November 2026

CMSA Clubhouse

Building Players, People, and Community.



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President's Message

By Duncan Hawkins, CMSA President

Small Moments. Lasting Impact.

As we move into November, our outdoor fields have grown quiet, the temperatures are dropping, and our attention has shifted indoors. Across our Academy programs and competitive teams, another season of learning, development, and opportunity is underway.

But as I reflect on everything happening within Crossfield Minor Soccer Association, I find myself thinking less about the number of games we play or the goals we score, and more about the moments that make being part of this club so meaningful.

A special thank-you to our amazing sponsor for their support for the home and away kits for our U10 Boys team this indoor (pictured above).

PecWic

Sometimes, the greatest impact we have on a young person happens in a moment we barely notice.

A coach kneeling beside a nervous child and offering a few encouraging words.

An older player taking the time to help someone younger understand an activity.

A teammate offering a hand after a difficult challenge.

A parent recognizing their child's effort rather than focusing on the result.

These moments may seem small, but to the child experiencing them, they can mean everything.

The Difference We Make

We often talk about player development in terms of technical skills, decision-making, confidence, and understanding the game. These are all important parts of what we do.

But development is also about helping children discover who they are and what they're capable of becoming.

It's about teaching them to keep trying when something is difficult, to respect others even when emotions run high, and to understand that making mistakes is a natural part of learning.

It's about creating an environment where children feel comfortable being themselves, where they know their contributions matter, and where belonging isn't something they have to earn.

As coaches, volunteers, and parents, we have an opportunity to influence those experiences every time a child steps onto the field.

And we shouldn't underestimate that responsibility.

A New Season of Opportunities

Our indoor season brings plenty of reasons to be excited.

Our competitive teams are embracing new challenges in Calgary, while our Academy programs continue providing opportunities for players of different ages and abilities to develop their skills and confidence.

I'm particularly excited about the introduction of our U5 Indoor Academy and the opportunities being created through our Junior Coach Program.

There's something special about seeing older players step forward to support the youngest members of our club.

It reminds us that the benefits of soccer don't end when a training session finishes. They continue through the relationships we build, the examples we set, and the confidence we help develop in others.

A Time for Reflection and Gratitude
November also brings Remembrance Day, an important opportunity to pause and honor the men and women who have served our country, those who continue to serve, and those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

While the sacrifices of military service stand apart from sport, the occasion reminds us of the importance of gratitude, respect, community, and remembering those whose contributions have shaped the lives we enjoy today.

As a club, we encourage our families to take time on November 11 to reflect and remember.

Lest We Forget.



The Legacy We Leave
One of the things I appreciate most about CMSA is that we are a community built by people who care.

Our coaches give their time because they want children to have positive experiences.

Our volunteers work behind the scenes because they believe in what our club represents.

Our parents support their children through the excitement, challenges, successes, and disappointments that come with learning a sport.

And our players bring the energy, enthusiasm, and personalities that make all of it worthwhile. We may not remember the score of a particular game five or ten years from now.

But a child may always remember the coach who believed in them when they didn't believe in themselves.

They may remember the teammate who made them feel included.

Or the moment they discovered they were capable of something they once thought impossible. Those are the moments that stay with us.

And those are the moments that make this work worth doing.

As we continue through our indoor season, I encourage everyone involved in CMSA to look for opportunities to make those moments happen.

Be loud with encouragement. Be quiet with correction. Celebrate effort. Make room for mistakes. And never underestimate the difference a little kindness can make.

Because at the end of the day, we're not simply developing soccer players.

We're helping young people become the heroes of their own stories.

Thank you for being part of our club and for the difference you make.

Respect All – Fear None!

Duncan Hawkins
President
Crossfield Minor Soccer Association



We Remember

Their Sacrifice. Our Freedom. Our Responsibility.

By Duncan Hawkins, President

Every November, Canadians pause to remember.

