



Executive Director's Report 2022

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

Office Staff

I, Amanda Probe, Executive Director, have now been with the organization for 16 ½ years and I oversee all staff and operations for the organization, advertising, and promotion of soccer, grant and sponsorship requisition, policy development, fiscal management, and strategic planning. In addition to the above, I am also the organization's Administrative Lead for CSA Club Licensing requirements.

Erin Fehr, Operations Coordinator, will be reaching a 20-year milestone with SYSI in May of 2023 and continues to bring efficiencies and tremendous value to our operations in the areas of roster management and reporting, day-to-day financials (accounts payable, receivable, and deposits), standings, and tournament schedules.

Jordan Paul, Administrator, has been with us for nearly five years and provides a tremendous amount of support to the organization in the areas of main reception and communications, setting up and handling registrations, field bookings, and facilitators for all National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) clinics, RAMP registration form management, discipline matters, website and social media updates, identification cards, tournament and provincial team roster reviews, and travel permit approvals.

Dan Kelly's former Program Coordinator position was reclassified as Technical Lead. SYSI has invested heavily into Dan's coach and technical qualifications over the past two years, and he has acquired CSA's Child and Youth Licenses, National B License Part 1 and 2 certified (soon to be certified). With him already understanding the SYSI structure and culture and having built strong relationships with our zone members and technical directors over the past four years, he naturally transitioned into the Technical Lead role for our organization better positioning us for CSA's Club Licensing requirements. Dan 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 in program development and oversight (Community School Dream League, Kids in the Park, Parent and Tot, Alliance and City Leagues, Alliance Academy, and under-15 and under-17 PSL teams), strategic coach development, player pathway and development, leading operational committees, handling referee matters, field procurement, zone and community association technical matters, and National Youth Club Licensing support.

We are into our seventh year of having a fourth full-time staff person, which has increased our staff capacity to be able to offer innovative 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 2023.

Program Coordination Committee

The SYSI Program Coordination Committee (PCC) was dissolved in February 2022 to create one operational committee, the SYSI Advisory Committee, with zone representation whose purpose is to provide recommendations and feedback on SYSI program and technical matters. This change was necessary in establishing SYSI's governance and authority over its programs and decisions.

Alliance Technical Committee

The SYSI Alliance Technical Committee was dissolved in February 2022 to create one operational committee, the SYSI Advisory Committee, with zone representation whose purpose is to provide recommendations and feedback on SYSI program and technical matters. This change was necessary in establishing SYSI's governance and authority over its programs and decisions.

The former SYSI Alliance Technical Committee was instrumental between November 2020 and February 2022 in creating a framework for an academy to be under the SYSI umbrella where players from all zones come together to receive high quality supplemental training sessions complimentary to the league and zone practice schedules. The committee was comprised of all five zone technical directors, zone presidents, the SYSI president, and SYSI staff.

Alliance Academy

In February 2020, Saskatoon Youth Soccer along with the five zones founded the Saskatoon Alliance. The Saskatoon Alliance's purpose is to provide enhanced playing and training opportunities that promotes growth, enjoyment and retention for youth soccer players in Saskatoon.

The Alliance Academy is overseen by SYSI's zone technical directors, the SYSI technical lead, hired head coaches, hired assistant coaches, and volunteer mentor coaches.

Indoor season 2022-23 marks the second year where the academy operated at full capacity offering training to under-11 through under-19 players on weekday afternoons from November to March. Weekly training was held on a day which did not conflict with the age group's game day or zone practice schedule making it possible for families to fully participate in both club commitments and supplemental academy training. As for the intake process, registration opened in August and under-11 players were accepted until available spots were filled; under-13 players were accepted until 60% of spots were filled while the remaining 40% spots were filled by players who were recommended by their zone technical director; and under-15 and under-17 players attended player assessments in September and October. The training included a minimum of ten goalkeeper training sessions at the under-13 to under-19 age groups.

SYSI will be hosting the Alliance Invitational where competing teams will be invited to compete against the Alliance Academy training groups over the weekend of January 20 – 22, 2023.

During the 2022 outdoor season, the academy offered six sessions on non-tournament weekends from April – June. The academy welcomed non-PSL players in the under-11 to under-15 age groups. Players did not attend assessments and were accepted until available spots were filled. During the outdoor season, the under-15 and under-17 PSL players do not take part in the academy as they have multiple weekly training sessions and PSL games to focus on.

