



## Sturgis Soccer Association U10 Competitive Program

Approved by the Executive Committee June 9, 2018 to bring before the Board of Directors.  
Approved by the Board of Directors June 18, 2018.

### WHAT

This is a proposal for the development of a competitive program for U10 age group. The association has seen some of its more talented players accept opportunities to play with other associations that offer competitive programs. These associations are typically not affiliated with the South Dakota State Soccer Association (SDSSA). Given the small size of our association, a competitive program needs to support our recreational program while offering a challenging experience for talented players. Developing a competitive program will drastically change the chemistry of the association. Several items must be considered prior to rolling out this program, and while this proposal explores the major points of a nascent competitive program, it certainly does not explore all the issues that may arise.

### WHY

Soccer has seen a tremendous growth in popularity in our area and with it comes opportunities for growth. An organization such as the Sturgis Soccer Association (SSA) will be slow to change to the evolving demands of its membership. One of the demands from our membership is to put better players together on one team. This is the driving factor behind this proposal.

SSA is fundamentally a recreational program and what this means for the association must be fully understood. SDSSA defines a recreational program by these terms:

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**Recreational soccer** – Is that soccer program that is primarily devoted to the enjoyment and development of soccer players without the emphasis on travel or high-level competition. The purpose of recreational soccer is to provide an opportunity for the participants to have fun, learn the sport and develop life skills including a lifelong love of the game.

**Recreational Player** – a player who is randomly assigned to a team without regard to his/her abilities and skills.

**Recreational Team** – teams formed randomly to play soccer.

**Recreational League** – leagues composed of teams formed in a random manner.

*[http://www.southdakotasoccer.com/programs/recreational\\_soccer/](http://www.southdakotasoccer.com/programs/recreational_soccer/)*

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SSA cannot simply put the better players together on one team for several reasons:

- SSA specifically participates in the recreational B division. According to the SDSSA Policies & Procedures (page 5), to be eligible for this division, the rules that our association must adhere to are:
  - the use of tryouts, invitations, recruiting, or any similar process to roster players to any team on the basis of talent or ability is prohibited;
  - the club administering the league accepts as participants in the league any eligible youths (subject to reasonable terms on registration);
  - a system of rostering players is used to establish a fair or balanced distribution of playing talent among all teams participating;
  - players are assigned to teams in accordance with the above, with no more than 7 players continuing from a previous program year (August 1 - July 31) roster; (This provision would not apply to teams from associations that do not have enough players to comply with the requirement. The Recreation Committee will determine whether the exception will be applied.)
  - league rules require that each player must play at least one-half of each game except for reasons of injury, illness, or discipline;
  - teams may participate in Competitive tournaments;
  - teams are eligible to compete in the Midcontinent Recreational Tournament;
  - a player may be rostered on one Competitive team and on two recreational teams;
  - a player may not be rostered on more than two Recreational teams (either A or B or Academy), but may be allowed to "guest" with another Recreational or Competitive team, provided the proper procedures for guesting players are followed and the specific tournament rules allow guesting of players.
- SSA should not switch its entire program to either the recreational A division or club (competitive) program.
  - Competitiveness against other SSA teams: Having tryouts and placing the more talented players on one team, would greatly impact the level of competition between teams within our own association.
  - Competitiveness within the Black Hills League: Nearly all the other associations that SSA teams compete against during both outdoor seasons operate under the recreational B division. Much like the point above, switching to a recreational A or club (competitive) program would unfairly increase the competitiveness of a couple teams from our association while just as unfairly decrease the competitiveness of all the other teams from our association.

SSA observed a group of individuals who were unhappy with decisions made by the Spearfish Soccer Association regarding this very issue and created a US Club call the Queen City Warriors. SSA members have been talking about competitive teams and they do not see the Board taking any steps toward creating them. It is only a matter of time before the membership approaches the board and demands the creation of competitive teams.

### **HOW & WHEN**

August 1<sup>st</sup> is the best time to kick off the competitive program, because: 1) the age matrix advances which moves players up an age bracket; 2) our most dedicated players continue playing in the fall outdoor season; and 3) there were no UIO boys futsal teams this past season which will help avoid some complications regarding setting up teams for the upcoming futsal season. To create a solid foundation to ensure the stability of the competitive program, the following items must be addressed rapidly:

- Create a Competitive Committee that will oversee all aspects of the competitive program. The committee chair must bring their plans before the Board for approval. In situations where time is of the essence, the Executive Committee may make a temporary decision regarding the competitive program. Duties of the committee include, but are not limited to the following:

- Serve as an administrator for the program: rosters, player cards, travel arrangements for head coaches, etc.
- Oversee the education of competitive coaches, develop a communication plan to distribute the training curriculum of the competitive teams to recreational coaches, and assist coaches as necessary.
- Be the liaison between the supporter sideline and the Board of Directors. They will proactively obtain feedback from the parents of competitive players and develop strategies to address issues with the program.
- Meet with all coaches to discuss the program and what it means for them. This meeting is geared mostly for those who will be or already coach a UIO team. This meeting will also gauge the interest of those in attendance regarding their interest in being a competitive coach.
- Recruit a certified head coach to maintain a high level of quality and consistency with player development. The certificate held by the coach must be the equivalent of a National E License or greater, or the certification must be obtained no later than six (6) months after the Board has selected them to be a competitive coach. The Director of Coaching supervises coaches. SSA compensates the coach by covering the cost for certification courses, continuing education, and travel. Coaches will sign a two-year contract or will have to reimburse the association a prorated amount of the certification and educational expenses incurred by the coach. If coaches don't want the mandatory two years, they can pay for the training on their own if they wish to coach.
  - An application process must be created, and the position must be posted to gather candidate information.
  - The Committee selects the coach and presents the nomination to the Board for approval at a special meeting held for this purpose only.
  - Coaches must make themselves available to recreational coaches to align the training with the competitive curriculum.
- Clear communication about the program will need to be developed to answer many of the questions that membership will have about the program.
  - Create a "frequently asked questions" page on our website. Reach out to the Board of Directors for initial questions to start putting this content together.
- Meet with the membership to discuss the program and what it means for them.
- Players that participate on the competitive teams, also have an obligation to play with their recreational sides. An association our size that has players that are exclusive to their competitive team, greatly hinders the competitiveness of the recreational side.
  - Competitive players are pulled out of the team placement procedure and are randomly distributed evenly among the recreational teams, unless the player is the child of the recreational team's head coach, assistant coach, team manager, or sponsor. But no more than two of these players will be allowed on the team via the head coach's selection of team staff. If a recreational coach selects more than two volunteers to fill team staff positions who have competitive players as children, only two players of team staff are guaranteed to be on the team or only one if the head coach's child is a competitive player as well.
- The expectation is that there will only be one competitive team for each gender of the UIO age group for the first year to serve as a pilot program to iron out details. A competitive team must have at least nine players, but no more than twelve. If more than twelve players register for a team, then try-outs must be used to cut players. Cut players will be tracked in case future openings occur on the teams. A competitive coach is not obligated to fill all roster spots and may leave some spots open.
  - The head coach for each competitive team is the individual responsible for making selections should tryouts be required.

- The Board of Directors will only get involved with player selection if there is an accusation of discrimination made by a member.
- Before an age group has a competitive program, the number of players in that age group must be sufficient enough so that no more than one-third (1/3) of the entire player pool of both genders is used to fill a minimum-roster of players. In this case for U10, there must be at least 27 players. (For future reference: 36 players at U12, 45 players for each of U14, U16, and U19.)
- Competitive teams are annual teams that start each August 1st. This will raise an issue with winter futsal, which has a max roster size of ten, so a method will need to be developed to split the team, have a single roster that allows for changing lineups for each tournament, pulling up a handful of recreational players to round out teams two teams, or some other solution. This will be addressed after the roster is set at the beginning of the competitive year, but before November.
- The costs for the competitive program will be bore by the player's parents.
  - Develop a financial assistance program for talented players that can't afford to be on a competitive team.
  - Set up payment plan options for competitive teams: quarterly or semi-annual.
  - The total annual cost for each player to participate in the program is \$685 based upon the following line items: The cost per player is based upon the minimum roster size to ensure that the competitive program has enough cash flow to be sustainable and handle unexpected costs. Costs that will be covered by the program will be the registration fees for each tournament, travel expenses for the head coach, home and away uniforms, etc.
    - Registration Fee: \$33 per player
    - Kit (home and away jerseys, two shorts, and two socks): \$125 per player
    - Tournament Fees (\$10 added to the cost of each fee as there is often a "convenience charge" when paying online): \$3,250 per team per year
    - Coaching (travel and lodging reimbursements, equipment): \$1,000 per team per year
    - Coaching Education: \$500 per team per year
- Matches played by the competitive teams will only be against other local competitive teams and by participating tournaments.
  - Local associations that these teams will be paired with for matches include: Queen City Warriors, Black Hills Rapids, and Razor City Renegades.
  - Fall 2018 Tournaments:
    - 2018 DASC Fall Kick Off – 8/25-8/26/2018
      - Registration Deadline: August 5, 2018
      - Registration Fee: \$325 for U10
      - Yankton Trails Park, Sioux Falls, SD
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tournament TBD
  - Futsal 2018/2019 Tournaments
    - Sturgis Christmas Classic
    - Both Spearfish Tournaments
    - BHR 2019 Winter Classic – 1/18-1/20/2019
      - Registration Deadline: January 1, 2019
      - Registration Fee: \$275
      - Rapid City, SD
    - BHR 2019 Presidents Cup – 3/1-3/3/2019
      - Registration Deadline: February 11, 2019

- Registration Fee: \$275
- Rapid City, SD
- One “Away” Tournament
- Spring/Summer 2019 Tournaments:
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Tournament TBD
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Tournament TBD

Schedule for the competitive program:

- Fall Preseason: August 1-24, 2018 – No restriction to the number of practices.
- Fall Outdoor Season: August 27-October 31, 2018 – There will be restrictions to practices due to field availability and recreational match schedule. Recommendation of one practice a week for competitive players, outside of their commitments to their recreational teams. Competitive players will have four competitive matches, two competitive tournaments, and be a full participant of their recreational team.
- Futsal Preseason: November 1-December 14, 2018 – There will be restriction to practices due to gym availability. Competitive teams will be guaranteed at least two practices per week.
- Futsal Tournament Season: December 15, 2018-March 31, 2019 – There will be restrictions to practices due to gym availability. Competitive teams will be guaranteed at least two practices per week. Competitive players will participate in six futsal tournaments.
- Spring Preseason: There won’t be much, if any, of a spring preseason due to futsal running up until the start of the outdoor season and the complications of snow on the fields early in the spring season.
- Spring Outdoor Season: April 1-June 30, 2019 - There will be restrictions to practices due to field availability and recreational match schedule. Recommendation of one practice a week for competitive players, outside of their commitments to their recreational teams. Competitive players will have four competitive matches, two competitive tournaments, and be a full participant of their recreational team.
- Summer Break: Competitive players get the month of July off as a break.