We remember those who answered the call to serve, those who left their families and communities behind, and those who never returned home.

We remember the courage of those who served on land, at sea, and in the air. We honour those who continue to serve today, and we recognize the families whose lives have been shaped by the sacrifices of military service.

For many of us, these stories are part of our own family histories. They belong to grandparents, great-grandparents, parents, relatives, friends, and neighbours.

Some stories have been shared through photographs, letters, and treasured memories.

Others remain largely untold.

But whether their experiences are well known or quietly remembered, their service deserves our gratitude.

Passing Remembrance to the Next Generation
For our youngest CMSA members, the events and sacrifices we recognize on Remembrance Day may feel distant.

That makes our responsibility to remember—and to help them understand—especially important.

Remembrance is more than observing a moment of silence or wearing a poppy.

It is an opportunity to speak with our children about the people who served, the hardships they endured, and the lives that were forever changed.

It is a chance to explain why we honour veterans, why we recognize those who continue to serve, and why the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy should never be taken for granted.

We don't need to have every answer.

Sometimes, the most meaningful thing we can do is share a family story, listen to a veteran's experience, or simply take a moment together to reflect.

A Moment of Gratitude
On November 11, we encourage our CMSA families to take time to remember those who served and sacrificed.

Attend a local Remembrance Day ceremony if you can. Wear a poppy. Share a story with your children. Observe a moment of silence.

And remember that behind every uniform was a person—a son or daughter, a parent, a sibling, a friend—whose life mattered deeply to those around them.

To Canada's veterans, active service members, and military families, we offer our sincere gratitude and respect.

To those who made the ultimate sacrifice, we honour your memory.

We remember their service.

We honour their sacrifice.

We carry their stories forward.

Lest We Forget.


WE REMEMBER.
The freedom to play, to grow, and to dream
is a privilege we must never take for granted.
To the men and women who have served and
continue to serve, to those who never returned home,
and to the families who have shared in their sacrifices —
we remember, we honour,
and we thank you.
LEST WE FORGET.

Academy Corner

Every Little Victory Counts

By Duncan Hawkins,
CMSA President



Because progress looks different for every player.

Walk into one of our CMSA Academy sessions, and you'll see children at different stages of their soccer journeys.

Some are confidently dribbling around opponents. Others are working on controlling the ball, understanding where to move, or simply becoming comfortable participating in a group activity.

And for our youngest players, sometimes the biggest achievement of the evening is walking into the gym with a smile and joining the fun.

Every one of those moments represents progress.

Our Youngest Players, Our Biggest Opportunities
This indoor season marks an exciting milestone for CMSA with the introduction of our first U5 Indoor Academy.

For these young players, soccer isn't about complicated tactics, positions, or winning games.

It's about discovering what their bodies can do, developing coordination, becoming comfortable with a ball, and learning how to interact with others.

At this age, a child who learns to stop a rolling ball, changes direction without falling over, or begins participating without needing a parent beside them has accomplished something meaningful.

These are the foundations upon which future development is built.

Different Ages. Different Milestones.
As players progress through our U7 and U9 Academy programs, their development begins to take different forms.

For a U7 player, a breakthrough might be gaining the confidence to dribble toward an opponent rather than immediately kicking the ball away.

For a U9 player, it might be recognizing a teammate in space, attempting a new skill, or beginning to look up before making a pass.

For our older Academy players, progress may involve making decisions more quickly, understanding movement without the ball, or learning to apply skills under greater pressure.

The important thing to recognize is that development is not a race, and children do not all progress at the same pace.

What Should Parents Celebrate?
It's natural to notice goals, successful passes, and impressive skills.

But some of the most important achievements are less obvious.

A child who tries again after making a mistake.

A player who encourages a teammate.

Someone who attempts a skill they've been afraid to try.

A young athlete who arrives with greater confidence than they had the week before.

These are all victories worth recognizing.

When we celebrate effort, courage, curiosity, and improvement, we help children develop the confidence to keep learning.

