

# Executive Director's Report 2025 Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

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## **Personnel and Volunteers**

#### Office Staff

SYSI's staff team is composed of five full-time professionals, significantly increasing the organization's capacity to deliver high-quality programming.

- Amanda Probe, Executive Director (19 years) oversees all operations, strategic planning, policy, fiscal management, marketing, sponsorships, and serves as Administrative Lead for CSA Club Licensing.
- 2. **Erin Fehr, Operations Coordinator (22 years)** manages financial administration, membership registration, league statistics, referee payments, tournament registration, and scheduling.
- Ian Knight, Technical Lead (joined October 2024) brings nearly 30 years of professional and grassroots coaching experience, National B License, and expertise in youth development and CSA National Youth Club Licensing. He oversees program development, coach and player pathways, and technical advisory committees.
- 4. **Kassidy Dignean, Program Administrator (joined January 2025)** supports marketing, communications, program and academy administration, coach recruitment, equipment coordination, and payroll assistance.
- 5. **Zachary Lepage, League Administrator (joined September 2025)** manages reception, social media, RAMP/website administration, coach certification, referee assigning for U11–U13, discipline/complaints, scheduling, player movement, and general operations support.

With this dedicated team, SYSI has strengthened program delivery across leagues, Alliance Academy, PSL team management, summer programs, Parent-Tot, All-Abilities Soccer, and the new Futsal Academy. The organization has also brought U11-U13 referee assigning in-house and enhanced compliance with Safe Sport requirements, positioning SYSI for continued success in 2026.

#### **Governance Board**

Since 2008, SYSI has operated with a governance board of 7–12 elected directors and three standing committees: Audit/Finance, Board Development, and Strategic Planning.

The current SYSI Board of Directors includes:

- 1. Rachelle Lockwood, President (Current term 2024–2026; Director since November 2022)
- Terike (Teri) Miller, Vice-President (Current term 2023–2025; Director since January 2023)
- Natal Laycock, Audit & Finance Chair (Current term 2023–2025; Director since November 2023)
- 4. Mark Millard, Past President (Current term 2024–2026; Director since November 2014)
- 5. Cameron James Klein, Director (Current term 2023–2025; Director since November 2017)
- Heather Johnson, Director (Current term 2024–2026; Director since November 2022)
- 7. Michel Bernier, Director (Current term 2024–2026; Director since November 2022)
- 8. Scott Werner, Director (Current term 2023–2025; Director since November 2023)

SYSI currently has three board vacancies and encourages interested individuals to submit a <u>Nomination</u> Form to join the board.

# **Membership Listing**

SYSI oversees leagues, coach clinics, the Alliance Academy, Saskatoon Alliance PSL teams, and inclusive programs, while member zone and community associations manage player registration, team formation, and team operations. SYSI's success is largely driven by dedicated volunteers who ensure associations meet the needs of their players.

SYSI has five zone association members who receive SSA membership benefits as Entities through SYSI and are as follows:

- Zone 1: Saskatoon United Soccer Club
- Zone 2: Hollandia Soccer Club
- Zone 3: Aurora Soccer Club
- Zone 4: Lakewood Soccer Association
- Zone 5: Eastside Youth Soccer Association

SYSI has had the following community associations enter teams into our Community Under-5 to Under-9 League this past year, an increase of four communities from the prior year.

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1.	Adelaide	Park A	/ Churchill

- 2. Allan
- 3. Brevoort Park
- 4. Clavet
- 5. College Park / East College Park
- 6. Eastview
- 7. Erindale / Arbor Creek
- 8. Evergreen / Aspen Ridge
- 9. Fairhaven
- 10. Hampton Village
- 11. Lakeridge
- 12. Lakeview
- 13. Lawson Heights

- 14. Montgomery
- 15. Nutana
- 16. Riversdale
- 17. Rosewood
- 18. Silverwood Heights
- 19. South Corman Park
- 20. South Nutana Park
- 21. Stonebridge
- 22. Sutherland Forest Grove
- 23. Varsity View
- 24. Wildwood
- 25. Willowgrove

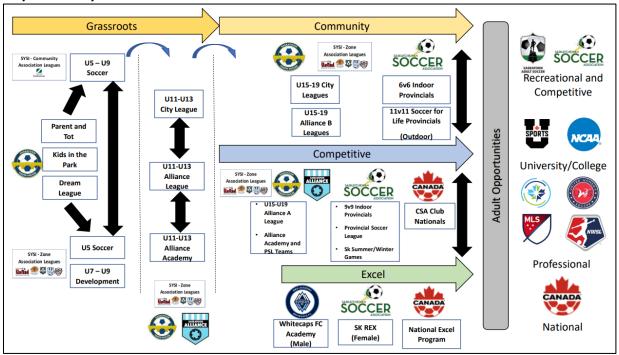
## **Advisory Committee**

The SYSI Advisory Committee was established in February 2022, replacing previous operational committees such as the Program Coordination, Alliance Technical, and PSL Structure Committees, to centralize governance and program decision-making. The former Alliance Technical Committee (Nov 2020-Feb 2022) helped create the framework for the Alliance Academy, bringing players from all zones together for supplemental high-quality training.

The Advisory Committee, with representation from all five zone presidents and technical (one vote per zone), provides ongoing recommendations on technical topics, division alignment, rules, and academy/PSL matters throughout the year.

# League

## **Player Pathway**



#### Structure

In indoor 2021-22, SYSI and its zones restructured leagues for U11-U19 players, creating two options: the City Recreational (Rec) League and the Alliance League. The City Rec League offers one weekly game with optional practices, requiring less time commitment and providing an affordable, flexible, and fun environment without player evaluations. The Alliance League focuses on player development, grouping players into skill-based divisions (Premier, Division 1, and Division 2) after evaluations and offering two weekly training sessions plus one weekly game. Approximately one-third of U11-U19 teams are in the City Rec League, while two-thirds participate in the Alliance League.





