



Executive Director's Report 2021 Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

Office Staff

I, Amanda Probe, executive director, have now been with the organization for nearly 15 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 18 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 four 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 three 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 sixth 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 2022.

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.

Program Coordination Committee Members:

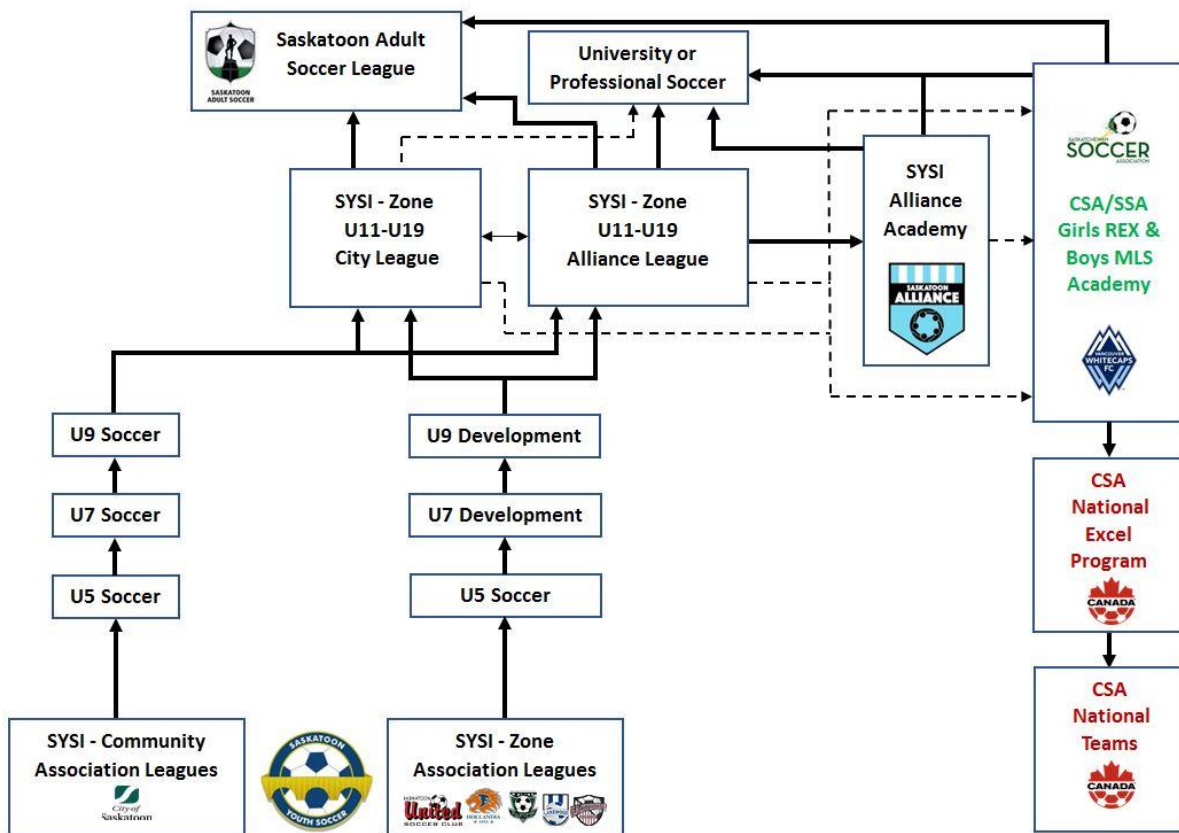
Zone 1:	SUSC Delegates:	Huw Morris / Michelle Mason / Judon Gregory
Zone 2:	Hollandia Delegates	Percy Hoff / Mark Lord / Rachele Lockwood

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

Alliance Technical Committee

The SYSI Alliance Technical Committee was formed back in November 2020 and is comprised of zone technical directors, zone presidents, the SYSI president, and SYSI staff. The committee was instrumental in creating a framework for an academy to be under the SYSI umbrella where players from all zones can come together to receive high quality supplemental training sessions complimentary to the league and zone practice schedules. The academy is overseen by highly certified zone technical directors, the SYSI program coordinator, hired head coaches, hired assistant coaches, and volunteer mentor coaches. During the outdoor season 2021, SYSI launched part of the academy structure which encompassed the formation of citywide Saskatoon Alliance Provincial Soccer League (PSL) teams in the under-15 and under-17 age groups with two teams in under-15 boys, and one team in under-17 boys. With the delay of the PSL season due to the pandemic which led to a season extension into late summer months, registrations and interest in this league were considerably lower on the girls’ side. The academy was fully launches this season offering training to under-11 through under-19 players on weekday afternoons which will run from October to March. For the outdoor season, under-15 and under-17 teams will train with their Saskatoon Alliance PSL teams and SYSI will continue to offer the opportunity for academy training for under-11 and under-13 players.

