follow-up</i>	Indoor 2017-18	Community & D-League Program	U5-U9	19	<i>did not submit</i>
SUSC	<i>no follow-up</i>	Outdoor 2018	Community/D-Program	U9	8	<i>did not submit</i>
Hollandia	\$8,114.00	Indoor 2017-18	Mini Soccer Technical Development	U7-U9	10	136 players; 4 zone & 12 CA coaches
Hollandia	\$6,383.02	Outdoor 2018	Soccer Saturday & D-League Mini Dev	U5-U9	10	112 players; 4 zone coaches
Aurora	<i>no loss</i>	Indoor 2017-18	Aurora mini development program	U5-U9	22	<i>did not submit</i>
Aurora	<i>no loss</i>	Outdoor 2018	Aurora U7 & U9 D-League	U7-U9	10	<i>did not submit</i>
Lakewood	\$7,000.00	Indoor 2017-18	Mini Soccer Training	U7-U9	20	90 players; 12 zone & 12 CA coaches
Lakewood	<i>no loss</i>	Outdoor 2018	Mini Soccer Training	U7-U9	10	107 players; 16 zone coaches
Eastside	\$8,528.28	Indoor 2017-18	Indoor 2017-18 Mini Program	U5-U9	25	71 players; 16 zone coaches
Eastside	<i>no loss</i>	Outdoor 2018	Eastside Mini Program	U5-U9	10	181 players; 28 zone coaches
	\$30,025.30					

Community Head Coach (CHC) Programs - \$500 per Zone per season

Zone	Grant	Season	Program Title	Age	Wks	Participation
SUSC	<i>no follow-up</i>	Indoor 2017-18	Community Head Coach Program	U5-U9	19	<i>did not submit</i>
SUSC	<i>no follow-up</i>	Outdoor 2018	Community Head Coach Program	U5-U9	8	<i>did not submit</i>
Hollandia	\$500.00	Indoor 2017-18	Community Head Coach Program	U7-U9	10	4 zone & 12 CA coaches
Hollandia	\$500.00	Outdoor 2018	Community Head Coach Program	U5-U9	10	4 zone coaches
Aurora	<i>no loss</i>	Indoor 2017-18	Community Head Coach Program	U5-U9	22	<i>did not submit</i>
Aurora	<i>no loss</i>	Outdoor 2018	Community Head Coach Program	U7-U9	10	<i>did not submit</i>
Lakewood	\$500.00	Indoor 2017-18	Community Head Coach Program	U5-U9	20	12 zone & 12 CA coaches
Lakewood	<i>no CA coaches</i>	Outdoor 2018	Community Head Coach Program	U7-U9	10	0 - CA coaches
Eastside	<i>no CA coaches</i>	Indoor 2017-18	Community Head Coach Program	U5-U9	25	0 - CA coaches
Eastside	<i>no CA coaches</i>	Outdoor 2018	Community Head Coach Program	U5-U9	10	0 - CA coaches
	\$1,500.00					

Total Zone Programs Funded:

Zone	Budget	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	Totals
SUSC	\$11,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,821.40	\$5,000.00	\$3,762.50	\$3,380.01	\$17,963.91
Hollandia	\$11,000.00	\$15,497.02	\$11,555.70	\$12,490.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,106.21	\$9,000.00	\$70,648.93
Aurora	\$11,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,184.43	\$14,181.29	\$7,943.49	\$7,692.97	\$0.00	\$35,002.18
Lakewood	\$11,000.00	\$7,500.00	\$8,270.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,510.11	\$0.00	\$19,280.11
Eastside	\$11,000.00	\$8,528.28	\$4,353.71	\$13,020.00	\$11,000.00	\$9,551.90	\$4,100.00	\$50,553.89
Open Door Society	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$4,723.57	\$5,088.03	\$9,811.60
Total	\$55,000.00	\$31,525.30	\$29,363.84	\$45,512.69	\$34,943.49	\$40,347.26	\$21,568.04	\$203,260.62

Leagues

League play is the fundamental attraction to soccer. Kids want to play and parents want to watch them play.

