



2026 SHAKOPEE SOCCER ASSOCIATION
SUMMER COMPETITIVE TEAM MEETINGS



AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Meeting Overview
- Who We Are As A Club
- Information for the 2026 Season
- The Vision for 2027 and Beyond



Who We Are as a Club

You Are a Part of a Club That:

- Services players from Shakopee and 22 surrounding communities
- Offers 10 Different Programs to Provide Soccer for all Levels of Interest
- Had 1,676 Registrations for The Rec. Program in the last year
- Had 878 Registrations for The Competitive Program in the last year
- Has 38 Competitive Teams for the 2026 Season
- Has Professional coaches & hired staff



This Season

- Coaching Staff
- Team Expectations
- Managers & Communication
- Volunteer Hours



30 Coaches. One Mission.

Developing the Next Generation of Players

Our 2026 Summer Coaching Team

- **Experience That Matters**
 - 10 High School Varsity & JV Head Coaches
 - Collegiate-level Coaching Experience
 - Former Collegiate and Professional Players
- **Credentials You Can Trust**
 - US Soccer Licensed (A, B, C & D Licenses)
 - US Soccer Grassroots Certified
- **Leadership & Representation**
 - 10 Female Coaches
 - Experience across all levels from High School, College & Professional levels



Goals and Expectations

Goals

- Develop players in all phases of the game
- Provide a positive playing environment for players to grow
- Foster an enjoyment and passion for the “beautiful game”

Expectations

- Soccer is your primary sporting activity from April to July
- Player attendance is expected at all practices and games
- Communicate to coaches and managers
- Be on time to scheduled events
- More team specific information on the [Competitive Page – Expectations](#)

Desired Outcomes

- Retain players
- Continued player development
- Attract new players
- A higher level of shared commitment and interest across families within a team or age group
- Instill a sense of teamwork and commitment in all our players



Managers & Communication

- **Team Manager**

- First point of contact-communicates with the team, so Coach can coach
- Provides Team updates on a regular basis
- Manages the SportsEngine App for team communications
- Registers the team for tournaments

- **How SSA Communicates**

- Through your Team Manager
- SSA Email
- SSA Website
- Social Media
 - X - @ShakopeeSoccer
 - Facebook - ShakopeeSoccer
 - Instagram - ShakopeeSoccerAssociation



Volunteer Hours

- **Volunteering for SSA**
 - 12 volunteer hours per family
 - \$350 check per family
 - We need volunteers to help SSA run
 - PLEASE login to Dibs to sign-up for volunteer hours
 - Emails are sent out when opportunities are available
 - Communicate with us if you have any questions or issues



SSA Referee Initiative

Become a Soccer Referee

- Consider being a Referee for SSA
 - Must be at least 13 years old
 - Great way to give back to the game
 - Make money in the process
- Referee Information Meeting
- Referee Certification Classes
 - Local classes available in the metro-one day class-March 8th in Shakopee
 - On-the-field training for 1st and 2nd year Referees-more information coming

For more information, visit the Referees Page on the SSA Website



2027 and Beyond

- Birth Year Change
- Club Expansion Opportunities



U.S. Soccer Grade Year Transition

What is happening?

- All of U.S. Soccer is moving from Birth Year (20XX) to Grade Year (August 1st-July 31st)

Why are they making this move?

- To solve for "trapped" players

Date of Birth	Grade	Playing Level
8/1/2016-7/31/2017	4th	10U
8/1/2015-7/31/2016	5th	11U
8/1/2014-7/31/2015	6th	12U
8/1/2013-7/31/2014	7th	13U

Shakopee Soccer Impact

- We move from about 40% of our club being trapped to 12%.



Our Approach

9U-12U Immediate Alignment

- Moving fully to the new grade year standard
- Rip the band-aid off now & normalize younger teams.

13U+ Prioritizing Continuity

- Focus on keeping high performance teams together (ECNL-RL/NPL) to maintain team chemistry & competitive standing
- Targeting deeper and healthier rosters to withstand injuries, attrition, multi-sport athletes & appropriate in game rest

Placement Philosophy

- Final rosters will depend on tryout attendance
- Individual development, roster health & club priorities will also be taken into consideration.



Looking to the Future

- **SSA Partnership/Expansion Opportunities**
- **Dome/Indoor Training Space**



Marketing and Sponsorship



- Currently all Marketing and Sponsorship dollars all go directly to our Financial Aid
 - In 2025, we awarded over \$53,000 to 263 players
- Shakopee Cup Title Sponsor SCHEELS, Jersey supply partner Stimulus
 - Competitive Jersey Sponsors;
 - Training Haus/TCO (Front)
Culvers & Monkey Wrench Plumbing (Sleeve)
 - Recreational jersey Sponsors
 - Bravi's Mexican Kitchen (Front)
Nick Atkinson AmFam & Monkey Wrench (Sleeve)
- wadeandrews@shakopeesoccer.com





Capital Expenditure Fundraising

- **100X Surveys coming back 5/1/26**
 - **Every survey = \$1**
 - **\$20,000 available annually**
 - **Last year we earned \$6,128**

How much can we raise for a dome?

Why are the food reviews good?

select any combination



Appearance & Temperature

Portion size

Value



Taste

Menu Variety

Quality



Price

Healthy Options

Other



What's Next?

- Breakout Sessions with your team
- Meet Coach, Manager, each other
- Volunteer Check to Manager
- Team Discussion
 - Playing Days
 - Additional Practice Days
 - Tournaments
 - Required Paperwork



Questions?



SSA Key Dates

March

- 7th SSA Night @ MN Blizzard
- 8th SSA Hosted Ref Certification Class @ Red Oak
- 19th SSA Night @ Mr. Pig Stuff

April

- VFW Meat Raffle every Tuesday & Saturday
- 21st & 22nd Competitive Team Picture Day
- 24th: Ref Info Session 1st & 2nd year refs 6:30-8:00
- 27th Opening Day for TCSL Summer Season

May

- 15-17 Shakopee Cup

June

- SSA Night @ Dairy Queen-Date TBD

July

- 14th & 15th Tryouts for 9U-12U
- 25th & 26th Tryouts for 13U-19U
- SSA Night @ Old Southern BBQ & Cherry Berry Date TBD

August

- 1st SSA Day at MN United
- 16th 4th Annual Golf Classic