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. Player Pathways



Over the past year, the committee also assisted in the development of a revamped league structure creating further opportunities to address the needs of all players. The league structure provides two league types for under-11 to under-19: the City League and the Alliance League. The City League provides one weekly Friday game with optional practices resulting in a league which requires less time commitment for multi-sport athletes, those who take part in other academies and find regular league difficult to fit into their schedule, those who wish to ‘just play’, or those who are looking for a more affordable option. The City League is also more ‘relaxed’ in that it doesn’t have player evaluations yet still provides fun competition with referees as well as standings for under-13+. The Alliance League requires player evaluations in order to group players onto skill based teams of group A and group B in each age. The Alliance League places a greater emphasis on player development by offering two weekly training sessions and one weekly game all within the soccer centres.



Mini Development Zone Funding

Since January 2013, SYSI developed 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 which really assisted our zone members in the creation and development of under-7 and under-9 development leagues and programs. In addition to mini development program funding, zones also took part in the community head coach program where SYSI supplied an honorarium of \$500 per season to help off-set the costs of hiring a community head coach who would 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 could not make a profit and all revenue and expenses were 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 marked the final year in which SYSI provided funding for the mini development programs as we completed the benchmark of \$300,000 spent. Zones have begun finding other ways of ensuring their mini development leagues are sustainable moving forward beyond 2021 now that this funding is no longer available.

SYSI will continue to apply for SSA MAP Grant Special Projects funding to assist SYSI and zone projects. 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 Provided by SYSI:

YEAR	SUSC	Hollandia	Aurora	Lakewood	Eastside	Open Door Society	TOTAL
2021	\$7,351.44	\$7,264.56	\$11,794.67	\$11,794.67	\$11,794.66	n/a	\$50,000.00
2020	\$10,000.00	\$9,885.15	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	n/a	\$39,885.15
2019	\$10,103.83	\$11,302.68	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$8,713.60	n/a	\$33,720.11
2018	\$0.00	\$15,497.02	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$8,528.28	n/a	\$31,525.30
2017	\$0.00	\$11,555.70	\$5,184.43	\$8,270.00	\$4,353.71	n/a	\$29,363.84
2016	\$5,821.40	\$12,490.00	\$14,181.29	\$0.00	\$13,020.00	n/a	\$45,512.69
2015	\$5,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$7,943.49	\$0.00	\$11,000.00	n/a	\$34,943.49
2014	\$3,762.50	\$11,106.21	\$7,692.97	\$3,510.11	\$9,551.90	\$4,723.57	\$40,347.26
2013	\$3,380.01	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,100.00	\$5,088.03	\$21,568.04
Total	\$45,419.18	\$99,101.32	\$60,396.85	\$31,074.78	\$81,062.15	\$9,811.60	\$326,865.88

Leagues

The year 2020-21 has been a particularly challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic leading to the Public Health order to cease sport operations from March 20 to June 30, 2020 leading to the cancellation of the outdoor season 2020; as well as a cease of league or competitions from Nov 27, 2020 to May 30, 2021 leading to the cancellation of all games throughout the remainder of the indoor season 2020-21 and a delay to the outdoor season 2021. During the league ban period, scheduled games were utilized as training times with ordered restrictions in place for mask wear, limit of eight players per field for the scheduled practice duration. Our five zones and community associations did an amazing job in adapting to the ever-changing landscape of the pandemic and various restrictions. At all times programming was made available to our members and every effort was made to keep soccer players engaged. SYSI cannot thank our zones and community associations enough for their ongoing efforts in keeping our members engaged and active through soccer. With the pandemic currently ongoing, SYSI experienced a decrease to team registrations for indoor season 2021-22 due to the fourth wave and uncertainty from families as to whether to participate at such time. For the indoor season 2021-22 all team personnel as well as any players 18 years of age and older must be fully vaccinated to participate in SYSI and zone programs.

