



Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.'s Friend of Soccer Award 2020

About the Award:

The Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI)'s *Friend of Soccer Award* is awarded each year to those who have contributed to youth soccer in a meaningful way. An award recipient is selected by each Zone Board for a total of five awards each year.

Nomination Process:

SYSI is pleased to announce we have revamped our *Friend of Soccer Award* nomination process and are now recognizing one recipient per zone instead of one overall recipient per year. We feel there are plenty of deserving volunteers for this award and are excited to be sharing this award with five worthy volunteers each year going forward! Each year individuals may nominate a worthy volunteer of our award and submit their nomination to their respective Zone board. Each of the five Zone boards will compile their nominations and select one recipient to represent their Zone for that year. SYSI will then recognize all five recipients at the "Outdoor Pre-Season Coaches' Night" in April. The nomination form can be found on our website under the "Forms" section. The deadline for nominations is end of February each year and each Zone must form their decision by late March each year.

2020 Award Recipients:

Zone 1 – SUSC – Michele Mason



Michele has been a long-time board member who always steps up to serve our soccer community when asked or needed. She has donated countless hours of her time coaching, helping with academies, attaining qualifications i.e C licence, being the SUSC COVID safety officer and is a member of the Women in Soccer Board. Michele has also sponsored many children in soccer financially out of her own pocket.

Zone 2 – Hollandia – Randy Poelzer



Randy Poelzer has been coaching since his daughter Jessie was just a young girl. He started his coaching career in the Lawson Heights Community Association and Hollandia. Randy has also coached his son's hockey team for the same length of time - over 10 years! There are few volunteer coaches who consistently go above and beyond, spending their own dollars, and positively influencing the players he coaches like Randy does. And he never asks for a thing in return.

Randy self admittedly knows more about hockey than soccer, but he has taken on the challenge to learn and grow as a soccer coach completing any courses offered to him. Randy provides great feedback to players on and off the field and is always willing to sit down and talk about a player's skills, always focusing on the positive. Many players Randy has coached request they be put on his team time and time again - he connects with the players in such a loyal way. Randy is reliable and is willing whenever to volunteer extra at evaluations or events, with a smile on. If another coach has fallen ill or cannot make it, Randy is the first to step up and jump in to help. Every season Randy takes it upon himself to coordinate and pay for a team get-together. He refuses anything in return. He believes players that play off the field play best on the field and he is doing it for his team.

Zone 3 – Aurora Soccer – Dan Côté



Dan Cote served as Aurora Soccer Club President for many years, and during his tenure he not only brought a great deal of respect and pride to the club but also helped Aurora grow into the club they are today. Not only did Dan serve as Club President, but he also ran and organized both Aurora tournaments, Harder Avalon Classic & Aurora Open, during his tenure with the club.

Aurora would like to thank Dan for all the time and hard work he put in during his time with Aurora.

Zone 4 – Lakewood – Melanie Scott - Kwan



Her uncompromising commitment to deliver exceptional experiences for youth athletes is inspiring. For more than 10 years she has generously given her time managing, coaching and administrating for Lakewood Soccer. In that time, we have been exposed to her growth as a coach, administrator and leader of soccer in Saskatoon. Mel generously shares her expertise in team management each year by mentoring new parents into the role of team manager. She consistently focuses her efforts on what is best for the kids, and what is best for the growth of soccer; her framework provides an exceptional platform for team managers to be successful. Coaching youth athletes is a considerable undertaking, and throughout all of those seasons her engagement has been unwavering. She always arrives to training and games with a great energy and positive attitude. Mel has also held numerous Executive Roles within Lakewood Soccer and has played a pivotal role in navigating the challenges over the last year.

Mel has been a tremendous servant to soccer in Saskatchewan and we are exceptionally lucky to have a volunteer of such high character, expertise, and commitment

Zone 5 – Eastside – Jodi Blackwell



Almost from the moment she joined Eastside, Jodi was a vital contributor to and member of the club. She served behind the scenes as treasurer, spent countless hours with teams as a manager and helped on tournament weekends for Eastside's annual event. Youth clubs and organizations rely on volunteers, and Eastside had one who served admirably in Jodi. Her contributions are appreciated and the recognition well-deserved.

Past Recipients:

1989 Al Day
1990 Jill Postlethwaite
1991 Bob Speed
1992 Ross Wilson
1993 Ken & Carol Wagner
1994 Jim Cook
1995 Percy Hoff
1996 Huw Morris
1997 John Riggs
1998 John Tomchuk
1999 Garry Harder
2000 Lawrence Martz
2001 Bernadette Garrity
2002 Pat Gillies
2003 Gloria Rowan
2004 *not awarded*
2005 Mike Grevers
2006 Brett Mario
2007 Bob McAllister
2008 Hal Lackie
2009 Terry Carruthers
2010 Tom LaPointe
2011 Joe Garcea
2012 Ed Halyk
2013 Mark Lord
2014 Bob Rohachuk
2015 Wilf McDougall

2016 Zone 1 - *not awarded*
Zone 2 - Sean Collins
Zone 3 - Mark Schramm
Zone 4 - *not awarded*
Zone 5 - Trevor Conquergood

2017 Zone 1 - Lorena Walls
Zone 2 - Paola Kobussen/Sean Wilson
Zone 3 - Shaun Eaton
Zone 4 - Leonard Lewko
Zone 5 - David Chan

2018 Zone 1 - Shawn Dyky
Zone 2 - Leigh Saunders
Zone 3 - Kevin Foster
Zone 4 - Dan Weber
Zone 5 - Lynne Gelner

2019 Zone 1 – Celeste Glasser - Cook
Zone 2 – Hernan Tapia
Zone 3 – Alex Hein
Zone 4 – Garnette Weber
Zone 5 – Angele Thiessen

2020 Zone 1 – Michele Mason
Zone 2 – Randy Poelzer
Zone 3 – Dan Cote
Zone 4 – Melanie Scott – Kwan
Zone 5 – Jodi Blackwell