



## Executive Director's Report 2020 Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

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### Office Staff

I, Amanda Probe, Executive Director, have now been with the organization for nearly 14 ½ years and I oversee all staff and operations for the organization as well as grant/sponsorship requisition, policy development, financial management, and strategic planning.

Erin Fehr, Operations Coordinator, has been with us for 17 ½ years and continues to bring efficiencies and tremendous value to our operations in the areas of roster management and reporting, day-to-day financials, standings, and tournament schedules.

Jordan Paul, Administrator, has been with us for nearly three years and provides a tremendous amount of support to the organization especially in the areas of setting up all National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) clinics, RAMP form management, discipline, website and social media updates, tournament and event rosters, and travel permit approvals.

Dan Kelly, Program Coordinator, has been with us just over two years and brings his love and passion for the game to our organization with a wealth of technical and administrative knowledge which proves to be highly valued when handling league schedules, various operational committees, non-traditional program coordination, and all casual seasonal staff.

We are into our fifth year of having a fourth full-time 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 members.

All staff show great dedication and enthusiasm in their roles and we are fortunate to have such a strong staff team going into 2021.

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### Program Coordination Committee

The SYSI Program Coordination Committee (PCC) deals with programming and technical items and is composed of 15 members with three members appointed by each of the five zones. Over this past year the PCC alongside SYSI staff have continued to improve various aspects of our game at all age groups including technical aspects of the game and player and coach development.

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting, SYSI proposed a bylaw amendment to the composition of this committee to remove community association representation as these positions were typically difficult to fill over the years, were often vacant, and put additional strain on community association volunteer capacity to have reps attend meetings which spend a vast majority of the time on youth or zone related

discussion. The SYSI Office has expanded the pre-season community association meeting to discuss league related matters to obtain a better representation of feedback related to community league programming. The changes were intended to bring efficiencies to the valuable committee work done by our zone member volunteers as well as bring greater representation from our community associations as a whole at our pre-season meetings rather than two or three filled positions on a committee.

**Program Coordination Committee Members:**

Zone 1: SUSC Delegates: Huw Morris / Michelle Mason / Judon Gregory  
 Zone 2: Hollandia Delegates Percy Hoff / Mark Lord / vacant  
 Zone 3: Aurora Delegates: Sean Riggs / Rees Davies / Crystal Shendaruk  
 Zone 4: Lakewood Delegates: Lewis Oteruelo / Amanda Taylor / Tim Mangan  
 Zone 5: Eastside Delegates: Mike Gramiak / Dave Diebert / Kevin Cuff

**Mini Development Zone Funding**

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. In 2013, SYSI’s reserves were at a point where we were able to allocate certain funds to our members to focus on mini program development with a plan to decrease the reserves by about \$300,000 over the course of five to eight years. 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. To be eligible, a zone’s mini development program must not make a profit and all revenue and expenses need to be reported in the follow-up along with expense receipts. If a zone was not allotted funding it was either because they did not apply, failed to submit a follow-up report, or their program experienced a surplus.

***This marks the final year in which SYSI will be providing funding for the mini development programs*** as we are nearing the benchmark of \$300,000 spent. Zones will need to find ways of ensuring their D-Leagues are sustainable moving forward beyond 2021 after this funding is no longer available; some Zones have already found ways of doing so and have not felt the need to apply for this funding.

SYSI will continue to apply for SSA MAP Grant Special Projects funding to assist SYSI and Zone projects; an example of this is the funding SYSI is providing to Zones to submit expenses for reimbursement related to Club Licensing and COVID-19 protective equipment and supplies. If your Zone wishes to put forth future applications for special project funding to be funnelled through SYSI, we will welcome such applications received by March 1 of each year.

