



SASKATCHEWAN
SOCCER ASSOCIATION



EVERYONE'S GAME



Canada Soccer's Women's National Team qualify for Olympics after early exit from Australia/New Zealand

The Olympic gold medalist Women's National Team will defend their title from Japan in Paris this summer after defeating Jamaica 4:1 on aggregate in the Concacaf W Olympic Qualifiers. Canada defeated Jamaica 2:0 away and 2:1 at BMO Field in Toronto, ON to secure qualification. The wins in Kingston and Toronto followed Canada's group stage exit from Australia/New Zealand following a 1-1-1 record that included an opening 0:0 draw with Nigeria, a 2:1 victory over Republic of Ireland, and a crushing 0:4 defeat to hosts Australia that sealed their tournament. Canada return to the Women's Olympic Football Tournament on a streak of three straight medals after earning bronze in London 2012 and Rio 2016.



Canada Soccer's Men's National Team enters new era

With the appointment of former Head Coach John Herdman to the top job at Major League Soccer's Toronto FC, Mauro Biello will lead Canada Soccer's Men's National Team into its next phase including an international friendly against Japan in October. Herdman and his staff depart Canada Soccer on October 1 for Toronto after a successful stint including qualification and participation at Qatar 2022 for the Men's National Team, and the success of the Women's National Team program at London 2012 and at Rio 2016. Everyone at Saskatchewan Soccer wishes Herdman and his staff the best in professional football.

Diana Matheson presents to sold-out crowd in Saskatoon

Project 8 CEO Diana Matheson presented to over 100+ people in Saskatoon in Mid-July, sharing insight in the new Women's Professional League that will begin in 2025. Anyone interested in being a part of a prospective ownership group is encouraged to email SSA CEO Rahim Mohamed.

Saskatchewan Showcase



Chantal Boudreau has successful FIFA Women's World Cup Australia New Zealand 2023

Regina's Chantal Boudreau earned eight appearances on-field and as a member of the video assistant referee staff in Australia New Zealand including being part of the VAR team for the tournament opening match between New Zealand and Norway. The tournament marked

Boudreau's second consecutive appointment to a FIFA Women's World Cup after her appointment to France 2019.

EXCEL Manager Adam Miller, SK physiotherapist Michelle Keene, and Canada Soccer's Men's U-17 National Team prepare for Indonesia

Saskatchewan Soccer EXCEL Manager Adam Miller was an assistant with Canada Soccer's Men's U-17 National Team during qualification for the FIFA U-17 World Cup Indonesia 2023 at the Concacaf Under-17 Championships in Feb 2023 where the team finished in third place to earn their spot in Indonesia. In September, the team held a preparation camp in Brazil where SK physiotherapist Michelle Keene was a member of the support staff.

EXCEL Manager Miller joins U-15 National Team staff for Concacaf Championship

Sask Soccer EXCEL Manager attended the Concacaf Boys' Under-15 Championships in Dominican Republic in August. The team advanced from the Group Stage with victories over Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Panama before falling in the knock-out stage on a 0:1 result to eventual bronze-medalists Haiti.

Brett Levis makes his mark in USL Championship with Detroit

Following a move from FC Tulsa to Detroit City FC, Brett Levis has found his form with Detroit in 2023. The Saskatoon-born defender has played 20 games for Detroit earning 14 starts and USL Team of the Week honours in Week 27 for his two-assist performance in a 2-1 win over Miami.

Thomas Hasal has season-ending surgery

Vancouver Whitecaps goalkeeper Thomas Hasal had season-ending knee surgery in September and was placed on the season-ending injury list by the MLS side. Hasal started three games for the Whitecaps in 2023 and four more for Whitecaps FC 2 including a shootout victory over Sporting KC II in which he made two penalty saves to earn his side the points.

Morgan Barry earns accolades, attends NDC BC

Saskatchewan EXCEL player Morgan Barry was selected as MVP for defenders at the FTF Top 60 event. Barry also accepted an invitation to participate in National Development Centre BC sessions at a visit in July.

