



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 for 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 the end of February each year and each Zone must form their decision by late March each year.

Friend of Soccer Award Past Recipients

1989 - Al Day
1990 - Jill Postlewaite
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 - Gary Harder
2000 - Lawrence Martz
2001 - Bernadette Garrity
2002 - Pat Gillies
2003 - Gloria Rowan
2004 - Not Awarded
2005 - Miike Grevers
2006 - Brett Mario
2007 - Bob McAllister
2008 - Hal Lackie
2009 - Terry Carruthers
2010 - Tom LaPointe
2011 - Joe Garcea
2012 - Edward Halyk
2013 - Mark Lord
2014 - Bob Rohachuk
2015 - Wilf McDougall

2016:
SUSC - No Nomination
Hollandia - Sean Collins
Aurora - Mark Schramm
Lakewood - No Nomination
Eastside - Trevor Conquergood
2017
SUSC - Lorena Walls
Hollandia - Paola Kobussen/Sean Wilson
Aurora - Shaun Eaton
Lakewood - Leonard Lewko
Eastside - David Chan

2018
SUSC - Shawn Dyky
Hollandia - Leigh Saunders -
Aurora - Kevin Foster
Lakewood - Daniel Weber
Eastside - Lynee Gelner

2019:
SUSC - Celeste Glasser - Cook
Hollandia - Hernan Tapia
Aurora - Alex Hein
Lakewood - Garnette Weber
Eastside - Angele Thiessen

2020:
SUSC - Michele Mason
Hollandia - Randy Poelzer
Aurora - Dan Cote
Lakewood - Melanie Scott - Kwan
Eastside - Jodi Blackwell

2021 Award Recipients:

Zone 1: SUSC – Morgan Reagan



Years of Service: 6 years

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Coach, Technical Coordinator, Female Mentor

Morgan has grown from a volunteer Assistant Coach and avid soccer player to a C-licensed, high-level coach of a championship female team. She has volunteered not only as a coach but as a SUSC board member for many years. As Technical Coordinator, she mentors and trains other volunteer coaches and provides support for the SUSC technical team. She continually goes above and beyond for her family, her friends, her team, all the players she encounters and all of SUSC's members. Her knowledge of the sport, her expertise in coaching, her care for all children and her joy for player and personal development are among the many reasons she deserves this award.

Zone 2: Hollandia – Alicia Osses



Years of Service: 8 years

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Secretary, Tournament Committee Member, Team Manager

You would be hard-pressed to find a volunteer with a bigger heart than Alicia. Her countless contributions to the board include helping in a big way at our soccer tournaments. Besides being on the board, Alicia has been the team manager for every team her daughter has played on with Hollandia. Alicia stepped up one year and coached a U7 development team for Hollandia when there was no coach. Alicia is always willing to help where needed and always brings so much energy. We are lucky to have her.

Zone 3: Aurora – Stephanie Hnatiw & Crystal Shendaruk



Years of Service: 3-4 years

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Registrar, Board Member, Volunteer Coordinator

Both have shown deep passion and dedication to their volunteer positions. Aurora Soccer Club is fortunate to have volunteers like them and a good role model for others who will serve after them.

Zone 4: Lakewood – Samantha Lamborn



Years of Service: 3 years

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Community Coordinator

Samantha has held together the Rosewood Community Soccer program, as the coordinator, for as many years as she has held the position. Her passion for the game of soccer is obvious and contagious. She treats all members with kindness and respect and brings a positive attitude and great fun for the kids as they learn the game! This year, specifically, she rescued our team when our coach unexpectedly had to quit. She took coaching our team on, while simultaneously coaching another team in the community. She managed games, practices, and tournaments for both teams, all while conducting communication with the families and remaining the community coordinator and dealing with COVID policy changes. She is truly a Super Friend of Soccer! We could not have made it without her this year!

Zone 5: Eastside – Michael Diegel



Years of Service:

Positions held within Zone/Community Association: Board Member & Coaches Associate

Michael Diegel was a vital contributor for years as an Eastside board member and as the coaches' associate, where he was responsible for ensuring all coaches and volunteers were screened to protect youth and vulnerable people.

In his roles, Michael spent countless hours behind the scenes to contribute to the smooth operations of the club, its staff coaches and volunteer coaches and managers.

In order for organizations such as Eastside to thrive and grow, we require volunteers and community members to step in and step up. Michael filled his role admirably.

His efforts and contributions are sincerely appreciated, and his recognition is richly deserved.