	Alliance Academy - BOYS					Alliance Academy - GIRLS					TOTAL Overall
	U11B	U13B	U15B	U17-19B	Total Boys	U11G	U13G	U15G	U17-19G	Total Girls	
Indoor 2021-22	14	28	31	12	85	13	26	20	20	79	164
Indoor 2022-23	15	15	25	63	118	14	25	23	24	86	204
Outdoor 2022	27	13	7	0	47	21	14	3	0	38	85

Under-15 and Under-17 Saskatoon Alliance (PSL)

During the outdoor season 2021, SYSI launched part of the Alliance 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 lower on the girls' side. CSA's club nationals were cancelled in 2021 due to COVID-19.

During the outdoor season 2022, SYSI experienced an abundance of interested and talented players at our under-15 and under-17 player assessments and formed five teams to compete in the PSL: two under-15 boys' teams, one under-15 girls' team, one under-17 boys' team, and one under-17 girls' team. Two of which, under-15 boys Saskatoon Alliance Weber and under-17 girls Saskatoon Alliance, represented our province at CSA's club nationals in October 2022! We are looking forward to seeing how PSL season 2023 turns out. We hope that all players involved in the past couple of years of Alliance Academy and PSL have had fun, experienced meaningful competition, and have made lifelong friendships and memories!

SYSI wishes to extend a huge thanks to DSG Power Systems and Xtratime Sports Soccer Locker for committing a three-year financial investment into the Alliance Academy and under-15 to under-17 Saskatoon Alliance PSL teams. SYSI also wishes to thank Mark Millard Art for contributing athlete sponsorships of \$2,000 for indoor 2021-22.

Alliance Athlete Fund

In outdoor 2021, SYSI started the Alliance Academy Athlete Fund, with proceeds of \$1,326.50 raised from SSA's 50-50 Raffle which ran in 2020-2021. We wish to thank those who took part in SSA's 50-50 weekly raffle and selected SYSI as an organization to support.

For the indoor 2021-22 academy season, we received a generous donation from Mark Millard Art of \$2,000; donated academy coach earnings from Dan Weber, Mark Millard, Lewis Oteruelo, and Shaun Eaton totalling \$2,185; and Mark Lord provided \$790 donated funds to assist specific players involved in the academy. Through the above donated funds, the Alliance Athlete Fund helped cover academy fees for those who met eligible financial criteria totalling \$3,712.50 for the indoor 2021-22 season.

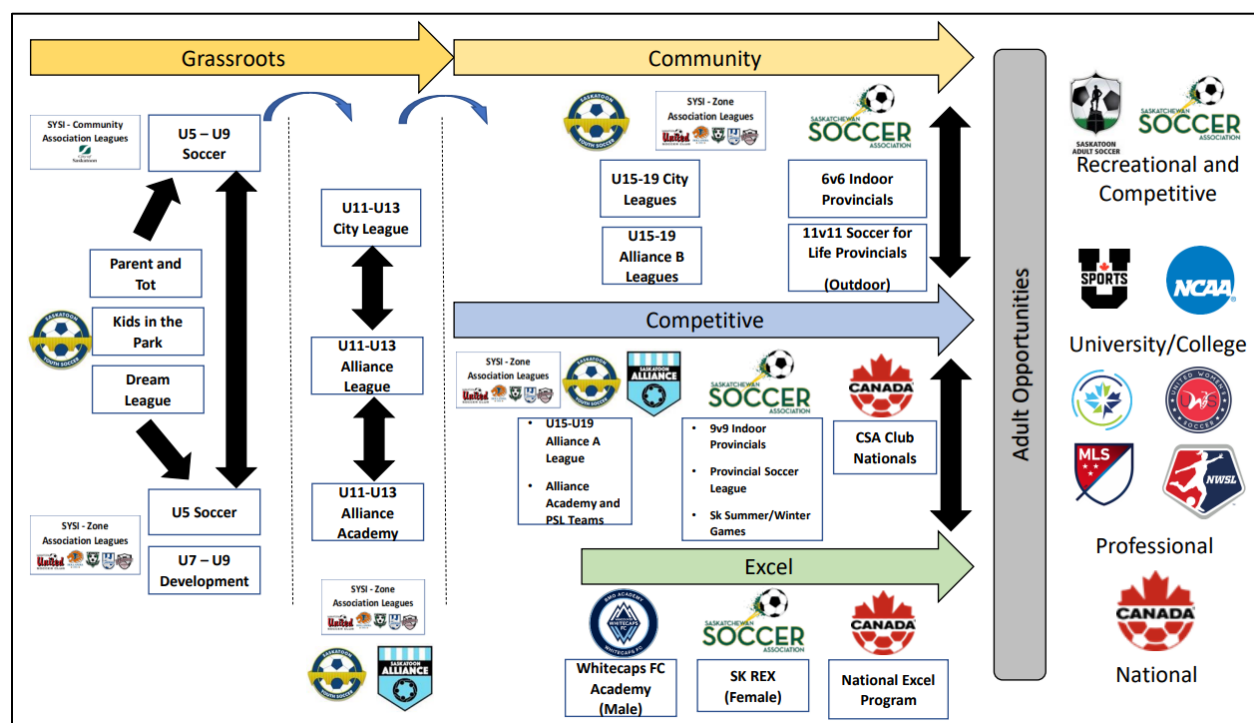
For the outdoor 2022 under-15 and under-17 PSL teams, we received donated academy coach earnings from Dan Weber and Len Lewko totalling \$2,980; received \$1,265 in Jumpstart and KidSport approved