Creating an Environment Where Children Thrive
Our Academy philosophy is built around providing age-appropriate challenges, meaningful opportunities to play, and a positive environment where mistakes are welcomed as part of learning.

Our coaches and Junior Coaches are there to encourage, guide, demonstrate, and support players as they explore the game.

We want children to leave each session feeling that they belong, that they've accomplished something, and that they can't wait to return.

Because the most important measure of a successful Academy session isn't how many drills were completed.

It's whether our players were engaged, challenged, supported, and inspired to keep playing.

Small steps today. Greater confidence tomorrow.

At CMSA, every little victory counts.



Parent Corner

Let Them Own Their Game

By Duncan Hawkins, President

Building Confidence, Responsibility, and Independence Through Soccer
As parents, we naturally want to help our children succeed.

We pack their equipment, remind them about practice, carry their bags, offer advice from the sidelines, and sometimes find ourselves solving problems before they even realize there's a problem.

We do these things because we care.

But one of the greatest gifts we can give our children through sport is something that doesn't always come naturally to us as parents.

The opportunity to take ownership of their own experience.

Confidence Begins With Small Responsibilities
For our youngest players, independence might begin with something as simple as carrying their own soccer ball into the gym, finding their water bottle, or putting their equipment away after practice.

For older players, it might mean remembering their training gear, preparing for games, asking their coach a question, or learning to manage their emotions after a difficult match.

These responsibilities may seem small, but each one provides an opportunity for children to discover that they're capable of doing things for themselves.

And every successful experience helps build confidence.

Let Them Find Their Voice
One of the most important skills children can develop through soccer is learning how to communicate.

If a player doesn't understand an activity, encourage them to ask their coach for clarification.

If they're struggling with something, help them find the words to explain what they're experiencing.

If they want to improve a particular skill, encourage them to speak with their coach about what they can practise.

Parents can certainly provide guidance, particularly for younger children, but we should also look for opportunities to let our players speak for themselves.

These interactions help children develop confidence, communication skills, and the ability to advocate for their own needs.

Resist the Urge to Solve Everything
Soccer presents children with challenges.

They might lose possession, miss a scoring opportunity, disagree with a teammate, or experience disappointment when something doesn't go their way.

Our instinct may be to step in, offer solutions, or explain what they should have done differently.

But sometimes, children need the opportunity to work through those moments themselves.

They need space to make decisions, experience consequences, and discover solutions.

This doesn't mean leaving children without support.

It means recognizing that supporting their development and directing every decision are not the same thing.

The Ride Home Matters
After a game or training session, it's tempting to begin reviewing what happened.

We might want to discuss a missed opportunity, a coaching decision, or something our child could have done differently.

But before offering feedback, consider what your child actually needs.

Sometimes, they want to talk about the game.

Sometimes, they're disappointed and need a little encouragement.

And sometimes, they simply want to enjoy the ride home.

A question as simple as "Did you have fun?" or "What was your favourite part?" can open the door to a conversation without making children feel that every performance is being evaluated.

Their Journey. Our Support.
As parents, we play an essential role in our children's soccer experiences.

We provide encouragement, transportation, equipment, opportunities, and a safe place to turn when things become difficult.

But the game itself belongs to them.

Their decisions.

Their mistakes.

Their discoveries.

Their accomplishments.

And ultimately, their love for the sport.

When we allow children to take greater ownership of their soccer journey, we help them develop skills that will serve them long after they've finished playing.

Let them carry the ball. Let them ask the questions. Let them make mistakes. Let them discover what they're capable of.

Because sometimes, the best way to help our children grow is to give them the space to do it.

At CMSA, we're not simply raising soccer players. We're helping develop confident, capable young people.



The Development Minute-

Look Before You Receive

Better Decisions Begin Before the Ball Arrives.

Have you ever watched a soccer player receive a pass, look up, and suddenly realize an opponent is standing right in front of them?

