

Indoor Plan for 2024/2025

We have some big changes coming this winter for our indoor program. First and foremost it's important that you understand that VSA offers two streams of soccer; **Recreational (VSA Indoor)** and **Competitive (Valley United Soccer Club)**. In the Recreational Stream, the emphasis is on participation, fun, and the social aspects of the game we love, whereas the Competitive Stream has an emphasis on development, effort, commitment, and also entails just a lot *more* soccer.

If you and your family are looking for more information about the competitive program, please email Jaime at vusc.sk.president@gmail.com as this information is for the Recreational options.

The New Facility

First of all, we are so excited that the **Martensville Recreational Centre** will be open and operational this winter, with the expected date being January first. This facility will provide us with an entire full length indoor turf soccer pitch, and will completely change the way that soccer is offered in the Valley. Gone will be the days of playing on tiny, cramped, hardcourt gym floors. The VSA Indoor Program will be moving into the MRC and onto the turf as soon as we are able. To say this facility will be a game changer for the VSA is an understatement.

The Plan for this season. a tale of two halves

That said, we do need a plan to get us to that point of the winter. Since our VSA Indoor Program operates from late October to late March, and the turf fields won't be available until January, we have decided to split the Season into two separate halves. The first half, from October to January, will be located in the same facilities as last year, but the way we operate and work with the players will be very different. This year we will be combining all of the tiny teams from all the age groups into larger squads, and all weekly training sessions (U5-U11) will be designed, set up, managed, led, and overseen by the VSA Technical Staff. That means that we will not be relying on volunteer Parent Coaches to try to develop your child's love of the game in small groups with little guidance and support.

Why are we doing this?

We expect several benefits to become evident from this; with Technical Staff leading everything, we are not so dependent on parent volunteers to be able to operate successfully. Not only that, but our Technical Staff are all highly trained, experienced, passionate soccer coaches that will accelerate the development of the skills, knowledge, awareness, and even love of the game! Even better, every player in VSA will be exposed to the same level of commitment, passion, knowledge and experience. **Consistency is key!**

How will it look in the first half of the season?

Your player will have a **designated play time per week**. They will show up and instead of seeing three separate courts with the curtains down, and trying to find their coach and team, they will see **one gigantic space!** We want to book the entire gym floor like we always have, but lift the curtains and act as one VSA Training Squad. **The Technical Staff** will set up training stations for each session, the kids will be broken up into smaller groups that will then work from station to station for about 40 minutes, and then we will make some fun small sided games happen for the last 20 minutes. The teams won't matter, and will be mixed up each week! Sometimes your player will be with their friends, and sometimes they may be playing against them. What's important is that your player is safe and having fun!

The stations will be designed and operated as the main tool to develop the skills and technical abilities that you as parents, and we as coaches, want to see, and the game at the end will be the fun opportunity to show off what they're learning!

This model is being used around the world as the best, safest, and most fun way to train and develop young soccer stars. Each week the activity stations will change based on the theme of that week, but what will remain is the quality of the coaching, the safety of the environment, and fun that the players get to enjoy.

Can I still volunteer to coach?

Volunteer coaches will still be needed, welcomed, and appreciated. As a Volunteer Coach you will be responsible for assisting the Technical Staff with the delivery of the stations, while ensuring the safety and fun of all the players. You will not be asked to do any session planning, research any activities, or lead anything if you don't want to.

We are still working out some of the finer details, so if you have any questions or comments please don't hesitate to reach out to Cam at technical.director@valleysoccer.ca.