funds for athletes; and Mark Lord provided \$1,280 donated funds to assist specific players involved in the academy. Through the above donated funds, the Alliance Athlete Fund helped cover under-15 and under-17 PSL player fees for those who met eligible financial criteria totalling \$3,575 for the outdoor 2022 season.

In total the Alliance Athlete fund as provided \$7,287.50 to players in need through indoor 2021-22 and outdoor 2022 seasons and we have \$4,604 available going into the indoor 2022-23 season.

On October 17, 2022, SYSI kicked off their Celebrate the World Cup 50/50 in support of the Alliance Academy Athlete Fund. At present, the 50-50 total is at \$1,370 and growing; and the winner takes 50%. The draw takes place the morning after the World Cup final, on Mon Dec 19, at 10:00 AM. Tickets can be purchased at <https://trellis.org/celebrate-saskatoon-youth-soccer-world-cup-5050> and tickets cost: 1 for \$10; 10 for \$20; 50 for \$50; 200 for \$100. To purchase tickets, you must be 18+, residing in the province of Saskatchewan (tickets can only be bought or sold in Saskatchewan), and can't be a Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. staff or board member. This raffle is a fundraiser with the sole purpose of supporting our Saskatoon Alliance Athlete Fund. The fund was created to help provide financial assistance to eligible athletes who wish to participate in additional training with the U11-U19 Alliance Academy and/or participate with a U15 or U17 Saskatoon Alliance team in the outdoor season.

