



August 2026

CMSA Clubhouse

Building Players, People, and Community.



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President's Message

By Duncan Hawkins, CMSA President

The Season Never Really Ends

As the summer season comes to a close, many people naturally think that soccer slows down until next spring. While the fields may become a little quieter, behind the scenes the work of building Crossfield Minor Soccer Association is very much alive.

The months of August and September are some of our busiest planning months. While our players enjoy a well-earned break or continue developing through academies and Girls Power Weekend, our volunteers are already looking ahead. We are reviewing our season, listening to feedback, planning indoor opportunities, developing new programs, strengthening coach education, growing partnerships, and preparing for what comes next.

One of the things I am most proud of is that CMSA has become more than just a place to play soccer. We are building a club that invests in people. Whether it is supporting players through our academies, creating opportunities for girls through Girls Power Weekend, developing young coaches, recognizing volunteers, or building relationships with local businesses, every initiative is part of a much larger vision.

None of this happens overnight, and none of it happens because of one person. It happens because of an incredible group of volunteers, coaches, parents, sponsors, and community partners who believe that every child deserves an opportunity to grow through sport.

As you read this month's edition of the Clubhouse, I hope you see that while the season may pause, our commitment to our players never does. We continue to learn, plan, improve, and invest so that when the next season begins, we are ready to provide an even better experience for every family who wears the CMSA crest.

Thank you for being part of that journey. We look forward to seeing many of you at Girls Power Weekend and to sharing more exciting opportunities with our membership in the months ahead.

RESPECT ALL. FEAR NONE.

Duncan Hawkins
President
Crossfield Minor Soccer Association



Girls Power Weekend: Building More Than Better Soccer Players

*By Duncan Hawkins,
President*

On August 8–9, Crossfield Minor Soccer Association will once again welcome players, parents, coaches, match officials, and community members to one of the most exciting weekends on our calendar—Girls Power Weekend 2026.

Now in its second year, Girls Power Weekend has grown from an idea into a movement. What began as a vision to create a space where girls could learn, connect, and be inspired has evolved into a weekend dedicated to celebrating the people, experiences, and opportunities that help girls thrive both on and off the field.

At CMSA, we believe that developing players means developing people. Technical skills are important, but confidence, leadership, resilience, belonging, and positive relationships are just as essential to helping young athletes stay involved in sport for years to come.

That philosophy is reflected throughout this year's event.

Across two days, participants will experience age-appropriate sessions designed specifically for girls at every stage of their soccer journey. Young players will discover teamwork, confidence, and the joy of the game. Older athletes will hear from leaders who have balanced competitive sport, school, and life while learning what it takes to continue progressing in the game.

Parents, coaches, and match officials are also an important part of the experience. Through dedicated educational sessions, they will gain valuable insight into creating positive environments that help girls succeed, remain engaged in sport, and enjoy the lifelong benefits that soccer provides.

This year's event also welcomes an outstanding group of guest speakers, coaches, and mentors who bring experiences from collegiate athletics, professional soccer, sport psychology, officiating, health and wellness, and player development. Their willingness to invest their time and share their stories demonstrates the strength of the soccer community and the importance of giving back to the next generation.

Girls Power Weekend would not be possible without the incredible support of our volunteers, community partners, sponsors, presenters, and organizing committee. Their belief in this initiative has allowed CMSA to continue growing an event that is unique within rural Alberta and reflects what can be achieved when a community works together toward a common goal.

Whether you're attending for the first time or returning after joining us last year, we hope you leave feeling inspired, connected, and proud to be part of a community that believes in creating opportunities for every girl to grow through sport.

Because Girls Power Weekend is about far more than soccer.

It is about building confidence.

It is about creating belonging.

It is about celebrating leadership.

It is about supporting one another.

Most importantly, it is about ensuring that every girl knows there is a place for her in our game.

We look forward to welcoming everyone to Crossfield for another unforgettable Girls Power Weekend as we continue to grow the girls' game—together.