We are pleased with the continued sponsorship from the Tim Horton's Group for the Indoor 2018-19 Under-5 & Under-7 Timbits Mini Soccer Program who have sponsored mini soccer for over 20 seasons.

The U5-U7 community league turf games rolls into its 14th year of operation with five games planned in the SaskTel Sports Centre. Thank you to Xtratime Sports / Soccer Locker who has come aboard as a bronze sponsor for these events. One notable change for this year is that we have expanded these events to include the Community U9 teams. The U5-U9 community teams are to utilize the turf allocated times similarly to how they utilize all other regular season games scheduled at other locations.

The SaskTel Sports Centre plays host for the Under-5 to Under-9 Community indoor turf games, Under-7 and Under-9 Zone Development indoor leagues as well as the Zone Under-11 through Under 19 indoor and outdoor leagues with both the artificial grass and the occasional smooth court game. The Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Centre hosts the Under-7 and Under-9 Community League indoor games and five indoor boarded games for the Under-11 age group. This season, all practices are located at both the indoor soccer facilities for the Under-7 and Under-9 Zone Development and Under-11 through Under-17 Zone indoor teams.

This will be the 13th indoor season of having practice time allocated for every youth team in the two soccer centres for the exception of the Under-19 teams. Also this year we welcomed the SSA's Regional Excellence (REX) Program comprised of two female teams to play indoor season exhibition games against our Under-15 Boys Premier teams. Sadly, Valley United Soccer Club (VUSC) was unable to field teams for this season therefore they did not place teams in our indoor 2018-19 League. We hope to welcome the VUSC teams back for the Outdoor 2018 and Indoor 2019-20 Seasons.

The Under-9 Zone Development league has matured as an attractive program for community-based players going into its 5th year and the Under-7 Zone Development league is going into its 2nd indoor season after taking a break and not offering it in Indoor 2017-18. The Under-7 Zone Development League will continue into its 2nd outdoor season coming up in Outdoor 2019.

Our youth player enrollment remained stable over the past year with youth enrollment experiencing a slight increase this indoor season and a substantial increase of 14 teams last outdoor season. The outdoor season increase is likely a result of changing to odd age groups which added a birth year to youth age groups.

Our mini age groups saw a significant decrease this past outdoor season with another decrease of 43 teams but saw an increase of 20 teams in the indoor season. The outdoor decrease is largely due to the odd age group change which reduced U5 age group to a single birth year instead of two and the indoor increase is largely due to the addition of offering an Under-7 zone development league. Other factors influencing a two year decrease to mini in the outdoor season could be associated with Lacrosse numbers increasing basically by the same amount of teams we lost likely due to the hype of Rush in Saskatoon; as well as baseball experiencing an increase in registrations likely due to the Toronto Blue Jays excitement in making it into the playoffs the past few years. Community Associations are also getting used to adopting SSA compliance items such as mandatory coach certifications for Under-7 and Under-9 teams as well as GoalLine registration for all players and team personnel; compliance items that some feel too cumbersome on volunteers.

Outdoor Season	Youth Teams	Mini Teams
2011 Outdoor Team Registration	143	348
2012 Outdoor Team Registration	132	370 (+22 teams)
2013 Outdoor Team Registration	122 (-10 teams)	392 (+22 teams)
2014 Outdoor Team Registration	119 (-3 teams)	366 (-26 teams)
2015 Outdoor Team Registration	107 (-12 teams)	367 (+1 team)
2016 Outdoor Team Registration	106 (-1 team)	370 (+3 teams)
2017 Outdoor Team Registration	108 (+2 team)	322 (-48 teams)
2018 Outdoor Team Registration	122 (+14 teams)	279 (-43 teams) – Change to odd years

Indoor Season	Youth Teams	Mini Teams
2011/12 Indoor Team Registration	136	128
2012/13 Indoor Team Registration	139	153 (+22 teams)
2013/14 Indoor Team Registration	136 (-3 teams)	150 (-3 teams)
2014/15 Indoor Team Registration	132 (-4 teams)	167 (+17 teams)
2015/16 Indoor Team Registration	118 (-14 teams)	153 (-14 teams)
2016/17 Indoor Team Registration	122 (+4 teams)	156 (+3 teams)
2017/18 Indoor Team Registration	135 (+13 teams)	102 (-54 teams) – Change to odd years
2018-19 Indoor Team Registration	137 (+2 teams)	122 (+20 teams)