**History of Zone Mini Development Funding Support:**

Year	SUSC	Hollandia	Aurora	Lakewood	Eastside	Open Door Society	TOTAL
2013	\$3,380.01	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,100.00	\$5,088.03	\$21,568.04
2014	\$3,762.50	\$11,106.21	\$7,692.97	\$3,510.11	\$9,551.90	\$4,723.57	\$40,347.26
2015	\$5,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$7,943.49	\$0.00	\$11,000.00	n/a	\$34,943.49
2016	\$5,821.40	\$12,490.00	\$14,181.29	\$0.00	\$13,020.00	n/a	\$45,512.69
2017	\$0.00	\$11,555.70	\$5,184.43	\$8,270.00	\$4,353.71	n/a	\$29,363.84
2018	\$0.00	\$15,497.02	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$8,528.28	n/a	\$31,525.30
2019	\$10,103.83	\$11,302.68	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$8,713.60	n/a	\$33,720.11
2020	\$10,000.00	\$9,885.15	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	n/a	\$39,885.15
Subtotal	\$38,067.74	\$91,836.76	\$48,602.18	\$19,280.11	\$69,267.49	\$9,811.60	\$276,865.88
2021 Budget	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	n/a	\$55,000.00
Total	\$49,067.74	\$102,836.76	\$59,602.18	\$30,280.11	\$80,267.49	\$9,811.60	\$331,865.88

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## Leagues

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

The year 2020 has been a particularly challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic leading to the Public Health order to cancel cease sport operations from March 20 to June 30, 2020 leading to the cancellation of the Outdoor 2020. Our five Zones all did an amazing job in staying connected with their members by offering online training, Facebook challenges, as well as camps and mini leagues during the summer months. SYSI cannot thank our Zones enough for their ongoing efforts in keeping our members engaged and active through soccer. With the pandemic currently ongoing, SYSI also experienced a decrease to team registrations for Indoor 2020-21.

We are pleased with the continued sponsorship from the Tim Horton's Group for the Indoor 2020-21 Under-5 & Under-7 Timbits Mini Soccer Program who has sponsored mini soccer for over 24 seasons.

The Saskatoon Sports Centre plays host for the 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-5 to Under-9 Community League indoor games, and Under-7 Development indoor league. This season, all practices are located at both the indoor soccer facilities for all Zone U7-U19 teams as well as some community league teams who opted for soccer centres practices with school gyms not being available.

Although the U5-U7 community league have been receiving monthly turf games during the Indoor Season for 15 years (and two years for the U9 community league) in the Saskatoon Sports Centre (formerly known as SaskTel Sports Centre) we had to put these on hold for the Indoor 2020-21 Season due to COVID-19 and the restraints we face with dividing adequate number of fields safely to accommodate these games – as such all games for the U5-U9 community leagues are being held at the Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Centre.

This marks the 15<sup>th</sup> indoor season of having practice time allocated for every youth team in the two soccer centres. The previous two years we have 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, however due to COVID-19 this inclusion was not possible this season due to the constraints of government regulations of mini leagues being no more than 50 persons and this not being possible with the size of the REX program and the degree in which they train with one another. We were happy to once again welcome Valley United Soccer Club (VUSC) and their teams back into the indoor season who took a break from our leagues for the Indoor 2018-19 season due to low player enrollment.

The Under-9 Zone Development league has matured as an attractive program for community-based players going into its 7<sup>th</sup> year and the Under-7 Zone Development league is going into its 4<sup>th</sup> indoor season. The Under-7 Zone Development League will continue into its 3<sup>rd</sup> outdoor season coming up in Outdoor 2021.

In Outdoor 2017 we experienced a drastic decrease to our mini team numbers with players exploring other sports and activities. In particular baseball and lacrosse saw significant increases that season due to the success of Saskatchewan Rush in Saskatoon as well as the Toronto Blue Jays doing well. Another drastic decrease in team numbers was experienced in both Indoor 2017-18 and Outdoor 2018 when

Canada Soccer Association (CSA) changed to odd age groups (U5, U7, etc.) opposed to even age groups (U6, U8, etc.) with majority of this decrease experienced at the mini age groups in particular the Under-5 age group which was cut in half due to having only one birth year now opposed to two birth years. Youth teams experienced an increase due to receiving an additional birth year with the senior Under-10 birth year moving to odd age group youth Under-11 junior birth year.