Jackson Kovitch goes on trial with Wanderers FC, signs with Highlanders

Saskatchewan EXCEL graduate Jackson Kovitch earned a trial with the Canadian Premier League's HFX Wanderers FC in September after attending the Top 60 FTF Showcase in Toronto. Kovitch has signed with Victoria Highlanders of League1 BC on a training deal.



Saskatchewan Women's National Team trailblazer honoured by Sask Hall

Sinnett-native, Joan McEachern, a 1990s-era Women's National Team stalwart and decorated women's club football player was officially inducted into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame on September 23. McEachern was named to Canada Soccer's Top 30 Female players during its centenary in 2012. Members of Saskatchewan Soccer's Board of Directors attended the ceremony honouring McEachern - whose legend includes five Canada Soccer National Championship Titles. Congratulations Joan!

Upcoming Events

Canada Soccer National Championships takes place October 4-9

Saskatchewan teams will take place in four divisions of the Canada Soccer National Championships in 2023 with PSL champion U-15 boys and girls and U-17 boys and girls set to kick off in the U-15 Cup in Waterloo, ON, and U-17 Cup in Moncton, NB. Most matches will stream via www.youtube.com/canadasoccerty

U-15 Cup – Waterloo, ON

On the girls' side of the U-15 Cup draw, PSL Champions FC Regina Bluestars, who defeated Saskatoon Alliance Blue to earn their trip to Waterloo, will face off against PEI, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland & Labrador teams in Group B. For the Boys' U-15 Cup, Astra Academy's U-15s, who defeated Saskatoon Alliance Blue for the PSL title, will face Alberta, and New Brunswick in Group B.

U-17 Cup – Moncton, NB

The U-17 Girls PSL Champion QC United, who defeated Forge FC for their chance to travel to Moncton, will face Quebec, BC, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick in Group A. Our U-17 Boys PSL Champions Saskatoon Alliance Blue, who defeated FC Regina Bluestars in the PSL Final travel to take on Quebec and Manitoba in Group A.

League1 Prairies applications for 2024 Exhibition Series now open



Applications are underway for a future Semi-Professional League in Saskatchewan. In Partnership between Manitoba Soccer and Saskatchewan Soccer received a number of expressions of interests for participation in the league that will begin with an exhibition series in 2024. Exciting times are ahead for

players, coaches and match officials to participate in the highest level of competition within the Prairies.

Event Recap

Saskatoon hosts successful 2023 Canada Soccer Masters Competitions

Saskatoon Adult Soccer hosted the 2023 Canada Soccer Masters Championship for O-35

men and women from Sept 21-24 with ten teams participating across from six provinces. YXE FC, who defeated FCR Bluestars at Soccer Day in Saskatchewan to qualify for the competition, won the Western Masters Men's trophy while YXE Storm, who also defeated FCR Bluestars to advance to the competition, finished in fifth place on the women's side of the draw.

Finals Standings – Men

- 1: YXE FC (SK)
- 2: INTER EDC (BC)
- 3: Calgary Crew (AB)
- 4: Bandits FC (MB)

Finals Standings – Women

- 1: Angels Scottish SC (AB)
- 2: AS Montis (QC)
- 3: London Alliance Legends (ON)
- 4: Castaways United (BC)
- 5: YXE Storm (SK)
- 6: Winnipeg Bisons FC (MB)



Saskatchewan Soccer celebrates updated brand identity at Soccer Day in Saskatchewan

With hundreds of mini and youth camp attendees, small-sided tournament competitions, and a range of provincial level competition finales across three days, Soccer Day in Saskatchewan 2023 was a rousing success once again this year. The event provided Saskatchewan Soccer the opportunity to promote its newly unveiled brand identity with more than 500 t-shirts given to mini and youth camp participants, as well as our camp coaches, and association staff. Giveaways provided to all camp participants included new SSA brand stickers, tattoos, notebooks, and more!

Thank you to our participant players, coaches, referees, our member organizations, and our staff and board who made the weekend in Saskatoon a successful celebration of football culture.

See you next year in Regina!



