



President's Report 2024 Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

Here it is, my last President's report. It has been my privilege and honour to serve as your President for the past seven years. I would like to thank the SYSI board of directors, our zone board members, the committees and all the dedicated volunteers who make soccer in Saskatoon a fun, safe and thriving environment for our youth. A huge thanks to the SYSI staff and in particular Amanda Probe our Executive Director for her leadership, tireless efforts and support.

I would be remiss not to extend a thank you to the following partners Saskatoon Adult Soccer and the Saskatoon Soccer Centres for their support. A special thank you is extended to the Service Teams at both our facilities. These individuals rise above and beyond expectations and ensure a safe environment is enjoyed by players and spectators alike. And a thanks to all the players and parents for your support and commitment.

I will try to sum up seven years in one paragraph. We saw the biggest organizational review and implementation of recommendations by Praxis consulting as requested by the members of SYSI in 2018. We came through a pandemic, the effects of which no one could have foreseen. The Saskatoon, soccer landscape changed with the birth of 'The Alliance'. Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI) re-organized its former Premier, Division II and III leagues by introducing a new 'City League' and 'Alliance League', as well as the birth of SYSI's Alliance Academy. Something wonderful that germinated and grew out of the chaos and uncertainty of the pandemic. A cooperation born of necessity none of us had seen before, an alliance of our five zones, united in a common cause to provide excellence and to further meet the needs of all players. Outdoor Registrations increased to numbers, the highest since 2016 and indoor registrations are at the highest level since 2006. The reorganization of our leagues along with the birth of 'The Alliance' has paid dividends.

The formation of the Sustainability Committee created the opportunity to raise funds to help financially those athletes play soccer who may not have been able to do so.

Add in quality programming, wonderful facilities, and a fun, active and socially positive environment that continues to align with the mission of SYSI and we have a recipe for success reflected in the continued growth in numbers of teams and athletes across the board.

To cap off 2024, the Saskatoon Alliance sent three teams to CSA's Club Nationals with one winning the silver medal and the other taking gold and winning a National title.

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

Let us always remember that we are here to serve the youth of Saskatoon in furthering their development and enjoyment of the “beautiful game”.

Please remember
This is just a game
These are children
The coaches are volunteers
Referees are human
Mistakes will happen
'Respect'

Thank you all for your support of Saskatoon Youth Soccer. It has been a memorable and historic journey these last seven years and truly an honour and privilege to have been your humble servant.

Sincerely,

Mark Millard
President Saskatoon Youth Soccer