

A brief history of Valley United Soccer Club, 1994 to present.

Participation in the Nova Scotia Soccer League (NSSL) of youth teams from the Annapolis Valley actually began in 1993. In that year Soccer Nova Soccer (SNS) allowed Districts outside of HRM to field what were essentially District All Star teams in the NSSL on condition that the players continued to play for their community teams. This concession was made because of the well founded fear that the community clubs would not otherwise allow their star players to play Tier 1, as it was called then. However it soon became apparent that the commitment of playing both Tier 1 and Tier 2 was too much for players and parents so from 1994 onwards Tier 1 players could not 'play down' to Tier 2. Tier 2 players could 'play up' to Tier 1 if the proper paperwork was completed.

Shortly after the youth teams began play in the NSSL they were joined by the Senior Men's team which had been playing in the NSSL since 1986. That team, sponsored then as now by the Kings Arms Pub, had previously played out of the Kentville Soccer Club. (This was before the community clubs of Coldbrook, Kentville, Canning and Centreville amalgamated to form Kings West Soccer Club.)

From 1994 to 2004 Valley United was not an actual club but a program run initially by the Kings Hants District Soccer Association and then from 1996 onwards by Valley District Soccer Association (VDSA).

In 2004 Valley United Soccer Club was incorporated as an entity separate from VDSA. The list of Presidents since then is as follows:

2004-2005.	Marty J.Croft
2005-2007.	John Bedard
2007-2008.	Paul Smith
2008-2010.	Bill Wagstaff
2010-2011.	Stan Rideout
2011-2012.	Findlay MacRae
2012-2015.	Stephen McNeill
2015-2017.	Dara Ramirez
2017-2018.	Alanna Chaisson
2018-	Troy Lenihan

Until 2005 VU could operate only during the summer months. That changed in 2005 however with the opening of the SoccerDome in Kentville (now the Credit Union Recreation Complex, or CURC for short.) This allowed us to operate year round and compete in the NSSL Indoor Leagues. This led very quickly to what has so far been our most successful season, in 2006, when we finished in the top 4 in 7 of the 8 Indoor divisions and won the U14 Girls, U16 Girls, U18 Boys and Senior Men's playoffs.

Originally, VU operated as an exclusively 'Tier 1' club. That changed in 2019 when we were joined by 4 community clubs which all ran U5-U11 programs independently, namely New Minas, Port Williams, Hantsport and Wolfville (which in turn had absorbed Gaspereau in 2006) and by the East Kings club which ran U13-U18 teams from those communities. For the first time this allowed VU to run programs which catered to all age groups from U5 to Masters, and to all skill levels.

Around the same time VU took a major step forward when we hired our first full time Technical Director (TD). There had been Technical Directors in the Valley before but they had been hired by VDSA. When the last VDSA TD, Martin Vlk, resigned Angela Morisson became VU's first Technical Director on an interim basis, followed by Andrew MacRae. When Andrew left for Halifax City he was succeeded by Findlay MacRae who took up the position in July 2022.

While major progress has been made over the past 30 years the potential exists for further development. At the moment there is very little opportunity for community players to play during the winter. More indoor facilities in the Valley would give recreational players, who make up the great majority of soccer players, the opportunity to play year round.

Revised 16 Feb 2024.