It's something we see regularly in youth soccer.

The player may have excellent ball control, but if they don't know what's happening around them, even a good first touch can lead to losing possession.

That's where an important skill called **scanning** comes into play.

What Is Scanning?

Scanning simply means looking around to gather information before receiving the ball.

Players briefly check over their shoulders and look across the field to understand where their teammates, opponents, and available space are located.

This helps them make decisions earlier instead of waiting until the ball reaches their feet.

Why Does It Matter?

Imagine two players receiving the same pass.

Player A watches the ball the entire time. When it arrives, they begin looking for somewhere to pass.

Player B looks over their shoulder before the pass arrives. They already know where the nearest opponent is and where a teammate is moving.

Both players may have the same technical ability.

But Player B has given themselves an advantage by gathering information before receiving the ball.

That's the power of scanning.

How We Develop It at CMSA

Our coaching principle of **Control – Look – Pass – Move** encourages players to combine technical skills with awareness and decision-making.

As players develop, we also want them to recognize that looking doesn't need to begin after they've controlled the ball.

It can happen before the pass even arrives. The sequence becomes:

Scan → Receive → Decide → Play → Move

The more often players practise this habit, the more naturally it becomes part of their game.

Try It at Home: The Colour Call Challenge

You don't need a soccer field or complicated equipment to practise scanning.

All you need is a ball and two people.

- Have your child stand a few steps away, ready to receive a pass.
- Stand behind or slightly to the side of your child with two different coloured objects.

- Before passing, briefly hold up one object.
- Encourage your child to look over their shoulder, identify the color, and then receive the ball.
- Repeat, changing the colour and position.

As they become more comfortable, encourage them to take their first touch into space or pass the ball back accurately.

The objective isn't speed at first.

It's developing the habit of looking before the ball arrives.

This Month's Development Challenge
At your next practice or game, see how many times you can look around before receiving a pass.

You don't have to get every decision right.

Just begin building the habit.

The best players don't simply react to what's happening. They learn to recognize what's coming next.

Small habits. Smarter decisions. Better soccer.

Thank you to the families, coaches, and volunteers helping us expand our indoor programming.

Little feet today. Big possibilities tomorrow.

Skill opens the door; effort and attitude walk you through it.



Behind the Crest

Meet Coach Mallory & Coach Emma

By Duncan Hawkins, President

Two Coaches. One Team. A Lasting Influence.
November 2026 Volunteer Spotlight

Behind every young athlete discovering her confidence is often someone who encouraged her to believe she could do more.

For the girls representing Crossfield FC in U13 indoor competition in Calgary, two of those people are Coach Mallory and Coach Emma.

As coaches of our all-girls U13 team, Mallory and Emma are helping create an environment where young athletes can develop their soccer abilities, challenge themselves, build friendships, and discover what they're capable of achieving together.

And their contribution extends well beyond organizing practices and preparing for games.

More Than Coaching Soccer
The U13 years represent an important stage in a young player's development.

Players are beginning to understand the game at a deeper level, take greater responsibility for their decisions, and navigate the challenges that come with competition.

They're also developing confidence, independence, resilience, and a stronger sense of who they are.

Having positive role models throughout this stage can make a meaningful difference.

Through their involvement with the team, Coach Mallory and Coach Emma have an opportunity to show these girls what leadership, encouragement, commitment, and teamwork look like in action.

Every training session, every difficult game, and every moment of encouragement becomes another opportunity to help a player grow.

Strong Girls. Strong Role Models.
One of CMSA's ongoing priorities is creating meaningful opportunities for girls to participate, develop, and remain involved in soccer.

That commitment isn't only about providing teams and training programs.

It's also about ensuring our girls can see women taking active leadership roles within the game.

Coach Mallory and Coach Emma are part of that picture.

Their presence reinforces an important message to our young female athletes:

There is a place for you in soccer—not only as a player today, but potentially as a coach, mentor, referee, or leader tomorrow.