We are pleased with the continued Tim Horton’s Group sponsorship for under-5 & under-7 Timbits mini soccer programs that has sponsored mini soccer for over 25 seasons. Tim Hortons recently made some changes to their sponsorship program to be more environmentally conscientious. Tim Hortons will no longer provide sponsorship items for the indoor season and will only provide jerseys every third outdoor season, meaning participating associations will need to collect and reuse jerseys. Tim Hortons will continue to provide the free Timbit Jamboree, medals, and balls each outdoor season.

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 the under-7 zone development indoor league. This

season, all practices are located at both the indoor soccer facilities for all zone under-7 to under-19 teams. With some pandemic restrictions lifted community associations were able to access school gyms for their community team practices.

The under-5 to under-9 community leagues historically received one monthly turf game during the indoor season for 15 years in the Saskatoon Sports Centre however with the increased demand for turf, the desire for consistent weekly game location and time, as well as the convenient ability to split the fields in half with curtains, SYSI made the decision to have all community league games hosted at the Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Centre.

This marks the 16th indoor season of having practice time allocated for every youth team in the two soccer centres. We were happy to once again welcome Valley United Soccer Club (VUSC) and their teams into our leagues for both indoor and outdoor seasons.

The under-9 zone development league has matured as an attractive program for community-based players going into its 8th year and the under-7 zone development league is going into its 5th indoor season. The under-7 zone development league will continue into its 4th outdoor season coming up in 2022.

During the outdoor season 2017, we experienced a drastic decrease to our mini team numbers with players exploring other sports and activities. 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 season 2017-18 and outdoor season 2018 when Canada Soccer Association (CSA) changed to odd age groups (under-5, under-7, etc.) opposed to even age groups (under-6, under-8, 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 past two years due to COVID-19, we have recently seen stability in the community association team numbers and additional growth in the zone under-7 and under-9 development leagues.

INDOOR	Mini Teams	Mini Player Est	Youth Teams	Youth Player Est	Total Teams	Total Player Est	Team Variance	Player Est Variance	Seasonal Notes
2011-12 Indoor	128	1280	136	1904	264	3184	n/a	n/a	
2012-13 Indoor	153	1530	139	1946	292	3476	28	292	Olympic Bronze
2013-14 Indoor	150	1500	136	1904	286	3404	-6	-72	
2014-15 Indoor	167	1670	132	1848	299	3518	13	114	
2015-16 Indoor	153	1530	118	1652	271	3182	-28	-336	
2016-17 Indoor	156	1560	122	1708	278	3268	7	86	
2017-18 Indoor	102	1020	135	1890	237	2910	-41	-358	Change to Odd Age Groups
2018-19 Indoor	122	1220	137	1918	259	3138	22	228	
2019-20 Indoor	130	1300	138	1932	268	3232	9	94	
2020-21 Indoor	71	710	118	1652	189	2362	-79	-870	COVID-19 Impact
2021-22 Indoor	93	930	114	1596	207	2526	18	164	Olympic Gold & COVID-19 Impact

OUTDOOR	Mini Teams	Mini Player Est	Youth Teams	Youth Player Est	Total Teams	Total Player Est	Team Variance	Player Est Variance	Seasonal Notes
2012 Outdoor	370	3700	132	1848	502	5548	n/a	n/a	
2013 Outdoor	392	3920	122	1708	514	5628	12	80	Olympic Bronze
2014 Outdoor	366	3660	119	1666	485	5326	-29	-302	
2015 Outdoor	367	3670	107	1498	474	5168	-11	-158	
2016 Outdoor	370	3700	106	1484	476	5184	2	16	
2017 Outdoor	322	3220	108	1512	430	4732	-46	-452	
2018 Outdoor	279	2790	122	1708	401	4498	-29	-234	Change to Odd Age Groups
2019 Outdoor	291	2910	126	1764	417	4674	16	176	
2020 Outdoor	0	0	0	0	0	0	-417	-4674	COVID-19 Season Cancelled
2021 Outdoor	198	1980	106	1484	304	3464	304	3464	COVID-19 Impact

Discipline

Since 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.

