

CELTICS – Information Outdoor 2026

The Celtic program operates under the governance of the Prince Albert Youth Soccer Association (PAYSA). The Celtic program was formed in 1989 to help those soccer players wanting to play highly competitive soccer improve their skills while still participating in the house league recreational soccer program as well.

While PAYSA upholds the philosophy that soccer must always be fun, it is expected that Celtic players will have dedication to their sport and be prepared to demonstrate this dedication by endeavouring to attend all practices, games, and tournaments. The Celtic level will have a higher expectation of the players, with the understanding that that soccer will be the main commitment, and the first choice above all other extracurricular. Therefore, attendance at all times is mandatory.

In 2018, PAYSA introduced Club structure from two levels of training.

1. **The first level** is our recreational House league, this concentrates on players having fun and developing a passion for play. They will experience success and build confidence by receiving positive recognition for participating. These are game only settings with no extra training involved.
2. **The second level** is Celtic teams which will be our division 1 or 2 players who will be attending tournaments, Provincials and Club Days representing PAYSA. Players in this level will develop basic skills and continue to introduce advanced and position specific principles as well. Practises are twice a week with complex and demanding drills to address their strengths and weaknesses with the goal to improve. These players will also be participating in the House league first level.

Coaches are qualified to provide challenging opportunities for players to develop their abilities and pursue excellence at all levels. These coaches have been selected because they have shown this kind of commitment to the sport of soccer. Similarly, it is expected that players and their parents also show a real commitment to this Club!

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As a progressive soccer club, PAYSA is implementing the guidelines and recommendations established by Athletics Canada and the Canadian Soccer Association Long Term Player Development (LTPD) Model. LTPD encourages and supports the delivery of age-appropriate programs that allows the development of:

- Sound physical literacy (movement, agility, balance, coordination)
- Technique
- Tactical awareness

The development of a youth player who is confident and technically proficient in the game of soccer is measured in years not a single game or season. The focus of our training programs and our selection criteria adjust from the time an athlete enters our program at the Under 9 age and continues his/her development all the way to the Under 19 age group.

FAQ'S

Q. Can I just register for the Celtic program?

A. No. To play Celtics the athletes must be registered in the PAYSA program first.

Q. How much does it cost?

A. The costs are outlined below:

1. **Celtic fee: U9: \$100**
U11 - U19: \$150
2. **Adidas Uniforms:**
Addition or new individual items can be purchased whenever the player requires, through Source for Sports.
3. **Team fee:**
This fee will be determined by the manager according to the proposed team budget. It will cover all tournament registrations, travel expenses for non-parent coaches, wind-up parties and any other expenses incurred by the team during the season.
4. **Player hotel accommodations and travel expenses** during out-of-town competitions are also the responsibility of the player.

Q. How does my child qualify for a Celtic team?

A. All players in the under 9-19 age divisions who are registered with PAYSA are eligible to participate in the Celtic program. If you are not presently on a Celtic team from the Indoor 2025-26 season and would like to join the program, please attend the first practise in early April (times will be posted on the website /Facebook page). At this time, the coach will estimate your skills and abilities.

Q. Are the coaching staff qualified?

A. PAYSa registers all coaches with the Saskatchewan Soccer Association (SSA). All coaches must have:

- Current Criminal Occurrence Security Check
- Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) coaching certification to the appropriate level.
- Making Ethical Decisions Training and Respect in Sport certification.
- A course in Concussion management

Q. My child is an extremely strong player. Can they move up to play with older players?

A. Only in extraordinary circumstances will this be approved. The Clubs philosophy in moving a player too quickly is that it is not usually the best approach for the player's long-term development. In order to move to up an age group, the athlete must fill out an application, which must be approved by both coaches and the Technical Director.

PLAYER COMMITMENT

Attendance:

1. As stated above, soccer should be one of the main sporting priorities in the Celtic program. Players must commit to attending as many practices as possible. Sometimes vacations, family commitments and jobs make it difficult to attend all practices, however, it is expected that athletes who cannot attend a practice will inform the manager or coach in a timely manner prior to the practice or game.
2. Game schedules depend on the age group and the league.
3. All players must read and sign the Code of Conduct document at the beginning of the season.

PARENT COMMITMENT AND PARTICIPATION

All Parents are encouraged to participate in their athlete's Celtic experience; keeping in mind that they must respect the Rules and Regulations as set out by PAYSa. Parents must read and sign the Parent Code of Conduct document with their athlete at the beginning of the season.

Parent Volunteers are important for:

1. Volunteering for the manager's position and assisting with team fundraising efforts.
2. Assisting the manager in organizing transportation and organizing windups or any other activities planned by the team.

If you have any questions about the Celtic program, please contact Dragan Ivkovic

PAYSa office at 306-922-2545 or paysasoccertd@sasktel.net