Building Something Together
Competing in Calgary provides our U13 girls with opportunities to face new opponents, adapt to different challenges, and continue building their understanding of the game.

But the success of this experience won't be measured by results alone.

It will also be reflected in the confidence the players develop, the friendships they strengthen, the challenges they overcome, and the pride they take in representing their club.

Those are the experiences that coaches help shape.

Thank You, Coach Mallory & Coach Emma!
On behalf of Crossfield Minor Soccer Association, thank you both for volunteering your time, sharing your knowledge, and investing in the development of our U13 girls.

Thank you for helping create an environment where our players can feel supported, challenged, encouraged, and proud to be part of something bigger than themselves.

Your contribution represents exactly what **Behind the Crest** is intended to celebrate.

Because sometimes, the greatest impact a coach makes isn't seen in the final score.

It's seen in the confidence of the players who once doubted themselves as a collection of players that have not played together as a group.

Building More Than Players.

RESPECT ALL – FEAR NONE!



Road to Brazil- 2027

Small Towns. Big Dreams. A World of Possibilities.

By Duncan Hawkins, President

Why the FIFA Women's World Cup matters to girls growing up in rural communities.

Somewhere in a small Canadian town, a young girl is pulling on her soccer cleats.

She might be getting ready for a practice in a school gymnasium, playing on a community field, or kicking a ball around with her friends.

She doesn't have thousands of spectators cheering for her. There aren't television cameras following her every move.

But she has something in common with the world's greatest soccer players.

She has a ball at her feet, a love for the game, and the possibility of becoming something she hasn't yet imagined.

When the World Stage Feels a Little Closer

From June 24 to July 25, 2027, the FIFA Women's World Cup will bring 32 nations together in Brazil for one of the world's biggest sporting events.

For millions of people, it will be a celebration of extraordinary athletes, unforgettable matches, and national pride.

But for young girls growing up in communities like Crossfield, it can mean something even greater.

It can change what they believe is possible.

When a young girl watches women compete in front of packed stadiums, representing their countries with skill, determination, and confidence, she sees more than an international soccer match.

She sees women being celebrated for their athletic ability.

She sees leadership, strength, resilience, and teamwork.

And perhaps most importantly, she sees a place where she could belong.

Your Postal Code Doesn't Define Your Potential

Growing up in a rural community comes with its own unique experiences.

Our players may train in school gymnasiums, travel to neighbouring communities for competition, and rely on dedicated volunteers who balance coaching with work and family commitments.

We don't have the facilities, population, or resources of larger urban centres.

But none of that diminishes the potential of the children who play here.

Talent isn't exclusive to big cities.

Determination doesn't depend on the size of your hometown.

And a young girl's dreams shouldn't be limited by where she grows up.

The Women's World Cup reminds us that extraordinary journeys can begin in ordinary places.

Seeing It Makes Believing Easier
Representation matters.

When girls see women competing at the highest level, they begin to understand that soccer isn't simply something they participate in while they're young.

It's a sport in which women can build careers, become leaders, represent their countries, and inspire future generations.

For some girls, watching the World Cup might ignite a dream of wearing Canada's jersey.

For others, it might provide the confidence to try out for a competitive team, challenge themselves at practice, or simply continue playing when things become difficult.

And for many, it will reinforce something equally important:

Their place in the game matters.

Bringing the Inspiration Home to Crossfield
At CMSA, we're working to ensure that the opportunities available to girls continue to grow.

Our all-girls U13 team competing in Calgary is one example of that commitment.

With Coach Mallory and Coach Emma supporting their development, these young athletes have opportunities to challenge themselves, develop friendships, build confidence, and experience the pride of representing their community.

They may not be playing in front of thousands of spectators, but the lessons they're learning are no less meaningful.

Every successful pass, every difficult match, every moment of encouragement, and every challenge overcome helps build the foundation for what comes next.

