



Dear Parents and Coaches

The EMSA West board has been working on a program that will best support our club teams for both the boys and girls in EMSA West. We have some exciting news to share.

**Club soccer** provides opportunities for serious players to develop their skills and play with other like-minded players. Club soccer players attend tryouts and are placed on teams which are labelled Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3. Placement is according to skill level and birth year. Players commit to additional training sessions throughout the season.

Club soccer players are scouted for scholarships and have opportunities to play on provincial teams and international teams. They comprise less than 10% of our EMSA West program.

For the last decade, EMSA West girls program was known as Raiders and the boys program was known as Warriors.

Our **community players** (which comprise of over 90% of our players) have a focus of learning new skills, having fun, and enjoying fitness while developing their skills with their friends in their community. Developing life skills and enthusiasm for a sport that they can play into adulthood is key. Learning about teamwork, sportsmanship, discipline, leadership, friendship and developing physical stamina are skills that can be applied throughout the players' life. The benefits of community soccer are its relatively modest costs and ability to play with your neighbourhood friends in many cases. Community teams typically have players with a range of skill sets. Players are not tiered individually – however community teams from U11 and up are tiered during the season to allow for competitive play.

Due to work and family commitments, our Raiders Director, Bruce Simpson has reluctantly stepped away from his position as Raiders Director. Bruce has done a wonderful job of re-building the Raiders program over the past several years and we greatly appreciate his service and dedication to EMSA West Raiders program for girls.

Our board had several discussions to determine the best way forward.

EMSA West is the only zone in EMSA that ran club programs under different names. (To simplify our club promotion the board has decided to re-brand the club to **Warriors boys and girls**. The girls will all get new uniforms to match the Warriors colors which at the present time are navy and white.

The Warriors Club director for both the girls and boys will be Cheryl Denam. The players will be offered the highest level of technical training instructed by National B certification and Provincial B certification coaches. These coaches will train the boys as well as the girls to bring them to their highest potential. Typically each team will have ten technical training sessions throughout the season. The coaches and teams will be mentored by experienced high level technical staff. Cheryl Denam and two board members will be meeting with the existing coaches from the Raiders teams in mid-January.

**Fees for club players** are \$575 for outdoor 2018. This includes socks and shorts every season, registration for two tournaments and ten technical sessions. (Club owned uniforms are provided and must be returned).

Families requiring financial assistance should speak to Cheryl Denam or Debbie Johnson (treasurer). The club offers options for payment of fees. (Jumpstart, Kidsport, fundraising, volunteering).

**Tryouts** are tentatively set for the week of March 19<sup>th</sup>.  
Registration opens on EMSA portal on February 1st.

Warriors Facebook page – search **Edmonton Warriors Soccer Club**.  
Website address is **Warriorsoccer.net**

**Yours truly,**  
**June McNeil**  
**President EMSA West**