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.

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 (SKHRSC) is now entering its 23rd 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 (SSC) is currently in its 16th 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 many practices.

For the indoor season 2021-22, all spectators 18 years of age and older must provide proof of full vaccination or a negative test within the past 72 hours to access the soccer centers.

Coach Certification

SYSI continues to ensure all SYSI coaches are certified according to the CSA standards. From Mar 2020 to Aug 2021, SSA provided a concession to team coaches as to not being required to be fully certified as

on-field clinics were cancelled due to the pandemic. Online modules were developed by Canada Soccer Association (CSA) and were free of charge up until this current indoor season 2021-22. SSA has recently been organizing and conducting the on-field coach clinics and by doing so all participants of such clinics need to comply with SSA’s proof of vaccine mandate; all participants aged 12 and older must provide proof of full vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours of the event organized by SSA.

The SYSI office hopes to organize Active Start and Fundamentals on-field 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 again soon.

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 2021-22:

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							
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			

In addition to the above requirements, for the indoor season 2021-22, all team personnel must be fully vaccinated to participate in SYSI and zone programs.

To attend SSA provincials and potentially the Provincial Soccer League, all participants aged 12 and older must provide proof of full vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours of the event organized by SSA.

Tournaments

SYSI has organized the Premier SISCO, Mini SISCO, and Mini FOS tournaments for many years and the tournaments have always been a popular choice. During the indoor season 2020-21, tournaments and games of any kind were ceased from Nov 2020 to May 2021 resulting in the cancellation of all of the above tournaments.

For 2022, due to the uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, SYSI has made the difficult decision of cancelling the Premier SISCO’s. This decision was not arrived at lightly. We love these tournaments and we were looking forward to them. Typically, 40% of SISCO teams come from Alberta and there is a strong likelihood that team entries will be lower due to the pandemic and likely a lot less

teams coming from out-of-province. Taking another year off from offering this tournament would allow for in-province teams to support the zone tournaments and would also ensure the fields are utilized for league and practices instead of waiting to see and potentially cancelling later and then having the fields go unused. We consulted our zones and SYSI president and all were equally disappointed yet understanding that it makes sense under the current circumstances.

We plan on offering the Mini SISCO tournament in March as well as the Mini FOS tournament in June as there aren't any other tournaments that focus entirely on the younger age groups and it's a tournament that consists only of SYSI league teams.

The Saskatoon Sports Center looks forward to hosting SYSI tournaments in the near future. 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 SISCO tournaments, this opened 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 2021-22 Tournaments:

Jan 7 – 9, 2022	SISCO Premier Boys (under-11-under-19) – cancelled
Jan 14 – 16, 2022	SISCO Premier Girls (under-11-under-19) – cancelled
Mar 18 – 20, 2022	Mini SISCO (under-5 to under-9)

Outdoor 2022 Tournaments:

June 10 – 12, 2022	Mini FOS (under-5 to under-9)
June 19 or 26, 2022	Tim Hortons Jamboree (under-5 to under-7)

A special thanks to Xtratime Sports / Soccer Locker who was our Diamond Title sponsor for the upcoming 2022 Mini SISCO!

With the adoption of the new governance model and strategic plan in June 2008, this was the 13th year that decisions based on tournaments are 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.

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.

With the past three seasons of provincials being cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, SYSI looks forward to hosting the S4L 6-side Indoor Youth Provincial Championships Mar 4 – 6, 2022. SSA has implemented a vaccine mandate for all SSA organized in-person events and programs this season for those 12 years of age and older. Those participating in the events will be required to provide proof of full vaccination or a negative test within 72 hours of the event.

Community Engagement Projects

Soccer Kids In the Park Program:

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. provided the 14th summer of Soccer Kids In the Park program, a free drop-in soccer program, which ran from July 5 to August 19, 2021 and took place at 47 locations in Saskatoon. The program was coordinated by four energetic Soccer Program Leaders with coaching certifications and a desire to make soccer fun and enjoyable in the parks. The program was successful in obtaining a record number of participants while maintaining a safe environment with pandemic precautions in place such as hand sanitizer, routine disinfecting of equipment between site visits and masks for coaches when social distancing between them and participants was not possible.