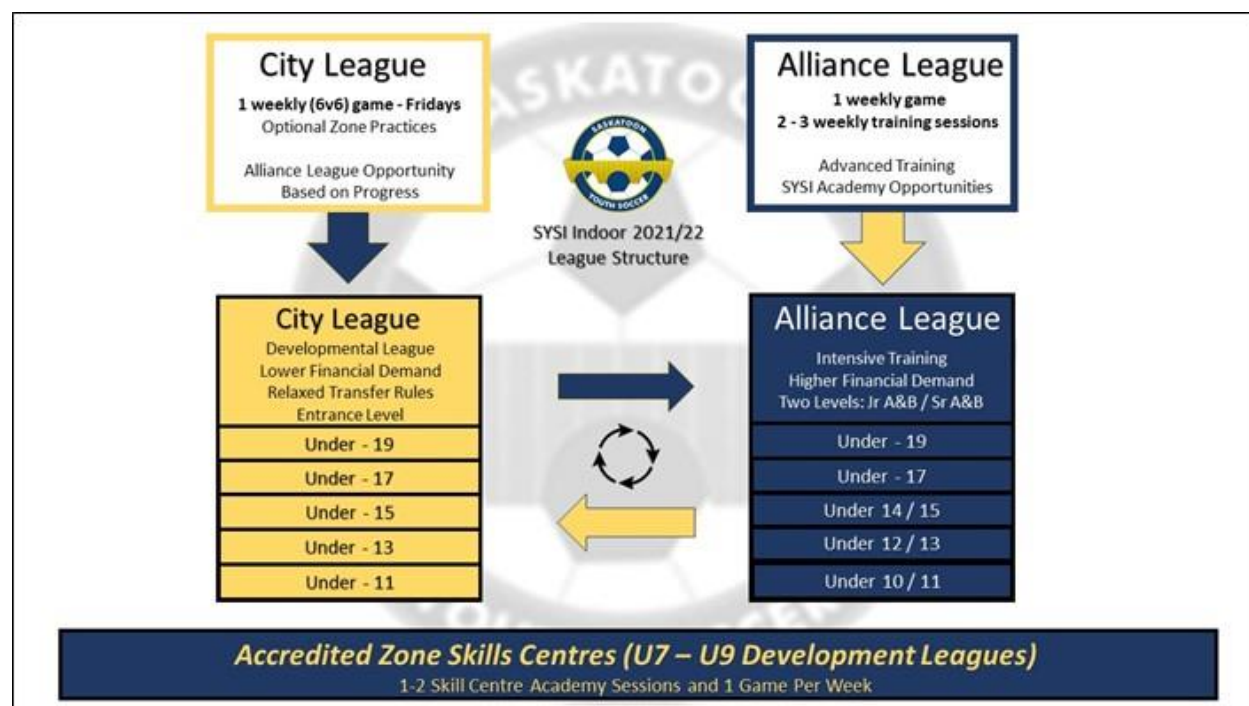
SYSI Player Pathway



League Restructure: Alliance & City League

SYSI and its zones introduced a league restructure in indoor 2021-22 which carried into outdoor 2022 and indoor 2022-23. The league structure created further opportunities to address the needs of all players by providing two league types for under-11 to under-19: the City League and the Alliance League. The City League provides one weekly Friday (with some Sundays) 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 simply wish to

play, or those who are looking for a more affordable option. The City League is also more 'relaxed' in that it does not have player evaluations yet still provides fun competition with referees as well as standings for under-13+. The Alliance League requires player evaluations 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.



Zone Funding

From January 2013 to July 2021, SYSI provided 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 took part in this funding program and offered development programs to mini players within and around their zone which really assisted 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; a program of which had been in place prior to the reserve funding initiative. 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.

In July 2021, SYSI completed the benchmark of \$300,000 reserve spending for mini development programs. Zones have begun finding other ways of ensuring their D-Leagues are sustainable moving forward beyond 2021 now that this funding is no longer available.

SYSI continues 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.

Beginning in the fall of 2021, with the launch of the Alliance, SYSI committed to providing annual honorariums to zones in recognition of the technical directors' support and dedication to the academy and PSL season through attending player assessments, committee meetings, and mentorship to head and assistant coaches of the academy and PSL teams.

History of Zone Funding Support:

YEAR	SUSC	Hollandia	Aurora	Lakewood	Eastside	Open Door Society	TOTAL	Project
2022	\$1,167.50	\$1,167.50	\$1,167.50	\$1,167.50	\$1,137.50	n/a	\$5,807.50	Alliance zone honorariums
2021	\$7,351.44	\$7,264.56	\$11,794.67	\$11,794.67	\$11,794.66	n/a	\$50,000.00	Reserve spending zone development leagues
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	Reserve spending mini development
2013	\$3,380.01	\$9,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,100.00	\$5,088.03	\$21,568.04	
2012	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	n/a	\$3,000.00	Community head coach programs
2011	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	n/a	\$2,500.00	
2010	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	n/a	\$1,000.00	
2009	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	n/a	\$1,000.00	
Total	\$48,586.68	\$102,268.82	\$61,564.35	\$32,242.28	\$85,699.65	\$9,811.60	\$340,173.38	

* Zones who received less funding or no funding in any given year was a result of either not applying, or submitting a follow-up report, or they experienced a program surplus and were not eligible for funding.

Leagues

Pandemic Restrictions March 2020 to February 2022 – A Tale to Tell One Day....

The year 2020-21 was particularly challenging with the COVID-19 pandemic led to the public health order to cease sport operations from March 20 to June 30, 2020, which further led to the cancellation of the outdoor season 2020. Not anticipating another wave, the indoor season 2020-21 took off with restricted mini leagues of 50 participants in each and commenced in October with masks within the facilities and on all team personnel for the exception of players on field when things were brought to a halt by the public health order from Nov 27, 2020 to May 30, 2021, where games and competitions were not permitted. During the league ban period, scheduled games were utilized as training times with public health orders of always playing with masks, social distancing, and a limit of eight players per training group and field. This restriction continued into May delaying the start of the outdoor season 2021 when restrictions were lifted allowing league play to commence May 31. The delay to the start of the season resulted in a shortened mini season wrapping up at the end of June and an extended youth season into mid-July. Throughout the spring and summer of 2021 vaccinations were rolling out with large uptake. As we entered the fall of 2021, the province began seeing several organizations making vaccination mandatory for participation including Sask Soccer programming and events and the vaccine passport emerged. SYSI chose to make vaccinations mandatory for all team personnel and players aged 18 or older for the indoor 2021-22 season considering the newest Delta variant of COVID-19 and those under the age of 12 were not able to be vaccinated yet. The soccer centres upon guidance from their

members Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. and Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc. chose to mirror the City of Saskatoon vaccination requirements for youth aged 12 and older to access the spectator viewing areas. As well, masks were made mandatory for all persons in the facilities for the exception of players when on the playing field. The indoor season 2021-22 went smoothly until the Omicron variant of COVID-19 surged through the community in January 2022 and SYSI's focus for several weeks was primarily tracking positive cases and informing teams of having to self-isolate or self-monitor to help control the spread. This led to zones being overwhelmed by the sheer number of cases and having to fill short teams for games all while being discouraged from permitting players from other teams. SYSI inevitably chose to place a two week pause on games for the youngest ages being hit the hardest (under-11 and under-13) with the aim to also provide more leeway and time for players to become fully vaccinated as it had only recently become made available to those 12 years of age.

In February 2022, the province dropped all public health orders. SYSI continued with the vaccine policy for team personnel and players over the age of 18 until the completion of the indoor season in March 2022. At the last minute prior to provincials in March 2022, Sask Soccer dropped their vaccine policy for participants. After two years, SYSI was excited to bring back Mini SISCO in March 2022 where we had teams participate and receive a medal.

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 throughout the pandemic, soccer 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 active through soccer and for their unwavering efforts in continuously engaging with their members and keeping soccer alive.

A huge thanks goes out to the Saskatoon Soccer Centres Inc. for their efforts in keeping soccer affordable and accessible for their members throughout the various restrictions by reducing rental rates, leniency on cancellations due to positive cases, additional staff for disinfecting measures, absorbing the cost for commissionaires to check proof of vaccines, and additional costs for securing field barriers and tarps for creating additional mini pitches during the ban on competition.

Emerging from the Pandemic

We emerged from the pandemic with zero government restrictions in April 2022 for the first outdoor season in two years. There was a sense of normality and participant numbers saw a significant increase of 600 players from the prior outdoor season, still not back to pre-COVID numbers but the growth was promising and showed that families were starting to feel more comfortable returning to organized programs.

This current indoor season 2022-23 saw astounding growth with a whopping 800 players, with a total estimated player total of 3296, numbers we have not seen since 2016-17 (seven years ago) prior to the drastic drop after CSA changed to odd age groups (under-5 under-7, etc.). This increase in registrations has both soccer centres buzzing with activity and excitement especially Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Centre on Sundays where you will see all four fields utilized with 20 soccer teams coming and going every hour from mid-morning to late afternoon. This season we have split the fields into thirds for the under-5 and under-7 who are playing 3v3. This change in field format has created a more appropriate playing size for these age groups and the soccer centre staff team has been top notch in setting up and tearing down field barriers to divide the fields in thirds contributing to fewer interruptions in play from adjacent flying soccer balls. Another big shout out to all the zone and

community coaches for setting up and cleaning up flags used for goals at the start and end of each Sunday.

This marks the 17th 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 zone development leagues have matured as an attractive program for under-9 programming going into its ninth year and under-7 programming going into its sixth year.

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	113	1582	206	2512	17	150	Olympic Gold & COVID-19 Impact
2022-23 Indoor	149	1490	129	1806	278	3296	72	784	

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
2022 Outdoor	245	2450	115	1610	360	4060	56	596	

Discipline

Since 2018, the SYSI office staff has administered 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.

In January 2022, during a shortage of players due to the pandemic, teams were doing everything possible to fill rosters for games even if it meant lateral permitting or utilizing unregistered players,

which was a contravention of the rules. Some of this occurred unintentionally due to misinterpretation, administrative error, or ignorance. Upon request from its zone members, SYSI cracked down to preserve the integrity of the league and overturned games in question and administered fines to zones at fault. Numerous fines and overturned games were reversed by SYSI due to finding they were a result of either a zone or team manager administrative error or misinterpretation of the rules by a team. A clean slate for all zones and teams began with outdoor 2022 with a focus on increased education on permit rules and game sheet infractions which has since become less of an issue.