#### **Zone Boundaries**

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI) became a registered non-profit in 1984 to organize leagues, tournaments, and promote soccer in Saskatoon. Initially using parks, warehouses, and school gyms, growing participation led to the creation of five permanent zone-based clubs in 1996 known as Saskatoon United, Hollandia, Aurora, Lakewood, and Eastside ensuring local access, competitive balance, and supporting dedicated facilities like the Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Centre (1998) and Saskatoon Sports Centre (2006).

SYSI continues to lead youth soccer in Saskatoon, offering high-quality leagues, connecting communities, and securing priority facility access, with participation growing through strong support from players, families, and volunteers. Since 2012, an annual zone boundary review maintains balanced registrations, with adjustments typically every three years if variances exceed 5%. The organization also manages a "Permission to Play Out-of-Zone" process for player movement across zones.

## Registrations

The past outdoor season maintained steady registrations with an estimated 5,192 players, while the current indoor season saw an increase of roughly 300 players, the highest indoor registrations in 20 years. A further surge is expected after the 2026 World Cup. Both soccer centres are operating at full capacity, with the Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Centre fully active on Sundays, accommodating multiple age groups with appropriately sized fields and small-sided games for U5-U9 players.

This marks the 20th indoor season providing practice time for all youth teams. Valley United Soccer Club continued participation in both indoor and outdoor seasons. Zone development leagues for U7 and U9 players have grown in popularity since their introduction in 2014 and 2016.

INDOOR	Mini Teams	Mini Player Est	Youth Teams	Youth Player Est	Total Teams	Total Player Est	Team Variance	Player Est Variance	Seasonal Notes
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 training only
2021-22 Indoor	93	930	113	1582	206	2512	17	150	Olympic Gold & COVID-19
2022-23 Indoor	149	1490	129	1806	278	3296	72	784	
2023-24 Indoor	159	1590	163	2282	322	3872	44	576	
2024-25 Indoor	125	1250	186	2604	311	3854	-11	-18	
2025-26 Indoor	138	1380	198	2772	336	4152	25	298	Increase of 12 zone U11-U19 Increase of 8 zone U7-U9 Increase of 5 community U5-U9

OUTDOOR	Mini Teams	Mini Player Est	Youth Teams	Youth Player Est	Total Teams	Total Player Est	Team Variance	Player Est Variance	Seasonal Notes
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 Season Delay
2022 Outdoor	245	2450	115	1610	360	4060	56	596	
2023 Outdoor	307	3070	138	1932	445	5002	85	942	
2024 Outdoor	273	2730	169	2366	442	5096	-3	94	
2025 Outdoor	260	2600	178	2492	438	5092	-4	-4	Increase of 9 zone U11-U19  Decrease of 20 zone U7-U9  Increase of 7 community U5-U9

## Discipline

Since 2018, SYSI office staff have taken over discipline administration from volunteer zone representatives, reducing bias, conflicts of interest, and volunteer workload while improving efficiency. Starting in outdoor 2022, increased staff capacity allowed for more thorough review of game sheets and clearer education on infractions during pre-season Coach Nights. This emphasis significantly reduced errors over four seasons. As a result, beginning in Outdoor 2025, SYSI ended routine game-sheet checks and returned to the previous system in which teams must submit appeals to challenge infractions. SYSI will continue educating zones and teams on proper game-sheet procedures.

#### Referees

SYSI and Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc. (SASI) continue to collaborate with the Saskatoon and District Referee Association Inc. (SDSRAI) to maintain adequate qualified referees, and all tournament assigning must be done through SASI. With the addition of a League Administrator in the 2023-24 indoor season, SYSI assumed responsibility for assigning referees for U11 and U13 league games. This change provides greater scheduling flexibility, reduces workload for the SASI assignor, improves mentorship and support for new referees in partnership with SDSRAI, and creates cost savings that help offset the new staff position.

#### **Fields and Facilities**

**Outdoor Season** – The U11-U13 Alliance and U11-U17 City leagues play two-thirds of their outdoor-season games on City of Saskatoon natural grass fields and one-third indoors at the Saskatoon Sports Centre (SSC) on smaller fields. The U15-U19 Alliance leagues split their games evenly between natural grass and full-size outdoor artificial turf. SYSI front-loads schedules with SSC games in the cooler months of April and May, so that games in the hotter months are played on natural grass, which is more comfortable and safer in heat than indoor turf or outdoor turf with rubber infill. This approach also allows natural grass fields more time to develop strong roots, improving quality and durability. SYSI will continue this scheduling practice and remains committed to advocating for fair field allocation and field improvements with the City of Saskatoon.

**Indoor Season** - The 2025-26 indoor season will be supported by several key facilities. The Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Centre, hosts U5-U9 community and zone development leagues, all boarded U11-U17 City League games, the Parent-Tot and All-Abilities programs, various zone practices, and the Hollandia Off the Wall tournament. The Saskatoon Sports Centre, hosts U11-U19 Alliance leagues, numerous zone practices, NCCP coaching clinics, the Alliance Academy, and multiple tournaments. Community associations continue to use school gyms for practices. The Martensville Recreation Complex serves as the hub for the U17-U19 Alliance Academy League, holding most training sessions and 95% of its full-size 11v11 matches.

# **Player and Coach Development**

# **Alliance Academy**

In February 2020, SYSI and the five zones founded the Saskatoon Alliance to provide enhanced playing and training opportunities that promote growth, enjoyment, and retention for youth soccer players. The Alliance Academy is overseen by zone technical directors, SYSI's technical lead, hired coaches, and volunteer mentors.

