



November 9, 2009

PRESIDENTS REPORT 2009-2010

The excitement is building in our district as we anxiously await the opening of the new Alfred Jenkins Field House. This building is the result of the extraordinary efforts of civic leaders, businesses, professionals, soccer families and citizens of this community raising the massive sum of \$5,165,230 and securing the future of this multi-use facility.



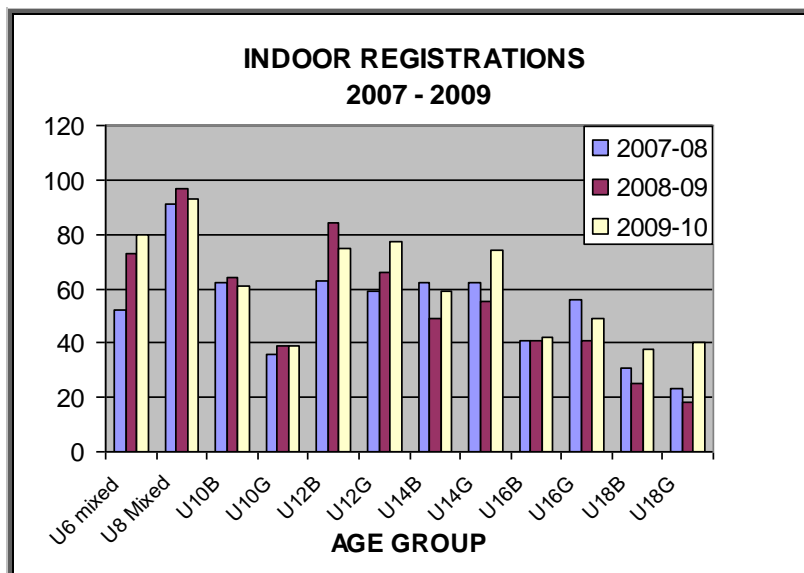
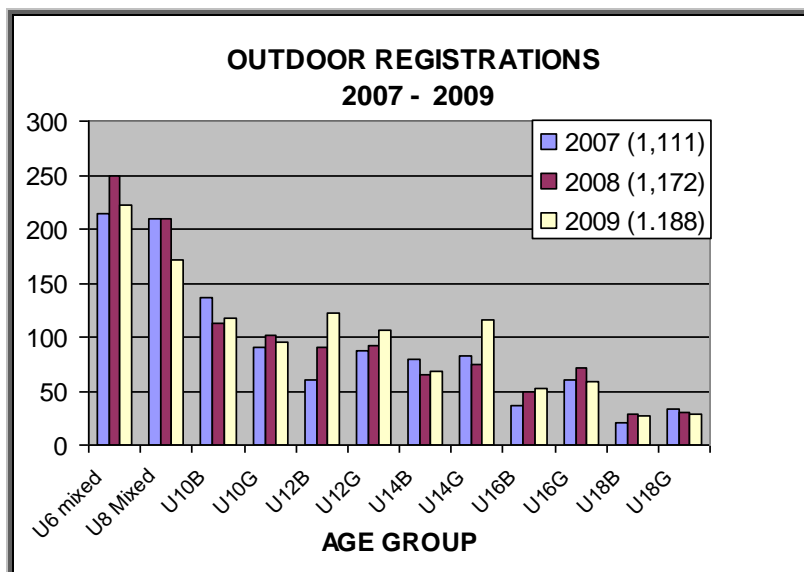
The Prince Albert Youth Soccer Association (or PAYSa for short) is the organization responsible for the administration of youth soccer for the City of Prince Albert and surrounding rural areas. We are a non-profit corporation and our governing body is the Saskatchewan Soccer Association (SSA) and ultimately the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA). PAYSa is controlled by a board of directors who are elected at our Annual General Meeting. In the spirit of continued improvement and in light of the future transition of soccer operations into the Alfred Jenkins Field House and the anticipated expansion in soccer in this District, it was recognized that there is a need to ensure that guiding documents – which include the Constitution and bylaws, the Policies and Procedures and the rules and regulations manuals were as comprehensive as possible and available for the membership. Therefore, a Special General Meeting was held to amend and refine the Constitution and Bylaws to better serve the District (see attached documents). I believe the amendments will help position this organization well in the future. The Constitution and Bylaws document, which governs PAYSa, is now complete and is posted for the public under the Office, Administration and Guiding Documents tab on our website.

Another significant development this year has been the revision and re-drafting of the rules and regulations, and developing governing policy documents of the Association. Many problems and conflicts arise through poor understanding and/or access to accurate information and lack of documentation of rules and procedures that all members must follow. It is important that we say what we do and we do what we say. As a result of many hours of work by dedicated members of our committees – Executive, Technical, Discipline, Referee, the list is long; we have almost completed the last two documents in the series of three manuals which will be open and accessible to the public. The guiding documents will come in three separate manuals: first the constitution, second the rules and regulations and third policies and guidelines. These documents outline in detail all aspects guiding organized soccer in Prince Albert.

REGISTRATION

The break between the indoor and outdoor seasons seems so very short. In the 2009 outdoor season there were 1,188 players enrolled in soccer. This figure is up slightly from the 1,172 players in 2008 in most age categories. Although the number of players in the U6 and U8 is down from the previous years the general demographics still show numbers of young “grass roots” players are strong, indicating great potential for growth. Another encouraging trend shows more players in the U12 to U16 age categories and stability in the U18 showing that our players are still engaged in these typically vulnerable age categories (see Figure 1).