On a more positive note, for the exception of the current year due to COVID-19, in recent seasons we have seen stability in the community association team numbers and additional growth in the Zone Under-7 and Under-9 Development Leagues.

Indoor Season	Youth Teams	Mini Teams	Overall Total
2011-12 Indoor Team Registration	136	128	263
2012-13 Indoor Team Registration	139 (+3 teams)	153 (+22 teams)	290 (+27 teams)
2013-14 Indoor Team Registration	136 (-3 teams)	150 (-3 teams)	284 (-6 teams)
2014-15 Indoor Team Registration	132 (-4 teams)	167 (+17 teams)	299 (+15 teams)
2015-16 Indoor Team Registration	118 (-14 teams)	153 (-14 teams)	272 (-27 teams)
2016-17 Indoor Team Registration	122 (+4 teams)	156 (+3 teams)	278 (+6 teams)
2017-18 Indoor Team Registration	135 (+13 teams)	102 (-54 teams)	238 (-40 teams) – Change to odd years
2018-19 Indoor Team Registration	137 (+2 teams)	122 (+20 teams)	257 (+19 teams)
2019-20 Indoor Team Registration	138 (+1 team)	130 (+8 teams)	268 (+11 teams)
2020-21 Indoor Team Registration	118 (-20 teams)	71 (-59 teams)	189 (-79 teams) – COVID-19 impact

  

Outdoor Season	Youth Teams	Mini Teams	Overall Total
2012 Outdoor Team Registration	132	370	496
2013 Outdoor Team Registration	122 (-10 teams)	392 (+22 teams)	514 (+18 teams)
2014 Outdoor Team Registration	119 (-3 teams)	366 (-26 teams)	486 (-13 teams)
2015 Outdoor Team Registration	107 (-12 teams)	367 (+1 team)	473 (-13 teams)
2016 Outdoor Team Registration	106 (-1 team)	370 (+3 teams)	477 (+4 teams)
2017 Outdoor Team Registration	108 (+2 teams)	322 (-48 teams)	430 (-47 teams)
2018 Outdoor Team Registration	122 (+14 teams)	279 (-43 teams)	401 (-29 teams) – Change to odd years
2019 Outdoor Team Registration	126 (+4 teams)	291 (+12 teams)	417 (+16 teams)
2020 Outdoor Team Registration	0 (-126 teams)	0 (-291 teams)	0 (-417 teams) – COVID-19 cancellation

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## Discipline

Since Outdoor 2018, the SYSI Office Staff have taken over the role of administering discipline which was formerly administered by a committee of volunteer zone reps. This allocation of responsibility has proven to be a more efficient use of time, less zone bias and conflict of interest, as well as less burden on volunteers.

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## Referees

SYSI and Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc. (SASI) continue to work closely with the Saskatoon and District Referee Association Inc. (SDSRAI) to ensure we have sufficient qualified referees for our leagues. Zones are reminded that any assigning of tournaments is to be done by SASI and no other third party individuals or organizations.

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## 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 advocate for fair allocation and field improvements for soccer with the City of Saskatoon.

The Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Center is now entering its 22<sup>nd</sup> year of operation and will host the Under-5 and Under-9 Indoor Community Leagues, the Under-7 Development League, as well as several zone practices. The Saskatoon Sports Centre is currently in its 15<sup>th</sup> year of operation and will host our indoor Under-11 to Under-19 youth leagues as well as the Under-9 Zone Development league and a vast majority of practices.

## Coach Certification

SYSI continues to ensure all SYSI coaches are certified according to the CSA standards. The SYSI Office organizes Active Start and Fundamentals clinics for the Under-5 to Under-9 coaches, Learn to Train clinics for Under-11 and Under-13 coaches, and Soccer for Life clinics for Under-15 to Under-19 coaches.