The indoor academy, now in its fifth year, serves U11-U19 players from November to March, scheduling training on non-conflicting days to allow participation in both club and academy activities. The U11 players receive futsal training through the Alliance Academy as well as additional in-zone training, while U13-U19 players attend assessments in late August and September. The U15-U19 academy groups also receive specialized goalkeeper training one to two times per week through the indoor season.

The U17–U19 Alliance Academy League, in its third year, offers eight 11v11 indoor games and a final, held at the Martensville Recreation Complex on Sundays, and includes Saskatoon Alliance, Astra Academy, and SSA Excel teams, with male teams also playing intercity matches against Regina's Queen City United.

For the outdoor academy, U11–U13 Alliance League players are accepted until spots are filled, while U15 and U17 PSL players commit to their PSL training and game commitments through Saskatoon Alliance.

	Indoor Alliance Academy - BOYS						Indoor Alliance Academy - GIRLS				
	U11B	U13B	U15B	U17-19B	Total Boys	U11G	U13G	U15G	U17-19G	Total Girls	Overall
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
Indoor 2023-24	0	21	27	40	88	0	15	38	37	90	178
Indoor 2024-25	0	37	31	40	108	0	43	35	39	117	225
Indoor 2025-26	16	32	33	34	115	10	37	39	30	116	231
Total Indoor 5 Years	45	133	147	189	514	37	146	155	150	488	1002

	Outdoor Alliance Academy - BOYS					Outdoor Alliance Academy - GIRLS					TOTAL
	U11B	U13B	U15B	U17-19B	Total Boys	U11G	U13G	U15G	U17-19G	Total Girls	Overall
Outdoor 2022	27	13	7	0	47	21	14	3	0	38	85
Outdoor 2023	26	21	14	12	73	17	13	6	0	36	109
Outdoor 2024	24	16	0	0	40	17	13	0	0	30	70
Outdoor 2025	32	52	36	40	160	11	34	36	18	99	259
Total Outdoor 4 Years	109	102	57	52	320	66	74	45	18	203	523

#### Saskatoon Alliance PSL

Since 2021, SYSI has coordinated citywide Saskatoon Alliance teams in U15 and U17 age groups to compete in the Provincial Soccer League (PSL):

- 2021: Launched U15 boys ×2 and U17 boys ×1. Girls' participation was lower due to the pandemic, and CSA Club Nationals were canceled.
- 2022: Five teams competed (U15 boys ×2, U15 girls ×1, U17 boys ×1, U17 girls ×1)
   Two Alliance teams represented Saskatchewan at Club Nationals
   Finishing 7<sup>th</sup> (U15 boys) and 9<sup>th</sup> (U17 girls)
- 2023: Seven teams competed (U15 boys ×2, U15 girls ×2, U17 boys ×2, U17 girls ×1)
   One Alliance team represented Saskatchewan at Club Nationals
   Finishing 6<sup>th</sup> (U17 boys)
- 2024: Seven teams competed (U15 boys ×2, U15 girls ×2, U17 boys ×2, U17 girls ×1)
   Three Alliance teams represented Saskatchewan at Club Nationals
   Finishing 1<sup>st</sup> with gold medals (17 boys), 2<sup>nd</sup> with silver medals (U15 girls), and 9<sup>th</sup> (U17 girls)
- 2025: Seven teams competed (U15 boys ×2, U15 girls ×2, U17 boys ×2, U17 girls ×1)
   Three Alliance teams represented Saskatchewan at Club Nationals
   Finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> with silver medals (U17 boys), 6<sup>th</sup> (U15 boys), and 7<sup>th</sup> (U15 girls)

These achievements reflect the dedication of coaches, technical staff, administrators, volunteers, and families, highlighting Saskatoon Alliance's growth, competitiveness, and continued success on provincial and national stages.

SYSI looks forward to the 2026 PSL season and hopes recent Alliance Academy and PSL players have enjoyed meaningful competition, fun, and lasting friendships. Special thanks are extended to Xtratime Sports Soccer Locker for four years of sponsorship of the Alliance Academy and U15-U17 Saskatoon Alliance PSL teams.

	Saskato	on Alliance	PSL – BOYS Teams	Saskato	PSL – GIRLS Teams	TOTAL	
	U15B	U17B	Total Boys Teams	U15G	U17G	Total Girls Teams	Teams
Outdoor 2021	2	1	3	0	0	0	3
Outdoor 2022	2	1	3	1	1	2	5
Outdoor 2023	2	2	4	2	1	3	7
Outdoor 2024	2	2	4	2	1	3	7
Outdoor 2025	2	2	4	2	1	3	7
Total Teams 5 Years	10	8	18	7	4	11	29

#### **SYSI Futsal Academy**

Beginning fall 2025, SYSI partnered with TDSoccer to enhance futsal training through the SYSI Futsal Academy and integrate futsal into the Alliance Academy U11–U13 pathway. TDSoccer will lead high-quality futsal training for U11–U18 players, while futsal is embedded into Alliance Academy programs to improve ball contact, decision-making, and technical skills. This partnership supports a year-round, integrated development model aligned with Canada Soccer's Long-Term Player Development (LTPD) framework and includes futsal coach education for sustainability.

Futsal is recognized as a key tool for developing skilled, confident, and tactically aware soccer players. It is fast-paced, indoor soccer with five players per team on a smaller hard court using a low-bounce ball which focuses on quick decision-making, tight ball control, precise technique, and nonstop action.

Player Development Benefits:

- More ball touches and improved technical skills
- Enhanced passing, off-the-ball movement, and creativity
- Increased tactical awareness and game intelligence
- Builds confidence under pressure and accelerates overall soccer growth

	SYSI Futsal Academy - BOYS						SYSI Futsal Academy - GIRLS					TOTAL
		U11B	U13B	U15B	U17-19B	Total Boys	U11G	U13G	U15G	U17- 19G	Total Girls	Overall
	Indoor 2025-26	20	13	4	9	46	4	6	24	12	46	92

## **Coach Certification**

SYSI continues to ensure all SYSI coaches are certified according to the CSA standards and Safe Sport Roster requirements and host NCCP age appropriate on-field clinics as well as MED clinics each season.

