

Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association
President's Report
May 2012

The goal of the Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association (SCYSA) is to provide an opportunity for all children, aged six to seventeen, to play recreational soccer in a safe, supportive, sporting environment and at an affordable price. For the 2013 season, the Association is also offering the Active Start program for 3 to 5 year olds. This parent participation program will encourage some of the youngest members on the Sunshine Coast to participate in the beautiful game.

For the 2012 season the Association saw 66 House teams and 11 Rep teams representing approximately 977 players and more than 100 volunteers. Enrollment for this past season was down by approximately 200 players from the 2011 season. While this is in keeping with the demographic decline of young people on the Coast, the Association did see a decline in enrollment at the older age levels for a variety of other reasons (i.e. employment, focusing on school, participating in other sports and dissatisfaction with coaching). The decline of players at the older age groups continues to be a concern for our Association.

This past year the SCYSA continued its five year plan that included player and coaching development, season structure and scheduling, working on field improvements via the Association's relationship with the Sunshine Coast Athletic and Recreation Facilities Society (SCARFS) and community engagement opportunities. The continuation of divisional coordinators to assist in the daily management of the association has provided the SCYSA Board of Directors time to focus on the management of the Association.

The 2012 season was a transitional year for the Association as Norm Blair stepped down as long-term president and moved into the role of executive director (ED) for a one year term. As ED, Norm was responsible for overseeing the day to day management of the Association while the new board got comfortable with the duties that came along with running the largest non-profit sporting society on the Coast. For the upcoming season, the Board has decided not to continue the ED position and to manage the day to day duties through the use of volunteers. Norm will continue on with the SCYSA as the equipment manager and, with his role as ED of SCARFS, will continue to work on the Field for Everyone project on behalf of the SCYSA. The Association expresses its great appreciation to Norm for his years of service and vision to SCYSA.

The 2012 season commenced with a training session being provided by the Whitecaps. This was the second year of this format for both the Whitecaps and the SCYSA and while attendance was mandatory, it still was not as high at the older age levels (U15/U18) as the Association wished. With the assistance of the Province of British Columbia the training session conducted by the Whitecaps coaching staff was made available for all players and coaches. Comments from participants at the two day event were very positive.

The 2012 season also saw the release of a new website for the Association. This new website will allow all users, from coaches and players to coordinators and managers, to better access and use information in a more timely and usable fashion. Registration will be greatly simplified, particularly in succeeding years.

For the 2013 season the Association will begin its focus on long-term coach and player development as outlined in the Canadian Soccer Association's long-term player development (LTPD) model and Wellness to World Cup framework. Part of this focus involves the hiring of a part-time technical director for the Association and the formation of a partnership with the Whitecaps organizations.

The Technical Director will be responsible for a LTPD plan for the SCYSA that will drive the development potential of the Association's approximately 1,000 member player base. Reporting to the Board of Directors the Technical Director will also be responsible for the management and training of the Association's entire coaching division (Rep & House), training of players and the implementation of the Association's soccer academy.

The Whitecap partnership will not only continue on with the week-end training session for the House divisions but will also include prospect training for the Rep divisions and identified House players, additional goalie and coach training, presentation of the Whitecaps Kickin' It in the Schools program and other opportunities to promote soccer on the Sunshine Coast with our youth.

The Association also expresses its deep appreciation to Paul Shipton of Dundee Wealth for the continued sponsorship of our U9 division and to Tim Horton's for the sponsorship of our U7 and U8 divisions.

While the Association strives to keep soccer affordable for all families on the Sunshine Coast, there has been fee increase for the 2013 season. In addition, our Association greatly relies on volunteers. For the 2013 season, as part of the registration process, at least one adult family member will have to volunteer in either a small way (e.g. collecting uniforms or performing occasional administrative tasks) or a large way (i.e. coaching). Those families that choose not to volunteer can make a donation to the Association in lieu of not volunteering.

The SCYSA Board of Directors has reviewed the present positions of the directors and volunteers and has put forward a list of new positions. In conjunction with the continued development of the five year plan the directors will be better positioned to assist in carrying out the duties and responsibilities to further the services offered by the SCYSA. On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank everyone that participated during the past season for all that you do. I wish you the best and look forward to seeing you on the fields.

Yours in Soccer,

Linda Iverson, President
SCYSA