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

Outdoor

All under-11 to under-19 teams play half of their outdoor games on City of Saskatoon natural grass fields and the other half is played at the Saskatoon Sports Centre (SSC) with under-11 to under-13 played indoors on smaller fields and under-15 to under-19 played outdoors on full size artificial turf fields. This past outdoor season, SYSI tried something new and instead of spreading out the SSC games throughout each team's schedule, SYSI front loaded all schedules with SSC games at the start of the season and had most games completed in April and May which historically are cooler months leaving the hotter months outdoors on natural grass fields. Natural grass fields are preferred in the heat due to better air circulation opposed to indoor turf and less heat radiating off the field opposed to outdoor turf recycled tire infill. SYSI plans to continue this practice going forward with having majority of SSC games at the start of the outdoor season. Providing a longer break from natural grass fields at the start of the season also allows the fields to better establish roots which improve field quality and longevity. SYSI continues to advocate for fair allocation of fields and field improvements with the City of Saskatoon.

Indoor

The Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Center is now entering its 24th year of operation and will host the indoor season under-5 to under-9 community leagues, the under-7 development leagues, under-9 girls' development league, a handful of boarded under-11 and under-13 Alliance league games, occasional under-11 to under-19 City league games, several zone practices, and the Hollandia Off the Wall tournament.

The Saskatoon Sports Centre is currently in its 17th year of operation and will host our indoor season under-9 boys' development league, under-11 to under-19 youth leagues, parent-tot league, Dream league wrap-up events, countless zone practices, coach clinics, the Alliance Academy, indoor provincials, and several zone and SYSI ran tournaments.

Community associations continue to utilize school gyms for their community team practices.

Coach Certification

SYSI continues to ensure all SYSI coaches are certified according to the CSA standards.

During the pandemic, SSA provided a concession to team coaches to not require full certification as on-field clinics were cancelled. Online modules were developed by Canada Soccer Association (CSA) and were free of charge up until indoor season 2021-22, after which online modules were \$20 to \$30 per module.

SYSI began hosting NCCP coach clinics again last outdoor 2022 and had 46 Active Start / FUNDamentals coaches and 23 Learn 2 Train / Soccer 4 Life coaches take part and obtain certification. This indoor 2022-23, SYSI had 26 Active Start / FUNDamentals coaches and 14 Learn 2 Train / Soccer 4 Life coaches obtain certifications.

RAMP, the common registration system managed by the SSA assists SYSI in verifying Respect in Sport, NCCP certifications, and criminal record check requirements.

SYSI Team Personnel Requirements as of Indoor 2022-23:

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							
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		

Tournaments

With the adoption of the new governance model and strategic plan in June 2008, this was the 14th 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.

Youth SISCO Tournaments

Historically, SYSI would offer the SISCO Tournaments over four weekends with the girls' division II/III in November, boys' division II/III in December, and girls' and boys' premier division over two weekends in

January. 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.

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 tournaments.

For 2022, due to the uncertainties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, SYSI made the difficult decision of cancelling the Premier SISCO's. This decision was not arrived at lightly. Typically, 40% of SISCO teams come from Alberta and there was a strong likelihood that team entries would have been lower due to the pandemic and fewer teams coming from out-of-province. SYSI chose to cancel another year to allow for in-province teams to support the zone tournaments and ensure the fields were utilized for league and practices instead of potentially cancelling and having fields go unused. SYSI consulted our zones and SYSI president; all were equally disappointed yet understanding that it made sense under the circumstances.

For 2023, and onward, SYSI has decided to discontinue the Premier SISCO's due to the number of zone tournaments and current opportunities already being offered in Saskatoon. By stepping away from the Premier SISCO's zones are being given a greater opportunity to attract teams to their tournaments which are important fundraisers for their clubs. Another reason SYSI decided to discontinue the Premier SISCO's is because they would take up two weekends in January when turf is scarce which was making it difficult to secure consistent zone practice blocks in January.

Alliance Invitational

With the Premier SISCO's discontinued, two weekends were freed up in January: one focused solely on zone practice blocks, and the other to offer an Alliance Invitational event on January 20 – 22, 2023, with the sole purpose of attracting out-of-town and out-of-province teams to come and compete against SYSI's Alliance Academy training groups/teams. Providing a meaningful competition for our academy groups is paramount in offering them an opportunity to compete as a unit and test the skills they have obtained.

The Alliance Invitational will be organized and structured very similarly to the former SISCO tournaments and will be an attractive event many will look forward to.