And when our girls see female coaches leading their teams, alongside the incredible athletes competing internationally, they see that women belong at every level of the sport.

The Dream Is Bigger Than Becoming a Professional
Not every young girl who watches the Women's World Cup will become an international soccer player.

And that's perfectly okay.

The true value of these moments isn't measured by how many children eventually reach the professional game.

It's measured by how many begin believing in themselves.

How many find the courage to try something difficult.

How many discover that their voices matter.

How many develop the confidence to lead, support others, and pursue opportunities they might once have considered beyond their reach.

Those are victories worth celebrating.

From Crossfield to Brazil — The Connection Is Real
When the world's best women take the field in Brazil, our young players will be watching more than a tournament.

They'll be witnessing possibilities. And while the distance between a small Alberta community and a World Cup stadium may seem enormous, the journey always begins somewhere.

Big dreams don't need big cities. They need opportunity, encouragement, and the freedom to grow.

Her World. Her Game. Her Moment.

Around the Club
November & Beyond

By Duncan Hawkins
President

Keeping Our Soccer Community Connected.

As November gets underway, Crossfield Minor Soccer Association is settling into another exciting indoor season. From our youngest Academy players to our competitive teams representing Crossfield FC in Calgary, there is plenty happening throughout our club.

Here are a few things worth celebrating and keeping on your radar.

Indoor Academy— Learning, Growing & Having Fun
Our indoor Academy programs are providing young players with opportunities to develop their skills, build confidence, and enjoy the game throughout the winter.

This season is particularly special as we introduce our first U5 Indoor Academy, bringing our youngest players into a fun, welcoming environment built around movement, discovery, and play.

Our U7 and U9 Academy groups continue to focus on age-appropriate development, helping players build the foundations that will support their future enjoyment of soccer.

Competitive Indoor— Representing Crossfield FC
Our U10 Boys, U11 Boys, and all-girls U12/U13 group are taking on indoor competition in Calgary.

These experiences provide opportunities to face different opponents, develop decision-making skills, and strengthen teamwork.

We encourage families to celebrate the progress they see throughout the season, recognizing that development is about much more than wins and losses.

Junior Coaches— Learning to Lead

Our Junior Coach Program continues to create opportunities for older Academy players to support younger participants.

Working alongside adult coaches, these young leaders are developing communication skills, responsibility, patience, and confidence while serving as positive role models.

It's a wonderful example of players giving back to the club that supports their own development.

Help Shape Our Club

CMSA is powered by volunteers, and there are many ways to contribute beyond coaching.

Whether you're interested in supporting events, helping with club administration, organizing equipment, or sharing a particular skill, your involvement can make a meaningful difference.

We also welcome suggestions for future Behind the Crest spotlights, where we celebrate the people helping make our soccer community special.

Interested in helping or recognizing someone?

Email: crossfieldsoccer@gmail.com

A Final Word

Small Moments. Lasting Impact.

As we close another edition of The Clubhouse, I want to leave our families with one simple thought.

Not every important moment in a child's soccer journey happens during a game.

Sometimes, it's the encouragement they receive after making a mistake.

Sometimes, it's a teammate who makes them feel included.

Sometimes, it's a coach who notices their effort, a parent who gives them the confidence to try something independently, or a volunteer who makes an opportunity possible.

These moments may seem ordinary when they happen.

But over time, they become the experiences that shape how children see themselves, how they treat others, and what they believe they can achieve.

That's the kind of impact we want CMSA to have.

Thank you to our players, families, coaches, Junior Coaches, referees, and volunteers for continuing to make our club a place where children can learn, grow, and belong.

Together, we're building more than players. We're building a community.

Duncan Hawkins
President, Crossfield Minor Soccer Association

RESPECT ALL – FEAR NONE!



What's Next?

November 11, 2026
Rememberance Day
(No Soccer)



https://crossfieldminorsoccer.ca

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

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