RAMP, 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 Indoor 2020-21:

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	Same Gender Rep	RAMP Online Registration	Criminal Record Check
U5	Active Start Recommended 1 coach	Mandatory All team personnel	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 - U9	Fundamentals Mandatory Minimum 1 coach		Mandatory Minimum 1 coach	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach				
U11 - U13	Learn to Train Mandatory Minimum 1 coach				Mandatory Minimum 1 coach			
U15 - U19	Soccer for Life Mandatory Minimum 1 coach		Mandatory Minimum 1 coach					
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 coaching staff	Mandatory Minimum 1 coach and 1 non-coach on the bench			

## Tournaments

SYSI has historically promoted the SISCO and Mini FOS Tournaments with half field games for the Premier tournaments, however COVID-19 government and Public Health orders have restricted all sports from offering tournaments at present and as such all indoor planned tournaments have been cancelled. As for the past year, the indoor tournaments were well received and ran smoothly in 2019-20 for the exception of the Mini SISCO in March 2020 which was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Saskatoon Sports Center proved again to be a great venue to hold the Premier SISCO tournaments. In Indoor 2018-19, SYSI discontinued offering the Division II & III SISCO Tournaments due to dropping registrations over the previous 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 and Lakewood moved their indoor tournament later in the season into February.

#### **Indoor 2020-21 Tournaments:**

Jan 8 – 10, 2021      U11 – U19 SISCO Premier Boys – **cancelled**  
Jan 15 – 17, 2021      U11 – U19 SISCO Premier Girls – **cancelled**  
Mar 12 – 13, 2021      U5 – U9 Mini SISCO – **cancelled**

#### **Outdoor 2021 Tournaments:**

June 11 – 13, 2021      U5 – U9 Mini FOS – [pending government guidelines and approval](#)  
June 20 or 27, 2021      U5 & U7 Tim Hortons Jamboree – [pending government guidelines and approval](#)

A special thanks to Xtratime Sports / Soccer Locker who was our Gold sponsor for the 2019-20 Youth SISCO Premier Tournaments and the Diamond title sponsor for the 2020 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. We would also like to recognize and give thanks to our host hotels from 2019-20 who were Saskatoon Travelodge, Best Western Plus Eastside, and the Delta Downtown by Marriott.

With the adoption of the new governance model and strategic plan in June 2008, this was the 12<sup>th</sup> year that decisions based on tournaments were made by the office staff. A pat on the back goes out to SYSI 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.

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### **Provincial Championships**

The provincial championship format was changed in 2014 from separate premier and division II & III championships to an open format for 9-aside half field and 6-aside quarter field. The SSA changed the format to reflect different league structures through the province. SYSI hosted the S4L 9-aside Indoor Youth Provincial Championships Feb 28 – Mar 1, 2020 and are tentatively hosting the S4L 6-aside Indoor Youth Provincial Championships this coming Feb 19 – 21, 2021. SSA will be determining the cancellation of the Indoor Youth Provincial events by January 7, 2021. The tournaments reflect the same level of competition as in the past. Typically, the 9-aside tournament is attended by premier level teams and the 6-aside tournament is attended by division II and III teams.

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### **Community Engagement Projects**

#### **Soccer Kids In the Park Program:**

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. is proud to announce the success of the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual O'Reilly Insurance and The Co-operators Soccer Kids In the Park summer program, which ran from July 13<sup>th</sup> to August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Summer 2020 saw quite a few modifications to the program but we were pleased to be able to make the program possible and accessible to roughly 170 children. Normally the program takes place at 47 various City of Saskatoon playground site locations, this past summer we saw five locations. The program normally reaches an average of 2,800 children aged 4 to 18 and 800 parents or caregivers.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the program was designed differently with safety being our number one priority for our participants, parents, coaches, and community including the following adaptations: preregistration including waiver forms were required; weekly programs limited to 14 children with the same group of children and coaches together each day within each week set program; each week program consisted of four consecutive days each with a one hour session either in the morning or afternoon; those with a child between 5 to 8 years of age were required to register a parent/guardian/sibling who would actively participate on-field with child to ensure social distancing occurred; soccer activities operated within Phase I of SSA's Return to Soccer Plan which meant zero contact where participants stayed within their designated space; participants were not permitted to take part in more than one of the 12 available week set programs throughout the summer in order to maximize the number of children who were to take part in the program.