We will have head coaches from the University of Regina Cougars and University of Saskatchewan Huskies present throughout the weekend to observe Saskatoon's up and coming talent; as well athletes, parents, and coaches will have the opportunity to attend presentations from such head coaches who will speak about university preparedness and an introduction to their university soccer program(s).

Mini SISCO & Mini FOS

SYSI offered the Mini SISCO tournament in March 2022 as well as the Mini FOS tournament in June 2022; both of which were title sponsored by Xtratime Sports Soccer Locker and consisted entirely of under-5 to under-9 community and zone teams who were in the SYSI league.

Mar 17 – 19, 2023 Mini SISCO (under-5 to under-9 community and zone)

June 9 – 11, 2023 Mini FOS (under-5 to under-9 community and zone)

June 25, 2023 Tim Hortons Jamboree (under-5 to under-7 community)

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.

Three consecutive seasons of provincials were cancelled in outdoor 2020, indoor 2020-21, and outdoor 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

SYSI alternates each indoor season between hosting the 6-aside and the 9-aside indoor provincial events. We hosted the Soccer for Life 6-aside Indoor Youth Provincial Championships Mar 4 – 6, 2022 and we will be hosting the Soccer for Life 9-aside Indoor Youth Provincial Championships Mar 10 – 12, 2023.

SYSI wishes to thank SSA for these hosting opportunities as well as the grant they provide us to help offset the host expenses such as field rentals, SYSI representatives, admission staff, and hired first aiders. Hosting these events helps our teams greatly in saving accommodation and travel expenses to attend provincials, allows us to showcase our top-notch facilities to other teams around the province, and generates revenue for our economy in Saskatoon.

Community Engagement Projects

Kids in the Park:

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. provided the 15th summer of O'Reilly Insurance and Financial Services and the Co-operators Kids In the Park soccer program, a free drop-in soccer program, which ran from July 4 to August 18, 2022 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 without skipping a beat under the cloud of COVID-19 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 and again this past summer 2022 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 3962 participants consisting of 2819 children (ages 4 to 12), 95 youth, and 1048 parents or guardians. In 2021, we experienced a similar all time high of 3973 participants consisting of 2733 children (ages 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 consisting of 2826 children (ages 4 to 12), 64 youth, and 797 parents or guardians. This shows how greatly needed this program is in the community

and even more after emerging from the pandemic. The parent involvement has grown the most since pre-COVID and this could be an indicator of parents spending more time with their children or greater interest in ensuring programming is safe given the pandemic.

Over the course of 15 years, this program has reached a total of 30,831 children and youth as well as 7,441 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. Participant certificates were provided to each participant at the end of each session 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 in future years.

This program wouldn't be possible without the support of our sponsors and grant providers. Thank you to our 2022 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., Virtus Group LLP, Panago Pizza; 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.

SYSI has full intention of running this program again in the summer of 2023 and is actively seeking sponsors.

Community School Dream League:

In the fall of 2016, we announced a new program aimed at reaching underrepresented youth in Saskatoon and the Dream League was born.

SYSI had to put this wonderful program on hold during the pandemic for two full years but we are excited to have it launched and back in the community schools for the indoor season 2022-23.

The Dream League is an after school soccer league which takes place in school gyms in partnership with six community schools and SaskSport's Dream Broker program. The program benefits four boys' teams for a six-week league in Nov-Dec and four girls' teams for a six-week league in Jan-Feb made up of approximately 45 boys and 45 girls ages eight and 10. 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 Executive Director, 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. The program is sponsored by Tim Hortons through in-kind jerseys, soccer balls, and medals.

SYSI had to put this wonderful program on hold during the pandemic for two full years but we are excited to have it launched and back in the soccer centres for the indoor season 2022-23.

The program consists of 45min sessions once a week for six weeks. This indoor season, we have expanded the program offering to include daytime, weeknight, and weekend offerings, all of which are proving to have positive registration results. This program is imperative in making lasting impressions and sparking a love for the game at a very young age to hopefully carry them through their youth and into adulthood loving soccer.

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 prominent 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	To be announced at the Outdoor Coaches' Night in April of 2023.				
2022	The 2022 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 27, 2023. 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 17, 2023. Awards for 2021 and 2022 will be presented at the Outdoor Coaches' Night in April of 2023. 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

Between 2017 and 2021 we provided incentive 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 was a one-time per individual honorarium. Once an individual had taken advantage of the full \$50 honorarium available per person per lifetime, they were no longer eligible to apply. This incentive program reached its full allotment, saw a decrease in applications year-over-year as return coaches reached their allotment, and is no longer offered.