2023 4-Corner Rural Championship

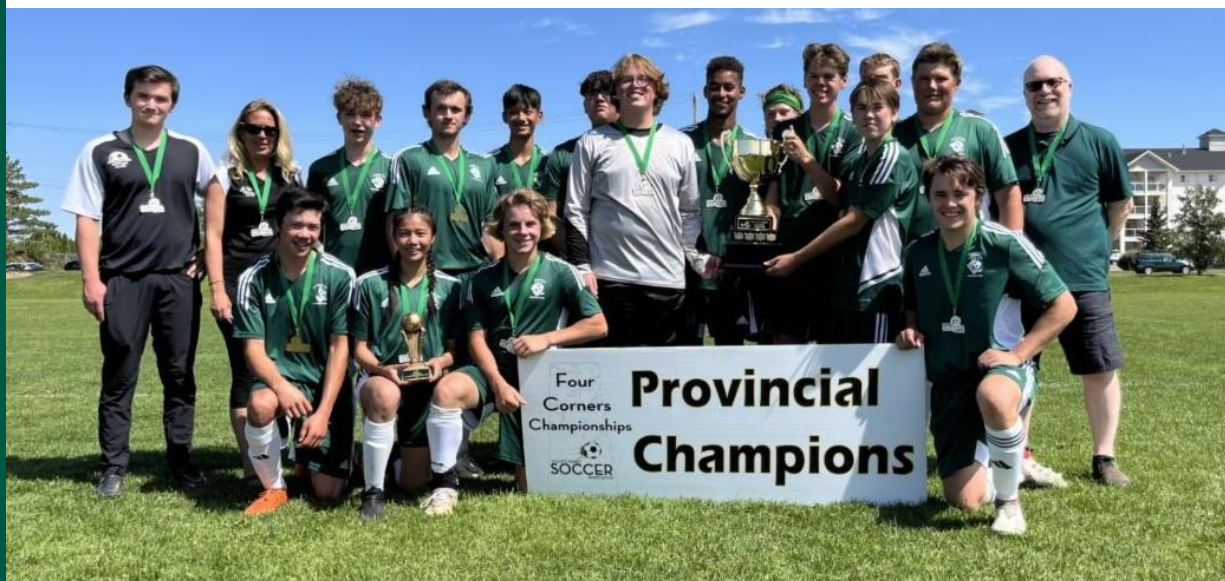
Thank you to our participating member organizations, teams, match officials, coaches, participants, and spectators for attending the first ever 4-Corner Championship hosted as part of Soccer Day in Saskatchewan celebrations in Saskatoon.

Gold: Stoughton Soccer Club

Silver: Nipawin FC

Fair Play Award: Humboldt Hurricanes

Tournament MVP: Aden Garcia (Nipawin FC)



Saskatchewan teams compete at 2023 North American Indigenous Games in Halifax

Four teams of indigenous Saskatchewan players competed at the North American Indigenous Games soccer competition from July 17-22 in 16 and under, and 19 and under age divisions.

The teams achieved tremendous success despite challenging weather in the Halifax area with the girls 16U team narrowly missing out on gold

after falling behind 2:0 in the Final to BC but pulling back to within one late.

Sask Girls 16U – Silver Medalists

Sask Boys 16U - Bronze Medalists

Sask Boys 19U – Fourth Place

Sask Girls 19U – Fourth Place

Development (High Performance, Coach, Referee)

Saskatchewan EXCEL Program updates

Saskatchewan Soccer has updated its high-performance programming for EXCEL stream boys and girls heading into the 2023-24 season. The program kicked off for 2023 with an alignment across both boys' and girls' program areas following a number of years with the Vancouver Whitecaps FC and Canada Soccer Regional EXCEL Program (REX) branding attached to the environments.

The Saskatchewan EXCEL Program is the highest-level training environment in Saskatchewan with linkages to both the Men's and Women's National Teams player pathways and a range of team-based advanced playing opportunities including semi-professional and professional club football and post-secondary athletics. As part of the updated brand identity of Saskatchewan Soccer, the EXCEL Program will now wear the Saskatchewan Soccer brand in training environments while a new team brand identity is developed to provide the players a platform and aligned jersey set for future competitions including the proposed division three semi-professional league set to kick off in 2024. In addition to the program alignment updates, for the Saskatchewan EXCEL Male program, Saskatchewan Soccer's EXCEL Manager Adam Miller completed the program's first EXCEL ID Camp September 9-10 to provide more than 30 young athletes experience, knowledge of game models, on-field training sessions, and two match showcase opportunities. The camp highlighted the program's purpose, delivery model, and provided an overview of the expectations the environment holds for its eager athlete participants.