Season	Active Start & Fundamentals	Learn to Train	Soccer for Life	MED hosted by SYSI	TOTALS
Outdoor 2022	87	20	12	8	127
Indoor 2022-23	26	9	5	36	66

Outdoor 2023	58	19	12	19	108
Indoor 2023-24	26	16	3	30	75
Outdoor 2024	30	21	13	60	124
Indoor 2024-25	43	83	30	48	79
	(includes 31	(includes 74	(includes 20		
	certified by zones)	certified by zones)	certified by zones)		
Outdoor 2025	35	23	14	23	83
	(includes 4	(includes 4	(includes 4		
	certified by zones)	certified by zones)	certified by zones)		
Indoor 2025-26	12	21	16	25	74
TOTALS over 4 years	317	212	105	249	736

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

# **Team Personnel Requirements as of Indoor 2025-26:**

Task or certification to complete prior to first game or practice: Abbreviations: HC = Head Coach, AC = Assistant Coach, App/Dev = Apprentice/Developmental Coach, PSL = Provincial Soccer League	FULL Safe Spor Requirements Teams who ARE tournaments/pr & Dedicated Player of Coache	U5-U19 entering ovincials or Skill Centre	Modified Safe Sport Roster Requirements U5-U19 Teams in SYSI League who are NOT entering tournaments other than U5-U9 FOS/SISCO		
	Head Coach Assistant Coach Development Coach	Manager Gender Rep	Head Coach Assistant Coach Development Coach	Manager Gender Rep	
RAMP registration each season	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	
Criminal Record with Vulnerable Check uploaded into RAMP	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	
Respect In Sport online module (every five years) - free	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	
Gender Rep - one per team at all times	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	
NCCP Understanding the Rule of Two Online Module - free	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	REQUIRED	
CSA's NCCP Coaching Soccer in Canada Online Module	REQUIRED	n/a	REQUIRED	n/a	
CSA's NCCP Age Appropriate Online Module U5 - Active Start - \$20 reimbursed by community/zone U7-U9 - Fundamentals - \$20 reimbursed by community/zone U11-U13 - Learn to Train - \$30 reimbursed by community/zone U15-U19 - Soccer for Life - \$30 reimbursed by community/zone	REQUIRED	n/a	highly recommended	n/a	
CSA's NCCP Age Appropriate On-Field Clinic  U5 - Active Start - free for SYSI coaches hosted by SYSI  U7-U9 - Fundamentals - free for SYSI coaches hosted by SYSI  U11-U13 - Learn to Train - free for SYSI coaches hosted by SYSI  U15-U19 - Soccer for Life - free for SYSI coaches hosted by SYSI  U15-U19 Provincials (6v6/11v11) - Soccer for Life	REQUIRED	n/a	highly recommended	n/a	
NCCP Making Ethical Decisions (MED) Online Clinic  - MED hosted by Coaches Association of Sask - \$50 reimbursed by community or zone  - MED hosted by SYSI - free for SYSI coaches	REQUIRED	n/a	n/a	n/a	
NCCP Making Ethical Decisions Online Evaluation - free complete evaluation online after attending online clinic	REQUIRED	n/a	n/a	n/a	
NCCP Making Head Way Concussion Online Module - free	REQUIRED	n/a	n/a	n/a	
NCCP Understanding the Rule of Two Online Module - free	REQUIRED	n/a	n/a	n/a	
NCCP Emergency Action Plan Online Module - free	REQUIRED	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Indoor 9-Aside Provincials Under-15 - Under-19 - HC B-License Part 1 certified or CSA Youth License trained; AC C-License certified; App/Dev C-License in training and cannot be gender rep coach Gender Rep - Minimum 1 coach and 1 non-coach on the bench	REQUIRED	n/a	n/a	n/a	

## **Festivals and Events**

Since adopting a new governance model and strategic plan in June 2008, SYSI office staff have taken responsibility for decisions regarding tournaments and festivals, consistently delivering successful special events. However, due to limited indoor turf availability and the abundance of zone-run youth tournaments, SYSI no longer organizes youth tournaments. Instead, it continues to run mini festivals for U5-U9 teams participating in SYSI leagues.

#### Mini SISCO and FOS Festivals

SYSI offered the Mini SISCO Festival in March 2025 as well as the Green Drop Mini Festival of Soccer (FOS) tournament in June 2025; both of which had Xtratime Sports Soccer Locker as a platinum sponsor; Pizza Hut was a gold sponsor at Mini SISCO; Xsight Photography and Kids Physio Group were gold sponsors at Mini FOS; and Dulux Paints was a silver sponsor at Mini FOS. Both events consisted entirely of under-5 to under-9 community and zone teams who were in the SYSI league. The Mini SISCO had 118 teams, and the Mini FOS had 226 teams.

March 6 – 8, 2026 Mini SISCO (under-5 to under-9 community and zone) June 5 – 7, 2026 Green Drop Mini FOS (under-5 to under-9 community and zone) June 21, 2026 Tim Hortons Jamboree (under-5 to under-7 community)

## **Provincial Championships**

In 2014, the SSA shifted provincial championships to an open format for 9-aside (half-field) and 6-aside (quarter-field) play to better align with varying league structures across the province. Until the 2023-24 indoor season, SYSI alternated hosting these 9-aside and 6-aside provincial tournaments. Hosting brought a small SSA grant but required SYSI to cover field rentals, first aid, admissions staffing, and on-site coordination. Although SYSI typically broke even and valued providing local competition and showcasing Saskatoon's facilities, hosting became increasingly burdensome and turf availability more difficult to secure. As a result, beginning in 2023-24, SYSI transferred hosting responsibilities to SSA staff while continuing to support their facility-coordination efforts.

