



SUNSHINE COAST YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MAY 2013

The goal of the Sunshine Coast Youth Soccer Association (SCYSA) is to provide an opportunity for all children, aged three to seventeen, to play recreational soccer in a safe, supportive, sporting environment and at an affordable price.

For the 2013 season, the Association offered the Active Start program for 3 to 5 year olds for the first time. This parent participation program encouraged some of the youngest members on the Sunshine Coast to participate in the beautiful game. The winter session of the Active Start program saw approximately 80 children, along with their parents participating and the spring session, which is still currently running, has approximately 67 children along with their parents participating.

For the 2013 season the Association saw 63 House teams (-66 prior year) and 7 Rep teams (-11 prior year) Rep teams representing approximately 888 players (this figure does not including Active Start players) (-977 prior year) and more than 100 volunteers. Enrollment for this past season was down by approximately 90 players from the 2012 season (200 decline prior season). While this is in keeping with the demographic decline of young people on the Coast it was, however, not as large of a decline as what we have seen over the past several years. Enrollment at the older age levels continues to declines for a variety of reasons (i.e. employment, focusing on school, participating in other sports and dissatisfaction with coaching). The decline of players at the older age groups, especially for the boys, continues to be a concern for our Association. This past season, due to decline in enrollment at the older levels, saw a reorganization of the house age groups to include U18, U15, U12, U10 boys and girls divisions and coed U8 and U7. This change, a move away from having a co-ed U9 division, was received positively from the membership.

This past year the SCYSA continued on with its five year plan that included player and coaching development, season structure and scheduling and working on field improvements. 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.

Fields continue to be a problem for the Association. The closure of both Brothers Field and Gibsons Elementary field in Gibsons severely restricted the amount of fields that were available for use by the Association. As a result of these

closures, field usage on our other available fields was increase and this, along with heavy rainfalls in October, resulted in more damage than normal to the existing fields which then resulted in game cancellations. The Association continues to look at other ways to extend the playing season for our membership which including extending the season to start in mid/late August and pursuing the development of an artificial turf field. Part of our field improvement plan also included a \$30,000 contribution towards the new field lighting at Kinnikinnick Park.

The 2013 season also saw the Association hire Ken Campbell as Technical Director. The technical director's role is to 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. Encouraging our volunteer coaches to take the LTPD coach courses continues to be a strong mandate of the Association in order to provide our young players with the best coaching possible. Coaches have been encouraged to take one or more of the LTPD courses paid for by the Association and, as an incentive, were refunded one child's registration fee upon the successful completion of a LTPD course and completion of their criminal record check (CRC). Current indications from BC Soccer lead us to believe that, in the near future, coach training will be made mandatory by our provincial governing body.

2013 also saw the implementation of SCYSA's Soccer Academy coached by the technical director. This past year the Association hosted a fall, winter and spring soccer academy for both the U14 and U11 age group that were all very well attended. Participants also received a SCYSA soccer academy jersey and a soccer ball as part of their soccer academy fees.

The 2013 season began with coach organized friendlies and then a training session provided by the Whitecaps. This was the third 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 positive, however the Association will continue to look at ways to encourage our older children to participate at this event.

The Whitecap partnership not only continue on with the week-end training session for the House divisions but also include prospect training for the Rep divisions and identified House players and the presentation of the Whitecaps Kickin' It in the Schools program. In addition, the SCYSA is the Club team for the August 10th game Whitecaps vs San Jose. Tickets are available to SCYSA members at a reduced price and up to 75 youth members have the opportunity to participate in the Whitecap game day activities.

Other training included a goalie training clinic hosted in conjunction with BC Soccer for both coaches and players. The clinic was well attended by the players and received positive feedback from both players and coaches.

The Association strives to keep soccer affordable for all families on the Sunshine Coast. While there has been a fee increase to the regular fees, the Association offered an early bird discount this year. Those individuals that registered before the early bird registration period ended actually paid a fee that was \$10 less than the prior year. In addition, our Association greatly relies on volunteers. For the 2014 season, members will pay a \$25 volunteer fee to be refunded once 2.5 hours of volunteer time have been completed.

The Association would like to express its deep appreciation to Paul Shipton of Dundee Wealth for the continued sponsorship of our U10 division and to Tim Horton's for the sponsorship of our U7 and U8 divisions.

The 2013 season also brings to an end the services of several Board members. After 4 to 6 years on the board, Kerri Milligan, Secretary, Dave Milligan, Vice President and Rod Hamilton, Field Director will all be stepping down. The Association would like to express its sincere appreciation to Kerri, Dave and Rod for their years of service, dedication and vision to SCYSA.

With several board members stepping down, the current members still standing have reviewed the positions of the directors and require new volunteers to fill vacated 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