Girls Power Weekend 2026 at a Glance

Dates: August 8–9, 2026

Location: Crossfield Community Centre WG Murdoch, Murdoch Field, & McCaskill Soccer Field.

What You'll Experience

- Age-specific on-field development sessions from U5 through U19.
- Inspirational guest speakers and female role models.
- Interactive workshops focused on confidence, leadership, and personal growth.
- Parent education sessions to help girls thrive in sport.
- Coach and Match Official development opportunities.
- Health, wellness, injury prevention, and sport psychology presentations.
- College pathway and recruiting insights.
- Local vendors and community partners.
- Opportunities to connect, build friendships, and celebrate the girls' game.
- Giveaways, activities, and a fun, welcoming atmosphere for everyone.

Our Vision

Girls Power Weekend is built on five simple beliefs:

- Every girl deserves to feel that she belongs.
- Confidence grows through positive experiences.
- Girls are stronger when they support one another.
- Positive role models inspire future leaders.
- Soccer is more than a game—it is a vehicle for building resilient, confident young women.

Together, we're growing the girls' game—one player, one family, and one community at a time.

QR Code to Register





CHIROPRACTIC

ACCESS CHIROPRACTIC & WELLNESS



BUILDING *Stronger* ATHLETES.

SUPPORTING HEALTHIER FUTURES.



HEALING ATHLETES.
SUPPORTING FAMILIES.

Girls Power Weekend is about more than what happens on the soccer field. It is about giving girls, athletes, and families access to the knowledge, support, and resources that can help them thrive in sport and in life.

As a Legacy Builder Sponsor of Girls Power Weekend 2026, Access Chiropractic & Wellness is helping make that vision possible. Their commitment extends beyond supporting the event—they are bringing their professional knowledge directly to GPW families and helping create important conversations around raising strong, healthy athletes.

Through their support, Access Chiropractic & Wellness is investing in something that can last far beyond one weekend: healthier athletes, informed families, and more opportunities for girls to continue doing what they love.



FAMILY FOCUSED



COMPASSIONATE
CARE



EXPERIENCE THEM IN PERSON AT GPW

Join Access Chiropractic & Wellness for a parent-focused conversation exploring how we can support the physical health and development of young athletes—helping girls move well, recover, reduce injury risk, and build healthy habits for sport and beyond.



Thank you for building the legacy with us!

Learn More! 

Summer Never Stops at CMSA

Developing players, investing in coaches, and preparing for the future.

**By Duncan Hawkins,
CMSA President**



For many people, the end of the outdoor season signals the end of soccer until next spring. At Crossfield Minor Soccer Association, however, summer marks the beginning of another important chapter in our journey.

While league schedules may come to a close, our commitment to player development, coach education, and building a stronger club continues throughout the summer months. Every session, every meeting, and every new initiative is another step toward creating the best possible experience for our players and families.

Continuing the Journey

This summer, our Academy programs have once again provided players with an opportunity to continue learning in a fun, positive, and challenging environment.

From our youngest players taking their first confident touches on the ball to our competitive athletes refining technical skills and decision-making, every session has been built around one goal—helping players become more confident, creative, and capable both on and off the field.

Beyond improving passing, dribbling, shooting, and ball control, our coaches have focused on encouraging curiosity, resilience, teamwork, communication, and a genuine love for the game. These are qualities that extend well beyond the soccer field and help shape confident young people.

Investing in Coaches

Great player experiences begin with great coaches.

Throughout the year, CMSA continues to invest in coach education by providing practical resources, mentorship, and opportunities to grow. Our Coach Quick Start series, coaching guides, and ongoing support are designed to help volunteers feel confident, prepared, and equipped to create positive learning environments for every player.

Every coach who learns something new has the potential to positively influence dozens of young athletes throughout the season. That investment continues to multiply year after year.

Looking Ahead

While players continue developing through our summer programming, our volunteers and Board members are already preparing for the future.

