



10 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SASKATOON ALLIANCE AND NEW-LOOK SYSI

1. Saskatoon's five youth soccer zones— Aurora, Eastside, Hollandia, Lakewood and SUSC — are combining under the banner of Saskatoon Youth Soccer Inc. (SYSI) to form Saskatoon Alliance academy. It is the first program of its kind to ever be implemented in Saskatoon youth soccer.
2. The introduction of Saskatoon Alliance academy, set to launch with modified programming this spring and summer and then with a full slate in the fall, coincides with a new-look SYSI league format that will be implemented for the 2021-22 winter season. It replaces Premier, Division 2 and Division 3 with Academy League and City League.
3. SYSI's Academy League provides a higher commitment option for those wishing to train and compete in a development-based environment with meaningful competition.
4. SYSI's City League will provide a lower commitment option for a multi-sport athlete or player who wishes to simply play a game a week with optional zone practices.
5. SYSI — based out of Saskatoon Sports Centre, the province's biggest soccer facility — is the single-largest municipal organization overseeing the sport in Saskatchewan. More than 7,000 players and coaches take the pitch each year between the five zones.
6. The Saskatoon Alliance academy will include high-level options for players starting in under-11 and progressing up to under-19 — all while the athletes continue to practice with their zone club and compete on their zone team in SYSI league competition.
7. The zone's technical directors bring decades of local, national and international experience. Each of the TDs will lead an age group or division, and will be joined on the bench by provincially- or nationally-certified coaches from the five zones.
8. Training with Saskatoon Alliance will take place during the indoor and outdoor seasons, bringing together players from all five zones in each of the age groups. Alliance training for select players will coincide with traditional zone training and competition.
9. The purpose of the academy is to provide an enhanced playing and training environment that promotes player growth, enjoyment and retention.
10. This new pathway will strengthen and grow the zones, allowing participants to stay with their zone for their entire youth playing days, all while offering programming and options most attractive to each individual.