



To all the Club President,

Before I go through some detail / recap of 2021/22 season. I would like to take this first moment and thank each one of you for all your hard work and effort to ensure this season was as successful as it could be.

After spending my first year as the district chair I have walked this role understanding that there is far more to running the district than I first anticipated. Coming out of Covid and still trying to manage some changes through out the year with Covid rules changing sometimes daily if not weekly made this year an immense struggle for everyone in the clubs and district.

We also went through some changes in how we run our leagues, and moving A cup play into the spring, we lost our administrator for personal reasons halfway through the season, all equally a much larger challenge this year that I was hoping for.

I would say the large take aways from this season, is that UISA needs to change our communication to the membership, change our level of professionalism and spend more time in the planning / executing process, and less time with knee jerk reactions on doing things. The positive from all the issues we had for the fall / spring season though has led us to ensuring we put out a better league, better communication and step up our strategies for the next few years.

This will all be accomplished by spending time creating our first strategic plan that will lead us unto the next 3-5 years. We have created a Mission / Value statement for the district that we will use to help guide our decisions and help us support the clubs more.

We still have a lot of work to be done, but we are already planning much tighter time lines, and set up to ensure the fall season starts off properly and as well that we work with all the stakeholders to ensure we are growing leagues and opening more opportunities for members to grow but also for clubs to have a place for their players to excel in competition for development and for high performance competition.

I would like the following people.

Daniel Sailland, Jennifer Vinzenz, Lynn Krynowsky – these members will not be returning to the board for next year, but they have been a great resource for the board, they have dedicated hours of volunteer time and they will be very missed at the board.

Willow Rae- I would like to thank Willow for her tireless hours as a volunteer who helped right the ship over the last 15 months, and then her transition into our part time admin where she continued to spend hours helping the board and the clubs.

Rashpal Khakh- over the last 12 months Rashpal stepped in and worked part time with Willow and really stepped into help when we needed her during the end of the fall season, and then of course her transition to full time effective April 1. Her vision, commitment, and dedication to improving all areas of the operations in the district will be second to none as we move closer to Sept. I strongly encourage all the clubs to remain patience as we create some new items, as Rashpal will be helping to elevate us into 2022/23 season.

Life Members- This is the first year UISA has moved to ensure we recognize those members from the past that helped build UISA into what it is today. Tireless hours, commitment from so many people that sat on the board, we felt it was time to ensure we recognize their time as per our bylaws. To each of them, thank you

Surf Soccer- Would like to also recognize Surf Soccer again for the decision to join UISA as a full member this season. They completed the BC Soccer process completely and for their short time with us, been a good standing member, and look forward to many more seasons of them working with us and all the clubs inside the district.

Christiane Kamerman- Would like to just take a moment to thank her for her time, and to thanks Christiane for stepping up and offering the board more of her time over the next season.



Ross Cameron- for those that don't know Ross, he is the Head Ref for Nanaimo United and as we struggled for the playoff, and then into Spring, I wanted to recognize Ross on stepping in and helping whenever we had questions and he was a huge sounding board for Rashpal. Thank you, Ross, you did really help us navigate some waters, and appreciate your time.

Lastly, to all the others inside the clubs – Daragh, Adam, Ralph, Jason, Jeremy, Mel, Jordie, Aja, and many more.... thank you. There were numerous times over the last 12 months, where none of this was worth the effort, but all of your patience, commitment and reassurance meant a lot on why we do what we do and helped me try to ensure that was always my focus.

Last evening as I was preparing what to send in this, I had the thought below.

“Agreeing on how to run soccer, both on and off the field, will always be a difficult thing to agree on between competing clubs, competing coaches, and governing bodies. But the one thing that we can never take away from any of this, is that there is not a single person that is not doing this for the players or to grow and give back to the game. So as we move into the next season, there are issues we will not agree on, there are things that will not get executed perfectly, but ALWAYS remember this when confronting someone...the ONLY reason they are even doing this, is for the players and for the love of the game...PERIOD.”

Never lose sight of that

Thank you for your time, and I look forward helping for the next season.

Sincerely



Shawn Fiddick
Chair of Upper Island Soccer Association