For indoor 2025-26, the event will be hosted in Regina, February 19 – 22, 2026 during the winter school break.

SYSI zone teams with notable results:

## 2024-25 Indoor:

- U15 Boys Aurora Celtics (9v9) Gold
- U15 Girls Hollandia Adamus (9v9) Fair Play Award
- U17 Girls Saskatoon Alliance (9v9) Gold
- U17 Girls Hollandia Lockwood Fair Play Award
- U19 Girls Aurora Concordes Gold

#### 2025 Outdoor:

- U15 Girls Eastside Man City (11v11) Silver
- U19 Boys SUSC Crewe (11v11) Silver

<sup>\*</sup>Fair Play Awards are based on points for sportsmanship given by match officials throughout the tournament.

# **Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility Programs**

#### Kids in the Park

In summer 2025, Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. delivered the 18th season of the free O'Reilly Insurance and Financial Services & Co-operators Kids in the Park program, offering drop-in soccer sessions from July 2 to August 20 at 47 Saskatoon parks. Four certified program leaders facilitated fun, accessible soccer activities. Over 18 years, the program has reached 37,948 children and youth and 10,010 parents/guardians.

The program removes financial and transportation barriers, provides positive role models, and helps build excitement for the upcoming indoor season. Participants received certificates and information about soccer registration and KidSport funding. Despite lower attendance this year, due to air quality issues and heat waves, participation remained strong, and the program continues to support growing indoor registration numbers.

The 2025 season was made possible through extensive sponsor and grant support, including the diamond title sponsor O'Reilly Insurance and The Co-operators; platinum level sponsor Nu-Trend Industries Inc. & Carrier; five gold level sponsors Affinity Credit Union, Merlin Ford Lincoln, Saskatchewan Indian and Gaming Authority, Saskatoon Adult Soccer Inc., and Virtus Group LLP; and four community in-kind sponsors Tim Hortons, Rawlco Radio, Saskatoon Media Group, 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 plans to run the program again in summer 2026 and is seeking sponsors.

YEAR	Ages 0 - 12	Ages 13 - 19	Adults	Totals
2008	785	0	122	907
2009	1,141	149	329	1,619
2010	1,401	82	426	1,909
2011	2,580	231	359	3,170
2012	2,040	62	312	2,414
2013	2,101	71	293	2,465
2014	2,464	40	489	2,993
2015	2,165	56	256	2,477
2016	1,697	116	253	2,066
2017	2,412	48	654	3,114
2018	2,422	34	746	3,202
2019	2,826	64	797	3,687
2020	152	0	162	314
2021	2,733	45	1,195	3,973
2022	2,819	95	1,048	3,962
2023	2,473	80	913	3,466
2024	2,388	52	873	3,313
2025	2,056	68	783	2,907
TOTAL 17 yrs	36,655	1,293	10,010	47,958

## **Parent-Tot Timbits Program**

Launched in fall 2016, SYSI's physical literacy program for stay-at-home parents/guardians and toddlers teaches fundamental movement skills through weekday, daytime sessions led by certified coaches. Tim Hortons supports the program by providing jerseys, soccer balls, and medals.

The program was paused for two years during the pandemic but successfully relaunched in fall 2022. Initially limited to daytime weekday offerings, it expanded post-pandemic to include daytime, evening, and weekend options, leading to significant growth in participation. The program features 45-minute sessions once a week for five weeks and aims to create positive early experiences with soccer that foster long-term love for the sport.

Year	Tues	Wed	Saturdays	Totals	Pre vs Post Expansion
	evening	morning			
2017	0	82	0	82	320 over 4 years
2018	0	42	0	42	daytime offering only
2019	0	126	0	126	
2020	0	70	0	70	
2022-23	94	46	46	186	1,049 over 4 years
2023-24	138	0	272	410	with expanded
2024-25	165	0	149	314	offerings
2025-26	44	0	95	139*	
Totals	441	366	562	1,369	

<sup>\*</sup> Each total year includes the prior indoor season and outdoor season of that year. The year total 2025-26 includes the current indoor season only and does not include Jan-Jun 2026 sessions yet to come.

## **All-Abilities Soccer Program**

In fall 2024, SYSI launched a new All-Abilities soccer program designed for athletes of all abilities, supported by contract coaches with specialized disability-coaching certifications and one-on-one volunteers that included Alliance Academy players and All-Abilities participant parents. The program was funded through an SSA Soccability Canada grant, with SSA waiving participant fees, and supported by sponsors such as Tim Hortons (providing jerseys, balls, and medals) and the Saskatoon Soccer Centre (offering discounted facility rates).

High registration numbers and challenges securing sufficient one-on-one volunteers during the Saturday 2024-25 program led SYSI to move sessions to Thursday evenings to align with the Alliance Academy U17-U19 schedule. Although registration decreased, volunteer capacity and program quality improved because Academy players are required to participate as part of their leadership development. The program runs in eight-week sessions, with 30-minute classes from late October to December 2025, and a second session planned for January to March 2026.

The All-Abilities Program aims to provide inclusive soccer opportunities for children and youth with physical, intellectual, developmental, or communication disabilities. It offers individualized support, promotes friendship and belonging, and encourages both recreational enjoyment and pathways to high-performance disability soccer. The program emphasizes that coaching players with disabilities is fundamentally an extension of regular soccer coaching, and where specialized expertise is needed, local disability professionals can assist.