Discipline

Effective Outdoor 2018, the Program Coordination Committee voted unanimously in favour of changing the former Discipline Committee which was comprised of all five zones to now be a committee comprised of the SYSI Office Staff. The rationale behind this change was to alleviate zone bias and conflict of interest as well as to lessen the burden on volunteers.

Referees

SYSI and Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc. (SASI) have signed a new service agreement with the Saskatoon and District Referee Association Inc. (SDSRAI). Zones are reminded that any assigning of tournaments is to be done by SASI and no other third party individuals or organizations.

Field Maintenance & Facilities

With the two outdoor artificial grass fields and the artificial indoor field in full operation, all teams were scheduled to play various league games on the artificial grass surfaces along with natural grass games. SYSI continues to participate on the City of Saskatoon Sports Field Advisory Committee in order to negotiate overall field improvements for soccer.

The Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Center is now entering its 20th year of operation and will host the Under-7 and Under-9 Indoor Community Leagues as well as several zone practices and the occasional tournament. The SaskTel Sports Centre is currently in its 13th year of operation and will host our indoor youth leagues as well as the Under-7 and Under-9 Zone Development leagues, U5-U9 community turf games once a month, several tournaments, and practices.

Coach Certification

SYSI continues to work to ensure all SYSI coaches are certified according to the CSA standards. The SYSI Office organizes Active Start, Fundamentals, and Learn to Train clinics for zone and community coaches in these age groups. The SSA will continue to offer one “Active for Life” clinic in Saskatoon each season for Under-13 to Under-19 coaches.

GoalLine, the common registration system managed by the SSA has also assisted SYSI in verifying Respect in Sport, NCCP certifications, and criminal record check requirements.

SYSI Team Personnel Requirements as of Outdoor 2018:

Age Groups	NCCP Certification	Respect In Sport Online Certification	Making Ethical Decisions Course (MED - Step 1)	Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation (MED - Step 2)	Making Headway e-learning module	Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES) e-learning courses: True Sport Clean 101 and Role of Athlete Support Personnel	Same Gender Rep	GoalLine Online Registration	Criminal Record Check
U5	Active Start Recommended 1 coach	Mandatory All team personnel	Not required	Not required	Not required	Not required	Mandatory Minimum 1 on the bench	Mandatory All Team Personnel To Register EACH Season. Any individual who sits on the bench during an SYSI league game assists the team during SYSI league play.	Mandatory Minimum every 2 years or sooner if Zone policy differs. Any team personnel interacting with players must provide criminal record check with vulnerable sector to their zone or community.
U7	Fundamentals Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory All team personnel	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Not required	Not required	Mandatory Minimum 1 on the bench		
U9-U11	Learn to Train Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory All team personnel	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Not required for U9 Mandatory U11 Minimum 1 coach	Not required	Mandatory Minimum 1 on the bench		
U13-U19	Soccer for Life Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory All team personnel	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Not required	Mandatory Minimum 1 on the bench		
Provincials U15-U19	Soccer for Life Mandatory All head, assistant, and apprentice/developmental coaches	Mandatory All team personnel	Mandatory All head, assistant, and apprentice/developmental coaches	Mandatory All head, assistant, and apprentice/developmental coaches	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach 2018 & All coaching staff 2019	Not required	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach and 1 non-coach on the bench		
PSL U13 - U19	Soccer for Life Mandatory All head, assistant, and apprentice/developmental coaches C-License Trained Head Coach Recommended	Mandatory All team personnel	Mandatory All head, assistant, and apprentice/developmental coaches	Mandatory All head, assistant, and apprentice/developmental coaches	Mandatory All head, assistant, and apprentice/developmental coaches	Mandatory One member of the team personnel for each PSL team	Mandatory One same gender head coach or assistant coach on bench at all times AND same gender one non-coach to be identified in advance of each game (manager or trainer)		

