

Leduc Soccer Association

Presentation to Leduc City Council

Date: 2024-02-26

Presented by: Tyler Pahl (LSA President) and Will Veidemanis (LSA Director)

Our Mission

Empowering Leduc's youth by providing accessible and inclusive soccer programs year-round, we foster growth, nurture local talent, and provide competitive opportunities, ensuring every young player can thrive and succeed within our community.



Goals & Objectives



▶ Increase Participation:

- ▶ Objective: Grow participation numbers to over 1200 participants by 2027, aligning with the city's population size, to ensure broad community engagement and involvement in soccer.

▶ Talent Development:

- ▶ Objective: Produce Club Tier teams spanning U11 to U17 for both boys and girls, providing competitive opportunities and nurturing talent across all age groups.

▶ Gender Equity:

- ▶ Objective: Achieve a balanced participation ratio of 1:1 between boys and girls in grassroots soccer programs, promoting gender equality and inclusivity within the sport.

▶ Retention and Growth:

- ▶ Objective: Reduce attrition rates for girls by implementing strategies to mitigate the 30% average attrition rate experienced with each age group transition, ensuring sustained participation and growth in female soccer.

Who we are

- ▶ Leduc Soccer Association provides youth soccer programming from U5 (4 years of age) to U19 for both boys and girls.
- ▶ Outdoor Regular Season: May to June
- ▶ Indoor Regular Season: October to March
- ▶ 2023 Youth Numbers:
 - ▶ Outdoor: 506
 - ▶ Indoor: 264
 - ▶ Total: 770
- ▶ Volunteers: 50+
- ▶ Support the Leduc Adult Co-ed Soccer League to offer opportunities for U19 players if there are no options in their age group.



Indoor Season



- ▶ October to March
- ▶ Offer a Grassroots programs for U5 and U7.
- ▶ New to 2023-2024 season Indoor Season - U9 Co-Ed House league - play in Leduc only - 35 registrants. Practice in School Gymnasiums. Play games on Saturdays at LRC.
- ▶ Would like to expand the Indoor House League to U11 in the 2024-2025 season.
- ▶ U9 to U17 play in Edmonton Minor Soccer Association (EMSA) league - Community Tiers 4-6 and Competitive Club Tiers 1-3

Outdoor Season

- ▶ Recreation and Semi-Competitive - May to End of June - 8 weeks
- ▶ Competitive - May to mid-July - 10 weeks
- ▶ U9 to U17 play in either Battle River Soccer Association (BRSA) league or Edmonton Minor Soccer Association (EMSA) league - Community Tiers 4-6 and Competitive Club Tiers 1-3



Our Program



- ▶ Grassroots - U5 and U7
- ▶ For U9 and up we offer 3 Streams
 - ▶ Recreational
 - ▶ Semi-Competitive
 - ▶ Competitive
- ▶ Last year Leduc Soccer rejoined the Battle River Soccer Association (BRSA) from Edmonton Minor Soccer Association (EMSA).
 - ▶ Allows us to put teams in Club Tiers.
 - ▶ Reduce costs for Grassroots and Recreation teams.
 - ▶ Competitive teams will play in EMSA and/or tournaments.
- ▶ Our Technical Director, who is salaried, collaborates with volunteer coaches to conduct training sessions.
- ▶ Train coaches with the aim of achieving certification for those coaching in the competitive stream.
- ▶ Develop local referee talent from our youth.

Grassroots

- ▶ We offer a Grassroots programs for U5 and U7.
- ▶ The Grassroots program is all about getting the youngest players out and playing with others in an atmosphere that encourages fun and ultimately developing a love for the game.
- ▶ The program is delivered in a “festival” format where a Canada Soccer licensed coach develops, provides and delivers the sessions with the help of volunteers.
- ▶ This allows for the development of the players and future coaches. At the end of each session.
- ▶ The players will be put into teams to have small sided games which will be used to implement the skills used during the training sessions.
- ▶ Leverage the Timbit's program to supply Jerseys, Socks, Shorts and Size 3 soccer balls.



Recreational Stream



- ▶ This stream is Co-Ed (Boys & Girls combined) and is the entry level to soccer in our Community and District for Outdoor 2024.
- ▶ This stream is for those who are looking to have some fun by playing soccer but aren't looking for anything overly competitive or time consuming.
- ▶ This is a good fit for those newer to Soccer or team sports in general.
- ▶ Co-Ed - primarily offered to U9 to U11
- ▶ Outdoor Season - play teams in Battle River Soccer Association Area - Millet, Devon, Calmar, Thorsby, Pigeon Lake, Breton.
- ▶ Indoor Season - House League that plays at LRC Fieldhouse

Semi-Competitive Stream



- ▶ This stream is suited to those who are looking to dedicate more time and commitment to soccer and would like to spend more time on the field practicing or playing games.
- ▶ This stream is a good fit for those who have some experience playing Soccer or team sports in general. Placements in this stream are subject to evaluations prior to the season beginning.
- ▶ Split into Boys and Girls Teams
- ▶ Play EMSA Community Tiers 4-6