Players registered this summer in outdoor played on 94 outdoor house league teams ranging from U6 Mini soccer players up to youth U14/U18. PAYSa continued to split the U6 group keeping the 4 year olds together in one group and the 5 & 6 year olds together in another. PAYSa has received positive feedback from this approach, so clearly it is working well. It is always a challenge squeezing all the games into the 7 week house league season. This challenge was exacerbated this year by the snow events, both at the beginning of the season and again in mid-June! The house league season ended on June 19. In 2009 there were approximately 84 players registered on 7 out of town teams. Although the number of participants was down significantly, attendance was greatly improved over 2008 outdoor season.



Indoor house league play started in early October, just prior to the Thanksgiving weekend. We continued with a split schedule in a continued effort to fit more games into the season. PAYSA will also continue to split the U6 age group into the 4 year olds and the 5 & 6 year olds. The younger age groups (U6 up to U14) commenced play as of October 3rd. The older age groups (U16 and U18) started on November 2nd after the completion of high school soccer. The indoor season will conclude with the playoffs in March, 2010. We continue to use the online Calendar of events to improve communication to PAYSA members and help organize and show detailed schedules of coaching and referee clinics, tournaments and technical training opportunities. This calendar can be seen on our website at www.princealbertsoccer.com; it is also posted on the notice board in the HNOC or in our office.

TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT

In 2006, PAYSA began using Huw Morris to conduct winter training, coaching clinics and goalkeeping clinics to develop our athletes and to become a resource person for our association. In 2007 PAYSA made this arrangement official, formalizing this arrangement and contracting Huw as our Technical Director. Huw continues to serve as our Technical Director and provides high quality technical expertise to the association. Huw has developed a technical development plan which places a top priority on coach development - "Teaching the teachers". In view of this, a top priority for 2009-10 will be the development of a strategy to train, assess and assist our coaches to ensure high quality consistent instruction and development of our grass roots age groups –typically the U6 to U12. In fall 2009, and under the advice of Huw, PAYSA brought in a former professional soccer player Wayne "Wannes" Evans – as a guest instructor to deliver the coaches training and orientation weekend.

The Canadian Soccer Association and Provincial Soccer Associations are working together to implement the Long-Term Player Development model whereby age-appropriate coaching standards are harmonized across the country. The SSA is working towards distributing the implementation of this approach through the development of five soccer regions – each with a Regional Technical Director to lead the implementation of LTPD and to service the regions. The intent is to engage local districts into partnerships which would enter into cost-share agreements to staff the Regional Technical Director position. Lloydminster is the first region which now has a regional director for soccer development. Others will follow soon. PAYSA has already met with SSA Executive Director and staff to discuss the technical direction in our district and is well positioned strategically for this transition.

STAFFING

Since 2007 this organization has been kept solidly on course by Mitzi Pytlak, who has taken on the Herculean task of managing what sometimes might seem to be the day to day “chaos” she faces in our offices. As years go by I am convinced that Mitzi is the only person who could rise to this kind of challenge under these conditions and maintain the enthusiasm and good humor that we all take for granted, but also find so encouraging. Recently, Patsy Cameron was hired to help Mitzi on a part-time basis. Jennifer Durant worked diligently as our book keeper for many months and has now moved on to new challenges. I wish her all the very best in the future. We have also hired Jennifer Wilson to maintain our financial records. I truly appreciate the work of all these fine people – the quality of an organization is always measured by their people – we can certainly boast having the very best organization in the business. I am confident that the office is in good hands.

CELTICS PROGRAM

There were 17 Celtics teams competing in the 2009 outdoor soccer season. The Celtics teams are our competitive teams that represent PAYSA and travel to tournaments around the province and occasionally out of province. These teams are also our representative teams at provincial competitions. The Celtics program was extremely successful this year - a short visit to the photo gallery on PAYSA website tells the story! The PSL regular season finished, with the Prince Albert hosting the finals on July 11-12. I am immensely proud of the efforts of all our athletes. Prince Albert teams always appear to be “the team to beat”. Their work-ethic and many achievements are a tribute to the dedication and hard work of our Technical personnel, coaches, support staff and of course, the players. The future is very bright for Prince Albert soccer.

REFEREES

I would like to acknowledge the referee mentorship program that was started in 2007 and continues to date. This program has really helped develop our beginner referees and provided feedback to improve all of our referees. I feel confident that Steven Pollock and Randy Whitter will continue to develop and improve this program with assistance from our assigners, Georgina Buller and Jinus Makari. However there is a serious shortage of qualified referees. We continue to actively seek kids and adults to come and train as referees.

In closing, volunteering is a characteristic for which the people of Saskatchewan are well known, across Canada. PAYSA is an organization run entirely by volunteers. The association and indeed youth soccer in this district depends on the continued commitment, contribution and hard work of all our volunteers. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of all these volunteers, in particular our Board of Directors, the multitude of coaches, managers, referees and age group coordinators, and all those who donate so much of their precious time serving on our various committees. Their work and commitment is vital in delivering what I believe is a high quality soccer program for all youth soccer players in our District.

Sincerely,



Rory McIntosh
President, Prince Albert Youth Soccer Association