Tournaments

SYSI will continue to promote the SISCO and Mini FOS Tournaments and will offer the half field game for the Premier tournaments which has proven to be very popular. The indoor tournaments were well received and ran smoothly in 2017-18. The SaskTel Sports Center proved again to be a great venue to hold these tournaments. One significant change for this indoor season is that we are no longer offering the Division II & III SISCO Tournaments due to dropping registrations over the past five years. With the discontinuation of the Division II & III Tournaments, this opened up the opportunity for the Aurora Soccer Club to host an indoor tournament.

Indoor 2018-19 Tournaments include:

- Jan 11 – 13, 2019 U11 – U19 SISCO Premier Boys
- Jan 18 – 20, 2019 U11 – U19 SISCO Premier Girls
- Feb 8 – 10, 2019 U5 – U9 Mini SISCO

Outdoor 2019 Tournaments include:

June 7 – 9, 2019	U5 – U9 Mini FOS
June 21 – 23, 2019	U13 Premier Cup (not confirmed)
Sun June 23, 2019	U5 & U7 Tim Hortons Jamboree

A special thanks to Xtratime Sports / Soccer Locker who was our Gold SISCO 2017-18 sponsor and continue to show their support and commitment to the Saskatoon soccer community with being our Gold sponsor for our upcoming Indoor 2018-19 Youth SISCO Premier Tournaments and the Mini SISCO! We would also like to thank the Concorde Group for the Pizza Hut team pizza party prizes they offer for the poster contests with the Youth SISCO Tournaments. For the upcoming Indoor 2018-19 Youth Premier SISCO Tournaments we are also pleased to announce that the Saskatoon Travelodge, Best Western Plus Eastside, Saskatoon Inn, and Radisson Saskatoon are our proud sponsor hotels.

With the adoption of the new governance model and strategic plan in June 2008, this was the 10th year that decisions based on tournaments were made by the office staff. A pat on the back goes out to current and former staff that did a fantastic job with all SYSI tournaments and special events. The hard work done by our staff has helped make these tournaments a great success. The office hires the help of tournament coordinators (mainly office staff), first aid responders, field marshals, and admission workers to assist with the tournaments.

Provincial Championships

The provincial championship format was changed in 2014 from separate premier and division II & III championships to an open format for 9-side half field and 6-side quarter field. The SSA changed the format to reflect different league structures through the province. SYSI hosted the S4L 9-side Indoor Youth Provincial Championships Mar 2 – 4, 2018 and will be hosting the S4L 6-side Indoor Youth Provincial Championships this coming Feb 22 – 24, 2019. The tournaments reflect the same level of competition as in the past. Typically, the 9-side tournament is attended by premier level teams and the 6-side tournament is attended by division II and III teams.

For the upcoming S4L 6-side Indoor Youth Provincial Championships this coming Feb 22 – 24, 2019 we are also pleased to announce that the Saskatoon Travelodge, Best Western Plus Eastside, Saskatoon Inn and Radisson Saskatoon are our proud sponsor hotels and there are blocks of rooms set aside with exclusive team group rates.

Community Engagement Projects**Soccer Kids In the Park Program:**

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. is proud to announce the success of the 11th Annual Soccer Kids In the Park summer program, which ran from July 3rd to August 23rd, 2018 and took place at 45 various City of Saskatoon playground site locations. The program reached 2,456 youth (aged 4 to 18) and 746 adults. The program was coordinated by four energetic soccer program leaders with coaching certifications and a desire to make soccer fun and enjoyable in the neighborhood parks. The Soccer Kids In the Park program participation numbers continue to increase each summer. This program wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors and grant providers. Thank you to our 2018 sponsors Xtratime Sports Soccer Locker, Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority, Merlin Ford Lincoln, Virtus Group LLP, and Tim Hortons. We would also like to thank our 2018 grant providers Government of Saskatchewan's Community Initiative Fund, City of Saskatoon's Sport Participation Grant, KidSport Community Grant,

and the Saskatchewan Soccer Associations' Membership Assistance Grant through Saskatchewan Lotteries.