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 2020 Diamond Title Sponsor O'Reilly Insurance and The Co-operators; our Gold sponsors Affinity Credit Union, Xtratime Sports Soccer Locker, Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc., Merlin Ford Lincoln, Virtus Group LLP; and our Community In-Kind sponsors Tim Hortons, Rawlco Radio (C95, Rock102, CKOM), and CTV Saskatoon. We would also like to thank our 2020 grant providers Government of Saskatchewan's Community Initiative Fund, City of Saskatoon's Saskatchewan Lotteries 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 2020 and is actively seeking sponsors.

### **Community School Dream League:**

This would have been the 5<sup>th</sup> indoor season of offering an after school soccer league to take place in school gyms in partnership with six community schools and SaskSport's Dream Broker program, however COVID-19 led to the cancellation of all extracurricular after school programs which meant putting this program until restrictions are lifted.

The after school league typically benefited five boy's teams for Nov-Dec and four to five girl's teams for Jan-Feb made up of approximately 45 boys and 45 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. SSA has also helped support this program by covering the expense of player and team personnel registration costs for this league.

SSA's Director of Soccer, Rahim Z Mohamed, had the following to say about this program in past years, "SSA would be pleased to partner on this initiative. SYSI's 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 with one on Tuesday mornings and the other on Thursday mornings 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.

Due to COVID-19 the Spring 2020 sessions were cancelled and due to low enrollment we chose to cancel the Fall 2020 offerings of this program with hopes of a better response in January.

**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 Postlewaite   | 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   |

Year	Zone 1 - SUSC	Zone 2 - Hollandia	Zone 3 - Aurora	Zone 4 - Lakewood	Zone 5 – Eastside
2016	<i>No nominations</i>	Sean Wilson	Mark Schramm	<i>No nominations</i>	Trevor Conquergood
2017	Lorena Walls	Paola Kobussen & Sean Wilson	Shaun Eaton	Leonard Lewko	David Chan
2018	Shawn Dyky	Leigh Saunders	Kevin Foster	Dan Weber	Lynne Gelner



2019	Soon to be announced
2020	The 2020 nomination form can be found under the <a href="#">“Forms”</a> section on our website. All completed forms are to be submitted to your respective Zone Board on or before Fri Feb 28, 2020. 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 Fri Mar 20, 2021. Awards for 2020 will be presented at the Outdoor Coaches’ Night in April of 2020. 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 2020-21 team personnel honorarium applications is Fri Jan 29, 2021.

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 RAMP 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 Fri Jan 29, 2021.

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. The 2020 honorarium forms can be found under the [“Forms”](#) section on our website.

### **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!

Due to COVID-19 and the restriction on gathering sizes we have had to forgo the Zone Coach Nights and hope to return to hosting these again soon.

## CSA's Club Licensing

SYSI as well as all five member zones are well underway in the process of achieving Canada Soccer's Club Licensing program requirements. SYSI was successful in supporting our zones with the development of required documentation for the Quality Soccer Provider application. SYSI and all zones submitted required materials for the Quality Soccer Provider application in October 2019 to Sask Soccer (SSA) and all five Zones and SYSI were successful in obtaining Quality Soccer Provider within Club Licensing. Zones are now in the process of applying for and obtaining Club Licensing PTSO Level 1 or 2 which will be required for organizations wishing to have their teams partake in Provincial Soccer League (PSL), Club Nationals, and 9v9 Indoor Provincials will be required to have Club Licensing PTSO Level 1 or 2 to be eligible in 2021.

## Strategic Plan Progress

The following is an update on the progress made on the Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020. Listed are the projects that have been completed under each Strategic Theme and Objective.