If you are interested to learn more about the Saskatchewan EXCEL program, or would like information on future trial opportunities, please contact Kelly Rawlings (k.rawlings@sasksoccer.com) or Adam Miller (a.miller@sasksoccer.com)

Referees



An essential provider to the participant experience and advancement of the game, referees deserve respect and a supportive, abuse-free, environment. We ask that you consider your approach to referees, with this in mind. You can make the difference in the future of the game by always treating referees well, thanking them for their contributions every game, and discouraging abusive behaviours toward referees where you witness them.

Within the province, Saskatchewan's top referees had a busy quarter covering over 700 appointments as the

program ensured that there were quality officials for the Provincial Soccer League, and its Finals, Outdoor Youth Provincial Championships, Four Corners Rural Championships, Masters' Provincials, U11 Jamboree and Soccer Day in Saskatchewan.

Referees from Sask have also been well represented with domestic professional and international appointments. Daniel Boudreau and Theo Diederichsen received three CPL appointments each while Shukwia Tajik (2), Ian Adams (1), and Diederichsen (1) were appointed by MLS NextPRO as Assistant Referees.

Member Services

Female Development Network – Applications Open until October 1

Saskatchewan Soccer's Female Development Network provides funding and networking opportunities for female professionals working in soccer to share their experiences, to seek guidance, and to cultivate knowledge with others. Together we will strive to support each other's progress towards our goals, celebrate individual achievements, and build on our individual potential. This program is open to females 18 and over who are players, coaches, referees, board members, and organizers within the Grassroots, Competitive, and High-Performance levels of soccer in Saskatchewan.

Mission:

To increase, support, and retain women in soccer through empowerment, inclusion, and education.

Values:

Inclusion: We strive to create an inclusive and diverse community.

Connection: We aim to create impactful and meaningful relationships.

Empowerment: We come together to empower ourselves and each other.

Authenticity: We are here as ourselves to be ourselves.

Details:

The program runs from October to April with monthly online or in person engagements. Each month female experts from around Canada who are actively promoting strong female leadership present to the group and provide opportunities for mentorship. To see the full schedule click [here](#).

Every participant receives:

- A grant of 50% funding toward upcoming SSA-delivered advanced coaching courses (CSA C) or a \$750 grant towards a Canada Soccer Children's Licence, Youth Licence, B Licence or A Licence 2023.
- A \$200 honorarium available upon the completion of the Program.
- Saskatoon-based coaches will be provided access to the SK EXCEL Program on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. Additional honorarium for players participating in the REX Program.
- Participant welcome package.
- Opportunities to connect with female leaders within Canada and grow their own network.

Register
Today

Football Culture Working Group

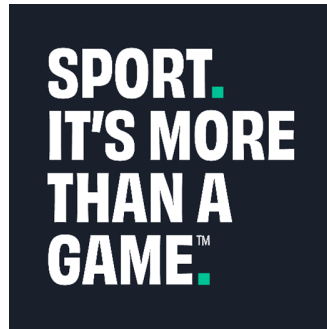
Saskatchewan Soccer is seeking interested parties to serve on its Football Culture Working Group. The group is tasked with identifying, supporting, and encouraging the ongoing development of football culture in Saskatchewan. If you are interested to serve, contact: Steven Porter, s.porter@sasksoccer.com with a short overview of the details of your role and interest in the game.

Everyone's Game, Everyone's Responsibility 2023-26 Strategic Plan

Saskatchewan Soccer Everyone's Game, Everyone's Responsibility 2023-2026 Strategic Plan sets the operational priorities of the organization as developed with the Board of Directors and in collaboration with Member Organizations. You can review the strategic plan at www.sasksoccer.com/content/strategic-plan

SSA Calendar of Events & Deadlines

To view and subscribe to our full [Calendar of Events](#) visit our website!



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