This program was created with the intention of increasing the enjoyment and participation in soccer through eliminating financial barriers and providing positive mature role models. This program also aims to increase the soccer "hype" during the summer leading into indoor for current and potential future soccer players.

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. has full intention of running this program again in the summer of 2019 and is actively seeking sponsors.

Community School Dream League:

This will be the 3rd indoor season of offering an after school soccer league which will take place in school gyms in partnership with six community schools and SaskSport's Dream Broker program. The league will benefit four boy's teams for Nov-Dec and four to five girl's teams for Jan-Feb made up of 30 boys and 50 girls ages 8 and 9. The league is funded entirely with the help from KidSport's Community Grant and the participant jerseys, shorts, socks, soccer balls, and medals are provided by Tim Horton's Timbit sponsorship program. The league is led by four certified coaches and transportation is covered by the Dream Brokers. We are very excited to offer a league to children who normally are unable to participate in soccer due to financial and transportation barriers. The aim of this program is to expose soccer to underrepresented children in hopes that they will love the game and apply for KidSport funding in future years to join our main league with the help of transportation from Dream Brokers. We have also received confirmation from the SSA again this year, notifying us that they will cover the expense of player and team personnel registration costs for this league.

SSA's Director of Soccer, Rahim Z Mohamed, is excited to hear the continuation of this program, "It is wonderful to hear that SYSI will be running this initiative for a third year and four schools will be participating this upcoming season. SSA would be pleased to partner on this initiative for a third year. Your efforts to provide soccer opportunities to youth who face barriers to participation as well as supporting the development of coaches through this initiative are laudable. The SSA will cover the full provincial registration cost for the participants (players and coaches) in the program that would not otherwise register with SYSI. Similar to last year, athletes and team personnel that are active in SYSI programming and also participate in this league would be expected to register as usual."

Parent-Tot Timbits Program:

In the fall of 2016, we announced a new program for stay-at-home parents/guardians and their toddlers to learn fundamental movement skills through a physical literacy program instructed by certified coach during daytime hours during the week. Last year's program was sponsored by Tim Hortons through in-kind jerseys, shorts, socks, soccer balls, and medals.

SYSI runs an October-November program with 45min sessions once a week for six weeks. We offer two sets of programs on a Wednesday morning program with a maximum of 15 participants in each; both of which filled up fast and reached maximum registration numbers. We plan on continuing to offer this program in January-February, March-April, and potentially May-June.

Volunteer Appreciation & Recognition

Friend of Soccer Award

The Saskatoon Youth Soccer “Friend of Soccer” Award was first handed out in 1989. The award was created to recognize the contributions of the outstanding volunteers involved with youth soccer in Saskatoon. Last year SYSI announced that the award has been expanded with five “Friends of Soccer” recipients awarded each year. There is one award to recognize a volunteer from each of the five geographical zones in Saskatoon. People who are eligible to be nominated include any current or former volunteer member of a Zone or Community Association who have demonstrated a high level of dedication to the development and support of youth soccer in Saskatoon.

PAST RECIPIENTS:

1989 – Al Day	1998 – John Tomchuk	2007 – Bob McAllister
1990 – Jill Postlethwaite	1999 – Garry Harder	2008 – Hal Lackie
1991 – Bob Speed	2000 – Lawrence Martz	2009 – Terry Carruthers
1992 – Ross Wilson	2001 – Bernadette Garrity	2010 – Tom LaPointe
1993 – Ken & Carol Wagner	2002 – Pat Gillies	2011 – Joe Garcea
1994 – Jim Cook	2003 – Gloria Rowan	2012 – Edward Halyk
1995 – Percy Hoff	2004 – <i>not awarded</i>	2013 – Mark Lord
1996 – Huw Morris	2005 – Mike Grevers	2014 – Bob Rohachuk
1997 – John Riggs	2006 – Brett Mario	2015 – Wilf McDougall

2016 – Sean Wilson (Hollandia), Mark Schramm (Aurora), and Trevor Conquergood (Eastside)*

* there were no nominations provided by Lakewood or SUSC zones.