Year	Ages 3 - 5	Ages 6 - 9	Ages 10 - 17	Totals
Fall 2024	7 (4 M 2 E)	15 /10 M 5 E)	2 /1 M 2 E\	25 /15 M 10 E)
Sat 11:45 AM	7 (4-M, 3-F)	15 (10-M, 5-F)	3 (1-M, 2-F)	25 (15-M, 10-F)
Winter 2025	8 (3-M, 5-F)	22 (13-M, 9-F)	12 (7-M, 5-F)	42 (23-M, 19-F)
Sat 11:45 AM	8 (3-1VI, 3-1)	22 (13-101, 9-1)	12 (7-101, 3-1)	42 (23-1VI, 13-1)
Spring 2025	3 (1-M, 2-F)	7 (6-M, 1-F)	4 (4-M, 0-F)	14 (11-M, 3-F)
Thurs 5:45 PM	3 (1-101, 2-1)	/ (U-IVI, 1-I )	4 (4-101, 0-1)	14 (11-101, 5-1)
Fall 2025	4 (4 M O E)	7 (5 M 2 5)	2 /2 M O E)	14 (12 NA 2 E)
Thurs 5:30 PM	4 (4-M, 0-F)	7 (5-M, 2-F)	3 (3-M, 0-F)	14 (12-M, 2-F)
TOTALS	22 (12-M, 10-F)	51 (34-M, 17-F)	22 (15-M, 7-F)	95 (61-M, 34-F)

<sup>\*</sup> M = Male, F = Female

# **Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition**

# **Coach Pre-Season Nights**

To reduce the number of volunteer commitments, SYSI has discontinued hosting a pre-season coach information session, formerly known as the SYSI Coach Night. Instead, all coaches are now expected to attend their respective Zone's coach information session. Each Zone is responsible for ensuring their coaches are fully informed and aligned with league expectations, protocols, and procedures.

SYSI provides the Indoor Season Coach Information Package to all Zones and uploads it to the SYSI website in advance of each season. The package remains available throughout the season to offer guidance and support as needed.

## **Years of Service Pins**

In the fall of 2017 SYSI began awarding volunteers and staff persons with "Years of Service Pins" in recognition of their dedication and time served in the soccer community either with a community association, soccer zone, or with SYSI. Eligibility is defined by someone who volunteered or worked with a zone, community association, and or SYSI as a coach, assistant coach, trainer, team manager, board member, committee member, administrator, registrar, technical director, or staff member. We offer a 5-year pin, 10-year pin, 15-year pin, and a 20-year pin and provide these at the Indoor and Outdoor Pre-Season Coach Nights. If you or someone you know wishes to obtain a pin for their years' of service please contact the SYSI Office.

## **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 (and staff) involved with youth soccer in Saskatoon. In 2016, SYSI expanded the award to include five "Friends of Soccer" recipients 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 or staff 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.

The 2025 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 Fri Feb 20, 2026. 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 13, 2026. Awards will be presented during the Outdoor Season 2026. Any questions about the award can be directed to the SYSI Office.

## **Past Recipients:**

1989 - Al Day 2014 - Bob Rohachuk Jodi Blackwell (Eastside) 1990 - Jill Postlewaite 2015 - Wilf McDougall 2021 - Morgan Reagan (SUSC) 1991 - Bob Speed 2016 – Sean Wilson (Hollandia) Alicia Osses (Hollandia) 1992 - Ross Wilson Mark Schramm (Aurora) Crystal Shendaruk 1993 – Ken & Carol Wagner Trevor Conquergood (Eastside) & Steph Hnatiw (Aurora) 1994 - Jim Cook 2017 - Lorena Walls (SUSC) Samantha Lamborn (Lakewood) 1995 - Percy Hoff Paola Kobussen Michael Diegel (Eastside) 2022 - Cory Clapson (SUSC) 1996 - Huw Morris & Sean Wilson (Hollandia) 1997 – John Riggs Shaun Eaton (Aurora) **Darcy Pederson** 1998 – John Tomchuk Leonard Lewko (Lakewood) & Erin Pederson (Hollandia) David Chan (Eastside) Mukasa Bagonluri (Aurora) 1999 – Garry Harder 2018 – Shawn Dyky (SUSC) 2000 - Lawrence Martz Tim Wong (Lakewood) 2001 - Bernadette Garrity Leigh Saunders (Hollandia) Dean Stanzel (Eastside) 2002 - Pat Gillies Kevin Foster (Aurora) 2023 - Allen Brewster (SUSC) 2003 - Gloria Rowan Dan Weber (Lakewood) Kevin Brown (Hollandia) 2004 - not awarded Lynne Gelner (Eastside) Vijay Tumber (Aurora) 2019 - Celeste Glasser-Cook (SUSC) 2005 – Mike Grevers Chris Todd (Lakewood) 2006 - Brett Mario Hernan Tapia (Hollandia) Kevin Cuff (Eastside) 2007 - Bob McAllister Alex Hein (Aurora) 2024 - Jeremy Sirman (SUSC) 2008 - Hal Lackie Garnette Weber (Lakewood) **Char Adamus** 2009 - Terry Carruthers Angele Thiessen (Eastside) & Wamith Gorges (Hollandia) 2010 - Tom LaPointe 2020 – Michele Mason (SUSC) Shaun Eaton (Aurora) 2011 - Joe Garcea Randy Poelzer (Hollandia) Rebecca Kirkham (Lakewood) 2012 - Edward Halyk Dan Cote (Aurora) Jaclyn Gaucher (Eastside) 2013 - Mark Lord Melanie Scott-Kwan (Lakewood)

#### **Funding**

#### **Volunteer Honorariums**

Between 2017 and 2021, SYSI offered a one-time \$50 honorarium to encourage coaches to complete required certifications. The program ended in 2021 after all available funds were fully utilized.

Since 2017, SYSI also provides seasonal honorariums for community association coordinators to recognize their efforts in meeting deadlines and RAMP roster criteria. The maximum is \$200 per person per season, with applications due in February and June. Payments are issued by cheque, with the option to donate the amount to KidSport or the SYSI Athlete Fund.

