



PAYSA AGM

Technical director's report – October 8th, 2025.

During the Indoor 2024/25 season, our Association continued to grow and demonstrate the strength of soccer in Prince Albert and surrounding communities. We had more than **820 players** participating in our programs from both Prince Albert and several First Nation Bands. In addition, our **Celtic program involved almost 200 kids**, which created an extremely busy but exciting season. Scheduling was challenging at times with so many players, teams, and programs running in parallel, but with cooperation and flexibility we were able to provide a full and rewarding soccer experience for our community.

Our **House League program** started on time and as planned. Teams were created with the maximum number of players per roster. This approach helped avoid cancellations, since even if a few players missed a game, teams were still able to play and enjoy their matches. Unfortunately, two younger age-group teams from First Nation Bands decided to withdraw mid-season due to low player interest. This caused some short-term disruption, but we quickly adjusted the schedule and were able to move forward without further issues. Overall, House League ran smoothly, and it was great to see so many kids enjoying the game.

The Celtic program performed strongly again this past year. I am satisfied with the results our teams achieved, especially considering the size of our community. There is always room for growth, but we had many performances and outcomes that we can all be proud of. Our players represented PAYSA with determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship, and I want to highlight the hard work of all Celtic coaches who dedicate countless hours to training, traveling, and supporting their players.

A highlight of our development pathway continues to be the **Celtic Goalkeeper Academy**, which ran every Friday night. This program is free for all Celtic goalkeepers, ensuring that this important position receives specialized training. Alongside it, we introduced the **Celtic Training**

program for U9 and U11 players who did not make a Celtic team but still wanted to develop their skills. This initiative has been very well received, as it keeps more players engaged, motivated, and connected to the pathway of competitive soccer.

Our **Spring House League** began as usual on May 1st with **nearly 950 registered players**, making it one more in a line of successful outdoor seasons. We were very proud to have representation from five First Nation Bands: Montreal Lake, Sandy Lake, Mistawasis, Sturgeon Lake, and Beardy's. The growth of participation from these communities strengthens our Association and brings new energy to our programs.

For the second year, we used the new fields behind AJF to their full capacity, and this proved to be extremely successful. On Mondays and Wednesdays, we often saw **more than 1,000 people on site** – players, parents, siblings, and relatives – which created a vibrant and positive atmosphere for the sport. The new fields have truly become the heart of soccer in Prince Albert, and their availability has greatly improved our ability to manage such high numbers of participants.

Looking ahead, we are excited to launch the 2025/26 Indoor season. Currently, we have **almost 900 registered players**, which is the **highest number ever in PAYSA indoor history**. We also have 12 Celtic teams formed with about 190 players. Practices will begin on October 8th, and teams will compete in tournaments throughout the season. Once again, PAYSA will proudly host the **Melba Jenkins Memorial Tournament** on November 7–9. We are working hard to attract teams in every division so that the tournament continues to be a highlight of our soccer calendar.

None of these achievements would be possible without the support and dedication of so many people. I want to sincerely thank the **PAYSA President, executives, Board members, and every volunteer** who gives their time and energy to make our programs possible. From organizing schedules, to refereeing matches, to setting up fields, to coaching teams – your commitment is what keeps PAYSA strong and growing.

It is also a remarkable achievement **that a community of our size is home to the largest soccer club in the province**, which speaks to the dedication and passion of everyone involved.

Finally, I want to recognize the efforts of the **players and parents**. Whether at training, games, or tournaments, the passion and commitment shown week after week is what drives our success as an Association.

In conclusion, while the season had its challenges, it was an extremely positive year overall. Participation numbers remain strong, development programs are expanding, and our Celtic teams continue to represent our community with pride. I look forward to building on this momentum as we move into the upcoming indoor season.

Wishing everyone a great season ahead, and the very best of luck.

Ivkovic Dragan

PAYSA Technical Director