The fact that we successfully provided this program to our community in a safe and meaningful way under the cloud of COVID-19 for a second summer is something we are immensely proud of. For the summer of 2020 we made drastic modifications to the program but with the rollout of vaccinations and lifting of government restrictions on sports, we were able to offer this popular program to our community in 2021 within our traditional drop-in format which was widely received.

Participation numbers in this program reached an all-time high this summer with a total of 3973 participants (2733 children aged 4 to 12, 45 youth, and 1195 parents or guardians). The second highest participation records we have experienced in this program was in 2019 with a total of 3687 participants. This shows how greatly needed this program is in the community and even more so after an extended period of restricted programming due to the pandemic. Over the course of 14 years, this program has reached a total of 27,917 children and youth as well as 6,393 parents or guardians.

Each summer this program is intended to increase the enjoyment and participation in soccer through eliminating financial and transportation barriers and providing positive mature role models for those who may not have otherwise tried the sport. This program also aims to increase the soccer "hype" during the summer leading into indoor for current and potential future soccer players. Brochures and participant certificates were mailed out to all participants at the end of each week program with information regarding registration for soccer and how to access KidSport funding. We received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from participants thankful that this program was offered again this summer considering the pandemic and hopes of us continuing this program again next year.

This program wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors and grant providers. Thank you to our 2021 diamond title sponsor O'Reilly Insurance and The Co-operators; our gold level sponsors Affinity Credit Union, Xtratime Sports Soccer Locker, Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc., Merlin Ford Lincoln, Virtus Group LLP, Sherwin-Williams Paint; and our community in-kind sponsors Tim Hortons, Rawlco Radio (C95, Rock102, CKOM), and CTV Saskatoon. We would also like to thank our 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.

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. has full intention of running this program again in the summer of 2022 and is actively seeking sponsors.

Community School Dream League:

This would have been the 6th 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 in 2020-21 which meant putting this program on hold until restrictions are lifted. For 2021-22, uncertainties continued with the fourth wave resulting in SYSI having challenges in recruiting coaching staff for this program, as such the program was cancelled again. We are optimistic that this program will be offered in the fall/winter of 2022-23 with a full return to normal.

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, we haven't offered this program for the past two years due to either Public Health order restrictions or low enrollment. We look forward to a complete return to normal for this program to become viable again.

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	Celeste Glasser-Cook	Hernan Tapia	Alex Hein	Garnette Weber	Angele Thiessen
2020	Michele Mason	Randy Poelzer	Dan Cote	Melanie Scott-Kwan	Jodi Blackwell
2021	The 2021 nomination form can be found under the “ Forms ” section on our website. All completed forms are to be submitted to your respective zone board on or before Mon Feb 28, 2022. 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 18, 2022. Awards for 2021 will be presented at the outdoor coaches’ pre-season meeting in April of 2022. 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 season 2021-22 team personnel honorarium applications is Fri Jan 28, 2022.

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 Feb 18, 2022.

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

History of Volunteer Honorarium Funding Provided by SYSI:

YEAR	Registrar/Coordinators	Coaches	Total
2021	\$1,995.00	\$ 630.00	\$2,625.00
2020	\$2,104.95	\$ 885.00	\$2,989.95
2019	\$4,076.06	\$1,589.33	\$5,665.39
2018	\$3,309.56	\$1,828.54	\$5,138.10
2017	\$3,114.43	\$2,700.00	\$5,814.43
Total	\$14,600.00	\$7,632.87	\$22,232.87

Zone Coach 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 pre-season in-person meeting and hope to return to hosting these again soon. In the meantime, we will continue to provide a pre-season meeting through Zoom to all interested coaches.

CSA’s Club Licensing

In October 2019, all zones including SYSI applied for and achieved Club Licensing Quality Soccer Provider which is the introductory level of Club Licensing and is soon becoming a requirement of SSA’s to qualify for their funding grant which SYSI applies for each year.

In March 2021, Aurora Soccer Club, Lakewood Soccer Association, and Saskatoon United Soccer Club all achieved Club Licensing requirements for SSA’s Member Association Level 1 designation; and Eastside Youth Soccer Association and Hollandia Soccer Club achieved SSA’s Member Association Level 2 designation. SYSI is very proud of our zones who achieved these levels of Club Licensing this year.