YEAR	TEAM PERSONNEL	COMMUNITY COORDINATORS	TOTAL		
2023-24	n/a	\$2,880.00	\$2,880.00		
2024-25	n/a	\$2,810.00	\$2,810.00		
2022-23	n/a	\$1,815.00	\$1,815.00		
2021-22	n/a	\$1,830.00	\$1,830.00		
2020-21	\$650	\$1,995.00	\$2,645.00		
2019-20	\$885	\$2,104.95	\$2,989.95		
2018-19	\$1,589.33	\$4,076.06	\$5,665.39		
2017-18	\$1,828.54	\$3,309.56	\$5,138.10		
2016-17	\$2,710.00	n/a	\$2,710.00		
Total	\$7,662.87	\$20,820.57	\$28,483.44		

# **Zone Funding**

From 2013 to 2021, SYSI provided grant funding to zones and non-profits to support mini soccer player development programs, aiming to reduce reserves by \$300,000. This funding helped establish and grow under-7 and under-9 leagues and supported the Community Head Coach program, which provided \$500

per season to mentor mini coaches. Programs were required to be non-profit and submit financial follow-ups. Funding ended in July 2021, with zones now sustaining their D-Leagues independently.

Since the fall of 2021, SYSI provides annual honorariums to zones for their technical support in Alliance Academy and PSL activities, including player assessments, meetings, and mentoring. SYSI also provides a portion of collected player fees to each zone of those participating in the Alliance Academy form their zone.

The SYSI Athlete Fund disburses funding to each zone to help cover \$500 per year for zone athletes who meet eligible criteria.

YEAR	SUSC	Hollandia	Aurora	Lakewood	Eastside	Other	TOTAL	Project
2025-26	\$760.00 Athlete Fund	\$3,618.00 Athlete Fund	\$2,620.00 Athlete Fund	\$4,950.00 Athlete Fund	\$1,000.00 Athlete Fund		\$12,948.00 Athlete Fund	Players funded by SYSI Athlete Fund
2024-25	\$3,800.00 Athlete Fund \$2,540.00 Alliance	\$4,955.00 Athlete Fund \$2,570.00 Alliance	\$825.00 Athlete Fund \$3,980.00 Alliance	\$4,569.05 Athlete Fund \$3,320.00 Alliance	\$1,500.00 Athlete Fund \$3,880.00 Alliance	n/a	\$15,649.05 Athlete Fund \$16,290.00 Alliance	Players funded by SYSI Athlete Fund Alliance kick-back & TD honorariums
	\$7,100.00	\$11,143.00	\$7,425.00	\$12,839.05	\$6,380.00		\$44,887.05	Total funding
2023-24	\$310.00 Athlete Fund \$1,725.00 Alliance	\$425.00 Athlete Fund \$1,940.00 Alliance	\$0.00 Athlete Fund \$2,430.00 Alliance	\$1,725.00 Athlete Fund \$2,485.00 Alliance	\$500.00 Athlete Fund \$2,780.00 Alliance	n/a	\$2,560.00 Athlete Fund \$11,360.00 Alliance	Players funded by SYSI Athlete Fund Alliance kick-back & TD honorariums
	\$2,035.00	\$2,365.00	\$2,430.00	\$4,310.00	\$3,280.00		\$13,920.00	Total funding
	\$720.00 Alliance	\$930.00 Alliance	\$870.00 Alliance	\$765.00 Alliance	\$1,200.00 Alliance		\$4,485.00 Alliance	Alliance TD honorariums
2022-23	\$462.50 FSQ	\$462.50 FSQ	\$462.50 FSQ	\$462.50 FSQ	\$462.50 FSQ	n/a	\$2,412.50 FSQ	Zone marketing project funding
	\$1,182.50	\$1,392.50	\$1,332.50	\$811.50	\$1,662.50		\$6,797.50	Total funding
2021-22	\$1,167.50	\$1,167.50	\$1,167.50	\$1,167.50	\$1,137.50	n/a	\$5,807.50	Alliance zone honorariums
2013 to 2021	\$45,419.18	\$99,101.32	\$60,396.85	\$31,074.78	\$81,062.15	\$9,811.60*	\$326,865.88	Reserve spending to support mini development
2009 to 2012	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	n/a	\$7,500.00	Community head coach programs
Total	\$58,904.18	\$117,169.32	\$72,751.85	\$50,202.83	\$97,0223.15	\$9,811.60	\$405,861.93	

<sup>\*</sup> Other funding was disbursed to Open Door Society between 2013 and 2014 to engage in summer soccer programming for newcomers.

## **Athlete Fund & Sustainability Committee**

In fall 2021, SYSI launched the <u>SYSI Athlete Fund</u> to financially support eligible athletes participating in the U11-U19 Alliance Academy and U15/U17 Saskatoon Alliance PSL teams.

By fall 2023, after growing the fund to \$26,000, eligibility was extended to zone athletes in indoor and outdoor leagues who had reached their maximum annual allotments from KidSport and Jumpstart. Funding is supported through donations, coach/manager honorariums, sponsors, and major fundraising efforts like the Rock the River 50-50 raffles, which raised \$57,096.69 between 2023–2025. Since 2021, SYSI has raised a total of \$110,118 through raffles, donations, and athlete sponsorships.

Funds distributed include:

- \$37,985.32 to eligible Saskatoon Alliance PSL and Alliance Academy athletes
- \$6,514.95 to sponsored athletes in Alliance programs
- \$5,837.18 to PSL teams for 50-50 fundraiser participation
- \$31,557.05 to zone athletes since fund extension in 2023

The Sustainability Committee, comprised of SYSI directors, oversees fundraising and plans new initiatives to support the fund. SYSI thanks the soccer community, coaches, volunteers, and zones for their ongoing support, which directly benefits athletes in need across all SYSI zones.