2017 – Lorena Walls (SUSC), Paola Kobussen & Sean Wilson (Hollandia), Shaun Eaton (Aurora), Leonard Lewko (Lakewood), and David Chan (Eastside)

The 2018 nomination form can be found under the “Forms” section on our website at www.saskatoonyouthsoccer.ca. All completed forms are to be submitted to your respective Zone Board on or before March 1, 2019. Each Zone Board will decide on who their Zone’s recipient of the award will be and will communicate their decision to SYSI no later than March 15, 2019. Awards for 2018 will be presented at the Outdoor Coaches’ Night in April of 2019. Any questions about the award can be directed to the SYSI Office.

Volunteer Years of Service Pins

In the fall of 2017 SYSI began awarding volunteers with “Years of Service Pins” in recognition of their dedication and time served as a volunteer in the soccer community either with a community association, soccer zone, or with SYSI. A volunteer is defined by someone who volunteered with a zone or community association with a team as a coach, assistant, trainer, and/or manager; with a zone organization as a board member, committee member, and/or administrator/registrar; and/or with SYSI as a board member and/or committee member. We offer a 5-year pin, 10-year pin, 15-year pin, and a 20-year pin. If you or someone you know wishes to obtain a pin for their years’ of service please contact the SYSI Office.

Volunteer Honorariums

We started a new initiative in 2017 to encourage zone and community association team personnel to obtain their necessary and required certifications in exchange for applying for an honorarium as appreciation for their time spent in coaching clinics. The honorarium is a one-time per individual honorarium. Once an individual has taken advantage of the full \$50 honorarium available per person per

lifetime, they are no longer eligible to apply. The deadline for Indoor 2018-19 team personnel honorarium applications is November 30, 2018.

In 2017, we also started an honorarium to thank and recognize community association coordinators and zone registrars for their hard work and efforts in meeting all of our deadlines and GoalLine roster criteria. Coordinators and registrars are eligible each season for this honorarium and the amount is dependent on how many criteria they have met each season to a maximum of \$200 each per season. The deadline for these honorarium applications is January 31, 2019.

Honorariums are paid out at the end of the season in the form of a cheque and are mailed out. Applicants have the option to have their amount donated to KidSport.

Zone Coach Night Appreciation

In 2017, in addition to treats, refreshments, and great door prizes we added a short awards celebration of giving out the “Friend of Soccer Awards” where we recognized one stand-out volunteer per zone. We also started the practice of providing “Years of Service Pins” at each pre-season coach night. This pre-season meeting is a great opportunity for coaches and team personnel to connect with SYSI staff and other zone team personnel and volunteers, receive important season updates and announcements, have a chance to receive a door prize. It’s also a nice opportunity for SYSI to acknowledge and celebrate the great work that is being done by our volunteers!

The Year Ahead

With 12 years under my belt I look forward to another upcoming year. I am most eager to get started on some of the recommended improvements and enhancements which came out of a lengthy consultation between Praxis Consulting and our members. This process took place over the past eight months with the objective of determining SYSI’s most optimal organizational structure. This report can be accessed on our website under AGM items.

A new opportunity for enhancing our member zone status is emerging in the form of Canada Soccer Association’s (CSA) Club Licensing in 2019 and we hope to be a support to our zones who work towards its implementation over the next year.

We have a very competent and skilled Board of Directors and staff to achieve the Strategic Plan. I would like to extend a huge thanks to all those involved on the SYSI Board and committees, staff, and countless Zone and Community Association volunteers. There aren't enough words to characterize your supreme dedication to the well-being and the enjoyment of our players and to the betterment of our sport movement. It is our volunteers’ efforts and endless hours behind closed doors or on the field that continue to drive this sport despite all of its challenges. Your continuous contributions that benefit our players and our sport are highly appreciated. Let's continue to work together to advance past our challenges, maintain our leadership in the province, and offer our players an even better playing environment.

Thank you,

Amanda M Probe
Executive Directors
Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.