Planning is underway for indoor soccer opportunities, continued growth of our girls' programming, future coach development initiatives, community partnerships, sponsorship opportunities, and improvements for the 2027 outdoor season.

Every conversation, planning meeting, and new idea is guided by one simple question:

"How can we make next season even better for our players and families?"

That commitment to continuous improvement is what drives our club forward.

Building More Than Soccer Players

At CMSA, success is about much more than wins and losses.

It is about creating opportunities.

It is about helping young athletes discover confidence.

It is about supporting volunteers who generously give their time.

It is about bringing families together.

It is about building a community where every player feels welcome, valued, and inspired to keep growing.

Summer may look different from the regular season, but the purpose remains the same.

Every academy session, every planning meeting, every coach resource, and every new initiative is another investment in the future of our club.

Because while the games may pause, the work of building Crossfield Minor Soccer Association never stops.

Summer at a Glance

- Three Summer Academy Programs providing continued technical development for players of all ages.
- Coach Development through practical learning resources, mentorship, and the Coach Quick Start series.
- Growing the Girls' Game with the continued expansion of Girls Power Weekend and future programming opportunities.
- Community Partnerships that continue to strengthen opportunities for our players and families.
- Planning for Tomorrow with preparations already underway for indoor soccer, coach recruitment, and the 2027 outdoor season.
- One Club. One Community. One Shared Vision. Every step we take today helps create a better experience for every player who proudly wears the CMSA crest.

Academy Update

Our Summer Academies have received an incredible response from our members!

Due to popular demand, the U9/U11 Competitive Academy has now reached capacity to maintain a high-quality player experience.

Limited spaces are still available in our U13+ Academy. If you're looking to continue your development before the indoor season, we encourage you to register soon before the remaining spots are filled.

QR Code to
Registration
Portal



Behind the Crest

It Takes a Community

*By Duncan Hawkins,
President*

When the final whistle blows on the outdoor season, the work behind the scenes is far from over.

Throughout the summer, CMSA volunteers continue to meet, plan, and prepare for what's next. From organizing Girls Power Weekend and summer academies to planning indoor programming, strengthening community partnerships, supporting coach development, and reviewing opportunities to improve the player experience, the focus is always on building a stronger club for our members.

Much of this work happens quietly, but it is essential to the success of every season. Every registration, schedule, training session, event, sponsorship, and resource is made possible by volunteers who generously give their time because they believe in creating positive opportunities for our players.

As we look ahead to the months to come, our Board and volunteers remain committed to listening, learning, and continuing to grow CMSA in ways that benefit every player and family.

To every coach, volunteer, sponsor, parent, and community partner—thank you. Your support is what transforms a soccer club into a community.

Because behind every successful season is a team of people working together to make the next one even better.

Join the Team Behind the Team

Want to help shape the future of CMSA?

As we begin planning for the 2027 season, there will be opportunities to join the CMSA Board of Directors. Whether you have experience in leadership, events, communications, sponsorship, finance, or simply a passion for youth soccer, we'd love to hear from you.

Serving on the Board is a rewarding way to give back, help guide the direction of the club, and make a lasting impact on the experience of every player and family.

Interested? Watch for more information this fall or reach out to learn how you can become part of the team behind the team.

Board Position Descriptions are available to those interested in joining the team.

Important Reminder!

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be tentatively scheduled for the end of September - beginning of October. Watch our socials for more information on this meeting.

All are welcome to attend.



CMSA Spotlight-

Emily Burns Begins an Exciting New Chapter

Crossfield Minor Soccer Association is proud to congratulate Emily Burns on signing with Olympique de Marseille Féminines in France.

Emily's journey is a testament to where passion, perseverance, and dedication can lead. Through years of hard work and commitment to her craft, she has earned the opportunity to represent one of France's most recognized football clubs while continuing to inspire young athletes across Canada.

For CMSA, Emily's story is especially meaningful.

