



President's Report 2020

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

It has been an honour and privilege to serve another year as President of Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI). Whilst never forgetting that we are here to serve the youth of Saskatoon in furthering their development and enjoyment of the "beautiful game"

I would like to thank the SYSI Directors, our zone board members, the committees and all the dedicated volunteers who make soccer in Saskatoon a fun, safe and thriving environment for our youth. Thank you to all the Board members and committees for the meetings to make these and other important decisions.

'Change is a constant within all organizations and together we can surmount any and all tasks and go on to achieve wonderful things. SYSI's soccer community is in good hands and will continue to provide a fun, active and socially positive environment that continues to align with our mission for the youth of Saskatoon.'

That's how the Presidents Report for 2019 ended.

The year 2020 started out like any other year and then it wasn't. Who could have predicted a pandemic, and with it the fear and uncertainty for our future. Fortunately, our indoor leagues were completed for the 2019-2020 indoor season before the lockdown. However, as spring approached the inevitable happened and the decision to cancel the complete outdoor season was made.

During the down time whilst all around us employees were facing uncertainty, SYSI made the decision to stay invested in our Executive Director and her dedicated team.

Our staff never faltered or missed a beat, they worked from home, working hard on multiple policy and strategy initiatives, website development, budget preparations, searching out and applying for subsidies and grants, enabling our very own 'Kids in the Park' program to go forward. And also putting together contingency plans for a possible late outdoor season. When this didn't happen, they focused on the indoor season, always with a positive outlook that youth soccer would return. It is a testament to the hard work and dedication of all our organizations staff and volunteers that as I write this our indoor season is up and running and our facilities are filled once more with the sounds of soccer. Huge thanks to the SYSI staff a testament to their hard work and dedication.

I would like to thank the zones, coaches, managers, volunteers and parents for the support and dedication to the organisation and the athletes who just wanted to return to soccer. Congratulations to all zones and SYSI on having successfully obtained the Quality Soccer Provider designation (the introductory level of Club Licensing) and on their application for the PTSO level 1 and 2. ["The Canada Soccer Club Licensing Program is designed to guide member organizations throughout the country toward best principles for organizational development both on and off the field. Member organizations play an essential role in the development of players, coaches, and officials and provide both the daily playing environment and primary contact for participants. By raising the standards of member organizations, both the daily playing environment and participant experience are enhanced; thereby improving the overall soccer system in Canada."](#)

As 2020 draws to a close make no mistake that this pandemic is not over nor will it be for the foreseeable months ahead. We therefore must remain vigilant, wearing masks, sanitising regularly and maintaining social

distance. The protocols are in place at both our facilities and it would be remiss of me not to say a huge thank you to the Saskatoon Soccer Centre Inc.'s CEO and staff for all their hard work and dedication whose tireless efforts keep all of us safer.

We do not know what the future holds, but what I do know is that Saskatoon Youth Soccer is in good hands. Our Executive Director Amanda Probe and her staff have performed their duties above and beyond any expectation. The board of directors have excelled throughout the demands of this difficult year. And our zones are as strong and united as ever. Whatever happens next year I say bring it on!

We are ready. We are strong. We are Saskatoon Youth Soccer.

Sincerely

Mark Millard
President