### **Strategic Theme: Fun For All**

Objective	Initiative	Comments
It's a Blast for All Ages	Have all five zones offering U7-U9 developmental programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•U9 D-League started in Indoor 2014/15 with 4 zones and Outdoor 2015 with 5 zones and has had all 5 zones participate in the U9 D-League ever since.</li> <li>•U7 D-League started in Indoor 2016-17 with 3 zones and Outdoor 2017 with 4 zones and has had all 5 zones participate in the U7 D-League since Outdoor 2019 and Indoor 2020-21.</li> </ul>
	Offer a parent-tot program	•Began in fall 2016 and have offered it for five years now.
Community-Driven Programming	Develop an after-school soccer league for Community Schools	•Began in fall 2016 and have offered it for four seasons now.
	Continue to offer the summer Kids in the Park program to all community areas throughout Saskatoon	•Offered since 2008. This program has reached a total of 25,004 children and youth as well as 5,206 parents or guardians of those participants over the past 13 years.
Build the Soccer Culture	Increase participation of soccer through the summer Kids in the Park Program	•Has been offered since 2008 and heightens the presence and participation of soccer in 47 park locations citywide throughout the summer months.

### **Strategic Theme: Player Development**

Objective	Initiative	Comments
Implement LTPD	Have all U7-U9 developmental programs have a 2:1 practice game ratio	•U9 D-League started in Indoor 2014/15 and Outdoor 2015.
Enhance Mini Development	Have all five zones offering U7-U9 developmental programs	•U7 D-League started in Indoor 2016-17 and Outdoor 2017.
Parent Education	Publish a monthly newsletter to help educate parents on SYSI initiatives and news	Published in Fall 2016. Discontinued in 2017 without any negative feedback.

### **Strategic Theme: Quality Programming**

Objective	Initiative	Comments
Qualified Coaches	Meet SSA compliance for all coaches to be certified NCCP and RIS	•Ongoing
	Provide adequate number of coach certification clinics each season	•Another clinic is added to meet demand when there are wait lists

Qualified Referees	Administer the Referee Development and Recruitment Fund in partnership with SASI and ensure members of SDSRAI are aware of the funding available	•Processed 4 applications since 2016
	Ensure SDSRAI is informed of all league rules and any applicable changes each season in advance of their clinics	•League rules are provided in advance of the clinics prior to each season
Ongoing Program Review	Program Coordination Committee to continually evaluate leagues and program formats	•Ongoing

**Strategic Theme:      *Strengthening our Community***

Objective	Initiative	Comments
Contribute to community-based Initiatives	Have a soccer presence at Community Association “Fun Days”	Attended 3 in 2017, 8 in 2018 and 11 in 2019 (COVID-19 in 2020 cancelled all fun days)

**Strategic Theme:      *Excellence in Governance and Management***

Objective	Initiative	Comments
<b>Continuous Improvement</b>	Seek continuous professional development opportunities for Board members and staff	•Opportunities are offered to Board members and staff on a regular basis. Staff members have attended coaching certification training, leadership and human resource management training, and training for administration.
<b>Promote Governance Board</b>	Actively recruit diverse directors to serve on the Board	•There is a diverse Board of eight directors – two of which are female
<b>Educate membership on role of a governance Board</b>	Invite reps from Zones to attend SYSI Board meeting to better ensure communication and understanding of the Boards role	•Zone liaisons have been attending Board meetings since November 2016 with positive feedback from members
<b>Create Marketing Capacity</b>	Increase staff capacity to handle marketing initiatives	•Added a 4th staff person in 2016 to create more capacity for the Executive Director to focus on marketing and for Program Coordinator to develop new programs
	Create a soccer promotional video to increase soccer presence through advertising in community	•Created and used since summer 2016
	Create stronger soccer presence in the communities	•Started attending Community Fun Days in 2017
	Offer programs other than leagues to promote the participation of new soccer players	•Community school Dream League began in 2016 targeting Indigenous and New Canadian players •Parent & Tot started in 2016 targeting at home parents and young children •Kids in the Park has been continuing since 2008
<b>Efficient Use of Resources</b>	Promote the adoption of RAMP to all members	•All participating Zones and Community Associations now have a RAMP platform as of 2020

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**The Year Ahead**

With 14 years with SYSI as Executive Director, I look forward to another upcoming year. These last eight months have proved to be particularly challenging under unprecedented and uncertain times throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. SYSI along with our members will continue to adapt and offer the best possible soccer experience while keeping safety our number one priority.

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.