Funds Generated	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	TOTAL	
50-50 Raffles Minus Expenses	\$1,326.50	\$24,140.14	\$25,290.01	\$21,748.12	\$0.00	\$72,504.77	
SLGA Match-Up 25%	\$0.00	\$6,034.16	\$6,824.20	\$3,450.10	\$0.00	\$16,308.46	Total
Donations	\$2,065.00	\$299.82	\$567.02	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$3,431.84	Fundraising
Coach Honorarium Donations	\$5,165.00	\$4,079.75	\$578.50	\$2,313.70	\$0.00	\$12,136.95	Efforts
Alliance Athlete Sponsors	\$2,070.00	\$2,015.00	\$1,660.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,745.00	\$110,127.02
TOTALS	\$10,626.50	\$36,568.87	\$34,919.73	\$28,011.92	\$0.00	\$110,127.02	

Funds Disbursed	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	TOTAL		
Zone 1 (SUSC) Athlete Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$310.00	\$3,800.00	\$760.00	\$4,870.00		
Zone 2 (Hollandia) Athlete Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$425.00	\$4,955.00	\$3,618.00	\$8,998.00	Zone Player	
Zone 3 (Aurora) Athlete Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$825.00	\$2,620.00	\$3,445.00	0 Approvals 5 <b>\$31,557.05</b>	
Zone 4 (Lakewood) Athlete Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,725.00	\$4,569.05	\$4,950.00	\$11,244.05		
Zone 5 (Eastside) Athlete Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00		
TOTAL Zone Approvals	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,960.00	\$15,649.05	\$12,948.00	\$31,557.05		
Alliance Academy/PSL Team Assistance	\$0.00	\$3,087.34	\$2,224.84	\$525.00	\$0.00	\$5,837.18	Alliance	
Alliance Academy/PSL Athlete Assistance	\$3,952.50	\$5,707.82	\$9,120.00	\$10,565.00	\$8,640.00	\$37,985.32	Academy/PSL	
Alliance Academy/PSL Athletes Sponsored	\$2,070.00	\$2,015.00	\$1,660.00	\$769.95	\$0.00	\$6,514.95	Approvals	
TOTAL Alliance Approvals	\$6,022.50	\$10,810.16	\$13,004.84	\$11,859.95	\$8,640.00	\$50,337.45	\$50,337.45	
TOTAL Zone and Alliance Approvals	\$6,022.50	\$10,810.16	\$15,964.84	\$27,509.00	\$21,588.00	\$81,894.50		
SYSI Athlete Fund Balance \$28,232.52								

# **CSA's Club Licensing**

In October 2019, SYSI and all five zones achieved CSA Club Licensing Quality Soccer Provider status, the introductory level required for SSA funding grants.

Since 2022, Club Licensing Member Association Level 1 is required for SSA Member Organizations to participate in 9v9 Youth Indoor Provincials and the PSL. In March 2021, Aurora, Lakewood, and Saskatoon United achieved Level 1, while Eastside and Hollandia achieved Level 2 Club Licensing. In July 2021, SYSI obtained Level 1 designation, allowing it to host Saskatoon Alliance U15 and U17 PSL teams.

SYSI is currently pursuing National Youth Club License status, having met several requirements in October 2025, with results and feedback expected from SSA/CSA in December 2025. This reflects SYSI's commitment to meeting CSA standards and maintaining eligibility for provincial competitions and funding.

# **Strategic Plan**

## SYSI Strategic Plan 2024–27

**Purpose:** SYSI governs and promotes youth soccer in Saskatoon, representing Zones and Community Associations within 100 km.

Mission: Create a culture and opportunity for every participant to enjoy youth soccer.

**Vision:** Develop life skills through a lifelong passion for the game.

#### Values:

Integrity: Safe, welcoming, positive experiences.

- Inclusivity: Build an equitable system for all.
- Innovation: Creative approaches to soccer development.

# **Strategic Areas & Goals:**

- 1. **Development** (Players, Coaches, Referees)
  - Players: Focus on U5–U11, align with CSA standards, enhance Alliance Academy programs.
  - o Coaches: Ensure training/screening compliance, promote mentorship, address underrepresented demographics, retain team personnel.
  - o Referees: Foster respectful culture, improve communication and mentorship.
- 2. **Experience** (Leagues, Programs, Events)
  - Ensure high-quality, accessible, and inclusive programs.
  - o Define player pathways aligned with Canada Soccer.
  - Increase enrollment and retention across all age groups.
  - Maintain feedback systems and trust with Zones and Community Associations.
- 3. **Growth** (Engagement, Diversity/Inclusion, Sustainability)
  - o Engagement: Build partnerships, enhance presence, increase transparency.
  - Diversity & Inclusion: Expand programs, partner with organizations serving underrepresented groups.
  - Sustainability: Diversify revenue, remove barriers, retain volunteers for long-term involvement.
- 4. **Leadership** (Management & Governance)
  - Management: Evaluate staff structure, improve operational efficiency, enhance website/forms, guide Zones/Associations.
  - o Governance: Review board and committee roles, update policies/bylaws, measure efficiency and accountability, identify director development opportunities.

**Implementation:** Staff execute the strategic plan in collaboration with member Zones to achieve SYSI's mission and vision.

This plan emphasizes player development, high-quality experiences, sustainable growth, and strong governance as foundations for youth soccer in Saskatoon.

# In Closing

With 19 years as SYSI's Executive Director, I am energized by the growth in registration and the strengthened relationships between SYSI and its zone members through the Alliance over the past five years. I sincerely thank the board, staff, and countless volunteers for their dedication to players and the sport. Their efforts, both on and off the field, are invaluable. Together, we will continue to overcome challenges and provide the best environment for players to thrive.

Amanda M Probe Executive Director Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.