



SASKATCHEWAN SOCCER ASSOCIATION



EVERYONE'S GAME



Canada Soccer Women's National Team legends Christine Sinclair, Sophie Schmidt, Erin McLeod celebrated

The greatest international goal scorer of all time has retired. Christine Sinclair played in four Canada Soccer Women's National Team matches in October and November concluding her time with the National Team. Sinclair along with two peers from the 2012 London Olympic bronze medal team, Sophie Schmidt, and Erin McLeod, were celebrated in the series finale, a 1:0 victory over Australia at the temporarily dubbed Christine Sinclair place in Vancouver, BC in front of 48,112 fans.



Rahim Mohamed, Saskatchewan Soccer's CEO & Sporting Director, joined Canada Soccer's Women's National Team in an operations support role for the final two-match series against Australia in Langford and Vancouver, British Columbia. Mohamed served in a similar capacity for the Men's National Team during qualification for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.



Canada Soccer's Men's National Team miss Nations League Finals, can qualify to Copa America in March

The post-John Herdman era has kicked off. Interim Head Coach Mauro Biello and CANMNT followed a 4:1 loss to Japan in the October window with a promising 2:1 victory in Kingston, Jamaica on 18 November in the opening leg of their Concacaf Nations League Quarterfinal matchup. The victory was Canada's first in Jamaica in more than 30 years. However, the Jamaicans earned a penalty to win 3:2 and send themselves to the Concacaf Nations League Finals, and a berth in next year's Copa America. Canada will have a second chance to punch their ticket in March against Trinidad and Tobago.

Canada Soccer's Men's U-17 Team attend FIFA U-17 World Cup Indonesia 2023

Canada faced Spain, Uzbekistan, and Mali in the group stage of the FIFA U-17 World Cup Indonesia 2023. Canada dropped a 0:2 result to Quarterfinalists Spain and fell 0:3 to Quarterfinalists Uzbekistan, and lost 1:5 to eventual Bronze-medalists Mali. Saskatchewan Soccer EXCEL Manager Adam Miller attended the tournament as an Assistant Coach to Head Coach Andrew Olivieri after serving in a similar role through the qualifying cycle.

Canadian Premier League wraps up its fifth season, Forge FC earn fourth title

The 2023 Canadian Premier League season wrapped up with a fourth North Star Shield lifted by Forge FC as they defeated Cavalry FC with a last minute olímpico in added extra time at Tim Hortons Field in Hamilton, ON. Tristian Borges scored the game winner from a corner kick in the 111' after Forge drew even minutes earlier. Ali Musse had put Cavalry in the lead in the first half off extra time. Cavalry FC, for their part, earned the inaugural Canadian Premier League Shield as regular season champions. Both teams will join Canadian Championship winners Vancouver Whitecaps in the Concacaf Champions Cup competition kicking off in early 2024.

Saskatchewan Showcase



National Development Centre Showcase

Four Saskatchewan EXCEL Program players were selected as part of Canada Selects junior and senior rosters for the 2023 National Development Centre Competition hosted by Top Rated in Mississauga, ON in December. Canada Selects Senior squad selectees Morgan Barry and Shabona Niazi were joined by Canada Selects Junior squad selectee Taliah Evans for matches against CF Montreal, Vancouver Whitecaps, and NDC-Ontario squads. Folowe Bologun was also selected to be a member of Canada Selects, however, she was forced to withdraw due to injury. Congratulations to all players on these prestigious selections.

National Referee Appointments



Shukwia Tajik (first left) received National appointments to both Canada Soccer's Toyota National Championships Jubilee Trophy competition in Halifax as well as the USport National Championships in Kingston, Ontario.



Ian Adams (first left) was appointed to the 2023 USport Men's Soccer Finals in Cape Breton, NS and received the appointment for the gold medal game.

Development (High Performance, Coach, Referee)



High Performance

Saskatchewan EXCEL Program hosts Manitoba EXCEL for exhibition series Saskatchewan EXCEL Program boys and girls faced off against their Manitoba EXCEL counterparts at the Saskatoon Soccer Centre on November 10-12.

The EXCEL girls defeated Manitoba 4:2 and 4:1 while the EXCEL boys drew 1:1 and fell 1:2. Special thanks to Vancouver Whitecaps FC's Rich Fagan (second left) and Emma Humphries (second right) who attended the showcase series and addressed both groups.

Coach and Player Development

Manager, Coach and Player Development Markus Reinkens to depart the organization Dec 31.

Saskatchewan Soccer has announced that its Manager, Coach & Player Development Markus Reinkens will depart the organization on December 31. Reinkens, who joined Saskatchewan Soccer from FC Regina in 2018, now returns to the organization as their Director of Coaching and Sport Development. Reinkens was previously the Manger, Player Development and Soccer Science at BC Soccer before moving to Saskatchewan. A new Manager is expected to be named in early 2024.

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 fall covering 84 appointments. The majority of the appointments supported the USport Canada West soccer

season, in addition to all EXCEL appointments, and across the kick-off of the indoor season within respective Member Organizations.

Events

Saskatchewan Soccer updates provincial competition brand for 2024 and beyond

Saskatchewan Soccer has unveiled an updated competition brand for its Provincial Championship competitions at 6-a-side, 9-a-side, 11-a-side, futsal, adult, and masters, and open competitions starting in 2024. All competitions will now fall under the newly unveiled Sask Cup brand starting with the 6-a-side and 9-a-side Sask Cup competitions in February.

For more information visit: <https://www.sasksoccer.com/article/89186>



Sask Cup Gildan Hoody

\$65.00



Sask Cup Gildan Cotton Tee

\$25.00

Participants who wish to pre-order Sask Cup merchandise ahead of the 2024 Sask Cup playing season can click the link below:

Order
Here



Nominations for the 2024 SSA Recognition Awards are now open

Is there someone in your soccer community that goes above and beyond on or off the field? Saskatchewan Soccer is accepting nominations for our Annual Recognition Awards. Nominate players, teams, coaches, referees, and volunteers from your club that exemplify our mission, vision, and values. Award nominees and winners will be celebrated during the recognition celebration on March 23, 2024. The deadline to submit

nominations is January 15, 2024.

Member Services

Female Development Network

Saskatchewan Soccer's 2023-24 Female Development Network (FDN) cohort hosted their first in-person event of the season on November 2, in Saskatoon. Participants were provided the opportunity to take part in Saskatchewan Soccer's Member Session, Canadian Women in Sport Gender Equity Lens training. The group worked through the training alongside Saskatchewan Soccer executive and members, bringing a unique lens to ensure that everyone understands their role in making soccer more inclusive for girls and women. An evening social and dinner event provided additional opportunities for mentorship and discussion.



For more information on the Female Development Network and its 2023-24 cohort visit:

[FDN Information](#)



Saskatchewan Soccer retention and satisfaction survey data for 2023 now live.

As part of its role in governing soccer in Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Soccer has engaged Satori Soccer as its data collection partner related to the health of the game. In October 2023, Satori Soccer solicited survey responses from returning and non-returning youth parent and guardian contacts and adult soccer participants to assess and set a baseline for satisfaction, progression, and retention data moving. Satori Soccer will solicit survey feedback from the Saskatchewan soccer community bi-annually in spring and fall.

Initial baseline participant survey data for 2022-23 is available:

[Read More](#)

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



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