

## Memo

To: Zone Presidents and Registrars; Community Association Coordinators; and all Players and Parents

From: Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc.

Date: January 27, 2023

Re: Zone Boundary Adjustments with No Exemptions Effective Indoor 2023-24

## **How Zone Boundaries Were Born:**

Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI) started as an informal collection of clubs that joined together to become a registered non-profit corporation in 1984 and member of Saskatchewan Soccer Association, with the purpose of organizing leagues, tournaments, and the overall promotion of soccer for all community associations and clubs within Saskatoon. Leagues and practices were played at Prairieland Park, warehouses, and various school gyms. As the clubs grew in size, it became apparent that greater parity was needed within the leagues to provide more meaningful competition and further grow the game. In addition to this, soccer needed a place to play as the sport was growing at a rapid pace and was becoming more and more challenging to fit the leagues and accommodate growth within the current play spaces.

To address these needs, in 1996 the organization became more structured with the formation of five permanent clubs/associations, each with responsibility for a geographical area or zone established under the By-laws of SYSI. These member clubs are Saskatoon United Soccer Club, Hollandia International Soccer Club, Aurora Soccer Club, Lakewood Soccer Association, and Eastside Youth Soccer Association. With the formation of the five zones, clubs became dedicated to an assigned geographical area of Saskatoon ensuring no player was left behind and all had a place to play with their zone of residence, which ultimately led to growth in registrations and better parity in the leagues. The new organizational structure also gave the Saskatoon youth soccer community the stability it needed to participate in the construction of the first dedicated soccer facility in Saskatchewan, the Saskatoon Kinsmen Henk Ruys Soccer Centre in 1998 and also played a key role in the creation of the Saskatoon Sports Centre in 2006.

Since inception, SYSI has been a leader in Saskatoon in connecting communities and zone clubs to the largest organized youth soccer league in the province and is one of two sole members of the two soccer facilities in Saskatoon receiving priority bookings for our leagues and programs further heightening a consistent and exceptional playing experience for our members.

SYSI continues to set the benchmark for league program delivery in Saskatoon and we continue to see growth in participation despite an ever changing economy. This is due in large part to our extraordinary community of players, families, and volunteers who ensure that SYSI and its member community and zone associations have a bright future.

## **Zone Boundary Review Process:**

In 2012, the SYSI Board and its members adopted an annual review process which is conducted by a committee comprised of SYSI Board and Zone Board Directors who then recommend any necessary zone adjustments for SYSI Board final consideration and approval. Adjustments are made typically every three years if a variance of 5% in registrations exists between two or more zones. Ensuring soccer registrations amongst all five zones are balanced leads to greater parity in the league and meaningful competition for all participants. The annual review provides the ability for the SYSI Board to anticipate and respond to shifts in population, registrations, and other factors which drive registration in particular neighborhoods.

## **Upcoming Zone Boundary Adjustments:**

This year's particular review made note of a soccer registration disparity in the Eastside zone with the largest and fastest growing community being Stonebridge creating a large imbalance affecting all zones. Other noted concerns were that the Hollandia zone did not have a newer growth area and the SUSC zone had the lowest registration numbers.

The SYSI Board consulted zones on a number of options to achieve balance and upon receiving feedback; the SYSI Board passed a motion on January 26, 2023 to re-assign 19 community associations: assign Elk Point to SUSC (currently unassigned); reassign Eastview, Holliston, Nutana SC and South Nutana Park from Eastside to Lakewood; reassign College Park and East College Park from Lakewood to Aurora; reassign Aspen Ridge and Evergreen from Aurora to Hollandia; reassign Forest Grove and Sutherland from Hollandia to Aurora; and reassign Caswell, Central Business District, City Park, Hudson Bay Park, Kelsey-Woodlawn, Mayfair, North Park, Richmond Heights and Westmount from Hollandia to SUSC.

The adjusted zone boundaries balance the soccer registrations within 1% of each zone and they are to take effect Indoor 2023-24 with player residency as of June 1, 2023. To ensure the changes take immediate effect and have a positive result on zone registration balance for the upcoming Indoor 2023-24, the SYSI Board determined there will be <u>no exemptions</u> to the boundary adjustments.

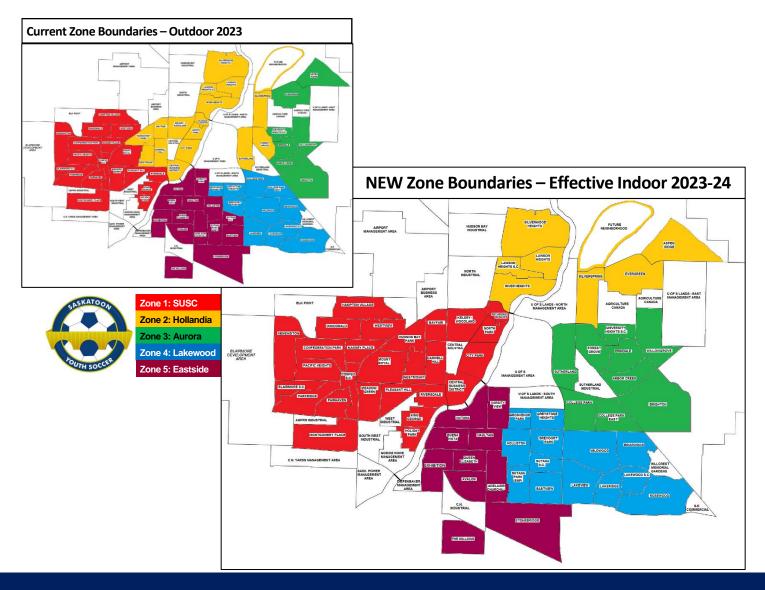
It is the SYSI Board's intent that these changes will be for the better good of soccer in Saskatoon as a whole and a review of the boundaries will continue to occur on an annual basis. It is our desire that the time, energy and resources of everyone involved in youth soccer, be focused on growing the game as rapidly as the city itself is growing. The world is beating a path to Saskatoon and the world's game is a wonderful way to create lasting relationships, stronger neighbourhoods and healthier, fitter children.

If you are a parent and have any questions regarding these changes please contact your resident zone or community association.

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Neighbourhood	Former Zone	Assigned Zone	Age groups & Season to take effect	Zone Contacts
Eastview Holliston Nutana Park Nutana SC	- Eastside	Lakewood	Under 11 – Under 15 Those born 2009 to 2014 for Indoor 2023-24 and Outdoor 2024  Effective Indoor 2023-24 Residency as of June 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2023	Zone 1: SUSC operations@susc.ca  Zone 2: Hollandia operations@hollandia.ca  Zone 3: Aurora registrar@aurorasoccer.ca  Zone 4: Lakewood registration@lakewoodsoccer.com  Zone 5: Eastside registrar@eastsidesoccer.ca
College Park East College Park	Lakewood	Aurora		
Aspen Ridge Evergreen	Aurora	Hollandia		
Forest Grove Sutherland	Hollandia	Aurora		
Caswell Central Business District City Park Hudson Bay Park Kelsey-Woodlawn Mayfair North Park Richmond Heights Westmount	Hollandia	SUSC		
Elk Point (north of Kensington)	unassigned	SUSC		3 -



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