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 in February and June of each year.

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 preseason 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 went held these meetings over the past three years through Zoom online and saw an increase in attendance due to the ease of joining from your online device. Nonetheless we need to get back to in person and are aiming to make this happen for the

outdoor 2023 season. We will continue to provide a pre-season slideshow on our website of important season items for those unable to attend the in-person meeting.

CSA's Club Licensing

In October 2019, all zones including SYSI applied for and achieved CSA's Club Licensing Quality Soccer Provider which is the introductory level of CSA's Club Licensing and is now 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 CSA's Club Licensing Member Association Level 1 designation; and Eastside Youth Soccer Association and Hollandia Soccer Club achieved CSA's Club Licensing 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 CSA's Club Licensing Member Association Level 1 designation and were approved positioning SYSI to host Saskatoon Alliance under-15 and under-17 PSL teams.

In October 2022, SYSI further applied for CSA's Club Licensing Member Association Level II as well as CSA's National Youth Club Licence. SYSI expects to receive results and feedback on our application from SSA/CSA in early December.

Beginning in 2022, Club Licensing Member Association Level 1 designation was 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 objectives. 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.
	Re-structure league to ensure all player needs met	•Re-structured league to have Alliance A & B and City leagues to address variety of player needs with City league having lower price and commitment option and Alliance league providing two weekly practices and one weekly game with focus on higher commitment and skill development.
	Offer a parent-tot program	•Began in fall 2016 and expanded program in 2022 to include not only daytime programming but also weeknight and weekend programming.
Community-Driven Programming	Develop an after-school soccer league for community schools	•Began in fall 2016 and continue to offer it in 2022 with six community schools involved and 45 boys and 45 girls benefiting from program.
	Continue to offer the summer Soccer Kids In the Park program to all community	•Offered since 2008. This program has reached a total of 30,831 children and youth as well as 7,441

	areas throughout Saskatoon	parents or guardians of those participants over the past 15 years.
Build the Soccer Culture	Increase participation of soccer through the summer Soccer 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.
	Create brand presence and pride	•Alliance brand born in 2021 creating stronger bond between SYSI and its member zones and excitement among membership to be involved in the "Alliance".

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	•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	•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 funding	•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	SYSI and Advisory Committee to continually evaluate leagues and programs	•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"	Since 2017, attended 25 community fun days offering fun soccer activities and presence in the community
	Develop an after-school soccer league for community schools	Began in fall 2016 and continue to offer it in 2022 with six community schools involved and 45 boys and 45 girls benefiting from program.
	Continue to offer the summer Soccer Kids In the Park program to all community areas throughout Saskatoon	Offered since 2008. This program has reached a total of 30,831 children and youth as well as 7,441 parents or guardians of those participants over the past 15 years.

Strategic Theme: Excellence in Governance and Management

Objective	Initiative	Comments
Continuous Improvement	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. •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	•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	•Zone liaisons have been attending board meetings since Nov 2016 with positive feedback
Create Marketing Capacity	Increase staff capacity to handle marketing initiatives	•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
	Create a soccer promotional video to increase soccer presence through advertising in community	•Created and used since summer 2016 •Billboards, posters, radio, and TV campaigns •Joint advertisements in Leisure Guides with Saskatoon Adult Soccer and Saskatoon Soccer Centres.
	Create stronger soccer presence in the communities	•Started attending community fun days in 2017 •Began offering after school free Dream League for ages 8-10 in community schools in 2016. •Soccer Kids in the Park has been offered since 2008
	Offer programs other than leagues to promote the participation of new soccer players	•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 bringing soccer out to 10 parks a day all summer long making the sport accessible to all.
Efficient Use of Resources	Promote the adoption of RAMP to all members	•All participating zones and community associations now have a RAMP platform as of 2020
	Use of technology to increase efficiencies	•More and more forms have been made electronic making form submission more efficient for volunteers and staff alike.

The Year Ahead

With 16 ½ years with SYSI as executive director, I look forward to another upcoming year. It is refreshing and energizing to be coming out of the pandemic and seeing our registrations not only recovering but showing substantial growth. Our zone members and SYSI have become closer and stronger over the past three years with the formation of the Alliance. Together we have achieved milestone accomplishments in growing the game within SYSI.

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