In July 2021, SYSI applied for SSA’s Club Licensing Member Association Level 1 designation and are awaiting the results of the application.

Beginning in 2022, Club Licensing Member Association Level 1 designation will be required of SSA Member Organizations who wish to participate in 9v9 Youth Indoor Provincials and the PSL.

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. The strategic plan

currently needs to be reviewed and updated by the SYSI board which will occur over the upcoming year.

Strategic Theme: Fun For All

Objective	Initiative	Comments
It's a Blast for All Ages	Have all five zones offering under-7 to under-9 developmental programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Under-9 development leagues started in 2014 with all five zones offering the program since 2015. •Under-7 development leagues started in 2016 with all five zones offering the program since 2019.
	Offer a parent-tot program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Began in fall 2016 and have offered it for six years now.
Community-Driven Programming	Develop an after-school soccer league for community schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Began in fall 2016 and have offered it for four seasons now with 2020 and 2021 cancelled due to COVID-19.
	Continue to offer the summer Soccer Kids In the Park program to all community areas throughout Saskatoon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Offered since 2008. This program has reached a total of 27,917 children and youth as well as 6,393 parents or guardians of those participants over the past 14 years.
Build the Soccer Culture	Increase participation of soccer through the summer Soccer Kids In the Park program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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 under-7 and under-9 developmental programs have a 2:1 practice game ratio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Under-9 development leagues started in 2014 with all five zones offering the program since 2015. •Under-7 development leagues started in 2016 with all five zones offering the program since 2019.
Enhance Mini Development	Have all five zones offering under-7 and under-9 developmental programs	
Parent Education	Provide important communications through RAMP email to parents	The use of RAMP email was regularly used especially during the pandemic to keep families informed

Strategic Theme: Quality Programming

Objective	Initiative	Comments
Qualified Coaches	Meet SSA compliance for all coaches to be certified NCCP and RIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ongoing
	Provide adequate number of coach certification clinics each season	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •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 SDSRAI are aware of funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Processed four applications since 2016
	Ensure SDSRAI is informed of all league rules and any applicable changes each season in advance of their clinics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •League rules are provided in advance of the clinics prior to each season
Ongoing Program Review	Program Coordination Committee to continually evaluate leagues and programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •League restructure implemented in 2021 with City League and Alliance League in order to further meet the needs of all players of varying abilities and commitment levels •Alliance Academy born in 2021 to provide players citywide quality supplemental training to compliment Alliance League and zone team training schedules

Strategic Theme: Strengthening our Community

Objective	Initiative	Comments
Contribute to community-based Initiatives	Have a soccer presence at community association "fun days"	Attended three in 2017, eight in 2018, 11 in 2019, and two in 2021 (COVID-19 in 2020 cancelled all fun days)

Strategic Theme: Excellence in Governance and Management

Objective	Initiative	Comments
Continuous Improvement	Seek continuous professional development opportunities for board members and staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • All staff and directors recently completed Respect In the Workplace certification as per Club Licensing
Promote Governance Board	Actively recruit diverse directors to serve on the board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a diverse board of eight directors – two of which are female
Educate membership on role of a governance Board	Zones reps attend SYSI board meeting to better ensure communication and understanding of the board's role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zone liaisons have been attending board meetings since Nov 2016 with positive feedback
Create Marketing Capacity	Increase staff capacity to handle marketing initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added a fourth staff person in 2016 to create more capacity for the executive director to focus on marketing and for program coordinator to develop new programs
	Increase soccer presence through advertising in community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created and used since summer 2016 • Billboards, posters, radio, and TV campaigns
	Create stronger soccer presence in the communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Started attending community fun days in 2017 • Soccer Kids in the Park has been offered since 2008
	Offer programs other than leagues to promote the participation of new soccer players	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community school Timbits Dream League began in 2016 targeting Indigenous and new Canadian players • Parent & Tot started in 2016 targeting at home parents and young children • Soccer Kids in the Park has been offered since 2008
Efficient Use of Resources	Promote the adoption of RAMP to all members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participating zones and community associations now have a RAMP platform as of 2020

The Year Ahead

With 15 years with SYSI as executive director, I look forward to another upcoming year. These last two years have proved to be particularly challenging under unprecedented 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.

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, and offer our players the best playing environment.

Thank you,

Amanda M Probe
Executive Director