Earlier this year, Emily visited Crossfield to lead a goalkeeper development session for our young keepers. She generously shared her knowledge, experiences, and love of the game, giving our players the unique opportunity to learn from someone who has competed at the highest levels of the sport.

While our goalkeepers certainly learned new techniques, they also witnessed something even more valuable—a role model who demonstrated humility, professionalism, and a genuine desire to give back to the game that helped shape her own journey.

Moments like these remind us that success in soccer isn't measured only by where you play, but by the impact you have on others along the way.

At CMSA, we are committed to creating opportunities for our players to learn from inspiring people who show that dreams can become reality through hard work, resilience, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Emily's willingness to invest in our young athletes reflects the values we strive to build throughout our club: leadership, community, and supporting the next generation.

On behalf of everyone at Crossfield Minor Soccer Association, congratulations, Emily, on this incredible achievement. Thank you for inspiring our players and for showing them what is possible.

We wish you every success as you begin this exciting new chapter with Olympique de Marseille Féminines. We will be cheering you on from Crossfield!

Once a mentor to our goalkeepers. Always part of the CMSA family.





Coach's Corner-

Coaching Beyond the Scoreboard

**By Duncan Hawkins,
President**

Success in youth soccer isn't measured only by the final score—it's measured by the confidence a player gains, the skills they develop, and the smile they leave the field with.

At Crossfield Minor Soccer Association, our coaches are committed to creating an environment where every player has the opportunity to learn, make mistakes, and grow. While winning is always enjoyable, our greatest success comes from seeing players become more confident on the ball, make better decisions, support their teammates, and develop a lifelong love of the game.

Every training session is designed to challenge players in a positive way. We encourage creativity, problem-solving, communication, and resilience because these qualities help players not only in soccer, but in life.

Our coaches also understand that every player develops at a different pace. Some gain confidence quickly, while others need a little more time and encouragement. By creating a safe and supportive learning environment, we help every player discover their own potential.

As parents and supporters, you play an important role too. Celebrate effort, encourage learning, and recognize improvement—because every small step forward is part of a much bigger journey.

Together, we are developing more than soccer players.

We are helping build confident young people who respect others, embrace challenges, and enjoy being part of a team.

At CMSA, we don't just coach the game—we coach the person.

Did you Know?

Research consistently shows that the biggest reason children stay involved in sport isn't winning—it's having fun, feeling they belong, and building friendships.

That's why CMSA focuses on creating positive, player-centred environments where every child can grow.

Who wore it better?



Parent Corner

Your Words Matter More Than You Think

By Duncan Hawkins
President

At CMSA, we believe the best player environments are created when coaches, parents, and teammates work together with a shared purpose. When children know they are supported regardless of the result, they become more willing to take risks, learn from mistakes, and continue growing as both players and people.

The habits we encourage through sport—confidence, resilience, teamwork, respect, perseverance, and communication—don't stay on the soccer field. They help children succeed in the classroom, build stronger friendships, navigate challenges, and grow into capable, compassionate adults.

Winning games is exciting, but helping young people develop the skills and character they will carry with them throughout their lives is an even greater success.

Because long after the final whistle, players may forget the score—but they will always remember how the people around them made them feel.

Parent Tip

Praise the effort before the outcome. Recognize hard work, positive attitude, teamwork, and perseverance before talking about goals or the final score. When children learn to value effort, resilience, and continuous improvement, they're building habits that will serve them not only in sport, but throughout school, work, relationships, and life.

Together, we can create an environment where every child feels supported, inspired, and excited to grow—both on and off the field.

Instead of Asking...

"Did you win?"

Try asking one of these instead:

- What was the most fun part of today?
- What are you most proud of from the game or practice?
- What did you learn today that you want to try again next time?
- How did you help or encourage one of your teammates today?
- What's one thing you're excited to keep working on?

Why it matters:

These questions help children reflect on their experience, recognize their own progress, and focus on the things they can control—effort, learning, teamwork, and enjoyment. Those are the habits that not only help young athletes succeed in sport but also build confidence, resilience, and a growth mindset that will benefit them in school, relationships, and throughout life.

I particularly like "What are you most proud of today?" It gives the child ownership of the conversation instead of looking to a parent to define success, and it works equally well after a big win, a tough loss, or even a challenging practice.

Looking Ahead: The Indoor Season

As another successful outdoor season winds down, the excitement doesn't have to end. For many players, indoor soccer is the perfect opportunity to continue developing skills, staying active, and building confidence throughout the fall and winter months.

Indoor soccer offers a faster-paced environment where players enjoy more touches on the ball, quicker decision-making, and plenty of opportunities to develop their technical ability. It's an excellent complement to the outdoor game and helps players return in the spring feeling sharper, more confident, and ready to take the next step in their development.

At CMSA, we continue to explore opportunities that support our players beyond the outdoor season. This year, we are gauging interest in indoor programming, including the potential for all-girls teams and opportunities for players to compete in Calgary while continuing to represent Crossfield with pride.

Whether your player is just beginning their soccer journey or looking to continue challenging themselves, indoor soccer provides another chance to learn, grow, and enjoy the game with teammates and friends.

We're also excited to explore the introduction of U7 and U9 Indoor Development Academies, creating more opportunities for our youngest players to build strong technical foundations, develop confidence, and continue their love of the game in a fun, player-focused setting.

Watch our website and social media channels over the coming weeks for updates on registration, program details, and indoor opportunities.

Why Play Indoor Soccer?

- More touches on the ball to improve technical skills.
- Faster play that develops quick thinking and decision-making.
- Continue building friendships and team connections.
- Stay active throughout the fall and winter.
- Return to the outdoor season with greater confidence and game readiness.

The outdoor season may be coming to a close, but the journey of development continues all year long.



Help Us Welcome Rocky's New Teammate!

CMSA Launches Girls' Mascot Contest

Rocky the Crocodile has proudly represented Crossfield Minor Soccer Association for years, cheering on our players, promoting sportsmanship, and bringing energy to club events.

Now, it's time for Rocky to have a teammate!

As part of our continued commitment to growing the girls' game, CMSA is inviting all of our young members to help create Rocky's new female mascot. This is your opportunity to be part of club history by designing a character that represents the spirit, confidence, determination, and fun of girls' soccer at CMSA.

Whether your idea is fierce, fearless, kind, courageous, or full of personality, we want to see your creativity shine. Draw your mascot, give her a name, tell us a little about her, and explain what makes her a great teammate for Rocky.

The winning design will help inspire future generations of players and become a lasting part of the CMSA family.

So grab your pencils, markers, or crayons and let your imagination take over. We can't wait to see the incredible ideas our players create!

Contest Highlights

- Who Can Enter? All CMSA players.
- What to Submit: A drawing of Rocky's new female mascot, her name, and a short description of her personality.
- Theme: A mascot that celebrates girls' soccer, teamwork, confidence, and community.
- Deadline: Watch our website and social media for contest details and submission dates.

Who knows... your creation could become the newest face of Crossfield Minor Soccer Association!

Good luck, and let your creativity roar!



Are you staying connected?

Stay up to date by following CMSA on Facebook and Instagram. We share registration reminders, event updates, player highlights, and important club announcements throughout the season.

Our social channels help us celebrate our community and keep everyone informed. Follow, like, and share to stay connected and support the growth of CMSA.

What's Next?



August 8-9
Girls Power Weekend
Crossfield



August 8
Indoor Soccer Registration To Open
(estimate)



August 10-14
U9/U11 Competitive Academy
Crossfield



August 17-21
U13+ Competitive Academy
Crossfield



September 11
Indoor Competitive Team Roster
Calgary Minor Soccer



End of September- Start of October
CMSA Annual General Meeting
Crossfield Community Center



<https://crossfieldminorsoccer.ca>



<https://www.instagram.com/crossfieldminorsoccer/?hl=en>



<https://www.facebook.com/crossfieldsoccer>