Competitive Stream



- ▶ New to 2023/24
- ▶ This stream is suited to those who have played Soccer previously and are looking to commit to it being a primary sport. Placements in this stream are subject to evaluations prior to the season start date.
- ▶ This stream is a good fit for those who have some experience playing Soccer or team sports in general. Placements in this stream are subject to evaluations prior to the season beginning.
- ▶ Split into Boys and Girls Teams
- ▶ Play EMSA Club Tiers 1-3
- ▶ Potential Club Tier teams for 2024 Outdoor Season:
 - ▶ U11 Girls
 - ▶ U13 Girls
 - ▶ U15 Boys



Leduc Youth Organized Sports

- ▶ Soccer is the most popular activity amongst youth ages 3 to 17 in Canada at 16% participation ([Ref](#)).
- ▶ Based on the 2023 city census there is estimated to be over 7000 youth ages 3 to 17 (extrapolated based on 75% response rate).
- ▶ 7% of youth in Leduc are registered in outdoor soccer (9% lower than national average).
- ▶ Turf Sports - 2000+
 - ▶ Indoor Soccer 260+ (LSA goal is to increase participation to over 400 by 2027)
 - ▶ Outdoor Soccer 500+ (LSA goal is to increase participation to over 1200 by 2027)
 - ▶ Baseball/Softball 750+
 - ▶ Lacrosse 400+
 - ▶ Tackle Football 130+
 - ▶ Rugby <100
- ▶ Indoor ice sports - 1200+
 - ▶ Hockey
 - ▶ Ringette
 - ▶ Figure skating
- ▶ Court Sports - 500+
 - ▶ Basketball 400+?
 - ▶ Volleyball - ?



Opportunities

- ▶ Additional Indoor House League Options - With additional capacity we can offer more options to keep youth in Leduc and avoid travel while keeping registration affordable.
- ▶ Team Canada Success - With recent Olympic gold wins and Canada hosting the 2026 World Cup registrations are expected to surge. We need additional capacity to accommodate more teams.
- ▶ With better facilities we can offer club programs and keep our best athletes in Leduc.
- ▶ To attract young families, the City of Leduc would benefit from expanding its range of sports offerings, catering to diverse interests and needs.



CTV News Calgary

[Women's World Cup expected to drum up Canadian sport interest](#)

The Canadian women's team will look to inspire the next generation of soccer stars when its World Cup bid kicks off Thursday.

Jul 19, 2023



CBC

<https://www.cbc.ca/olympics/summer/soccer/w...>

[Canadian women's soccer team delivers thrilling Olympic ...](#)

Aug 6, 2021 — A relentless **Olympic** run by the **Canadian women's soccer** team has finished with a thrilling **gold-medal** victory. After back-to-back bronze ...



Canada Soccer

[FIFA World Cup 2026™ Host Cities making rapid progress on road to biggest FIFA World Cup™ ever](#)

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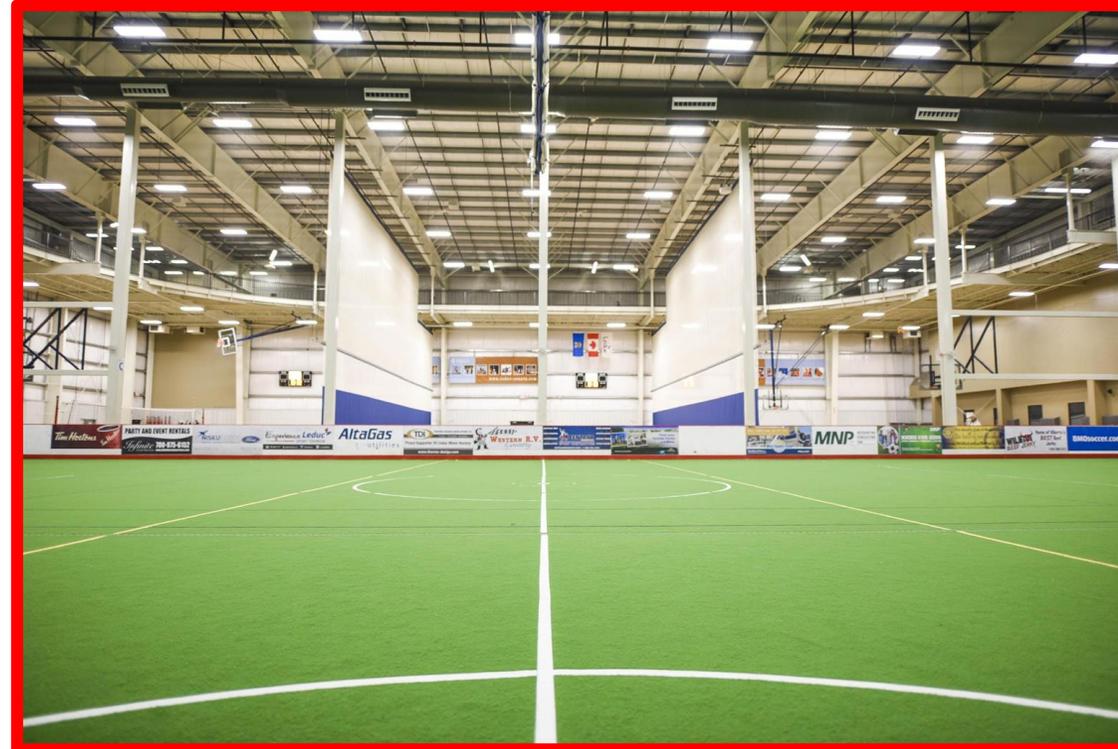
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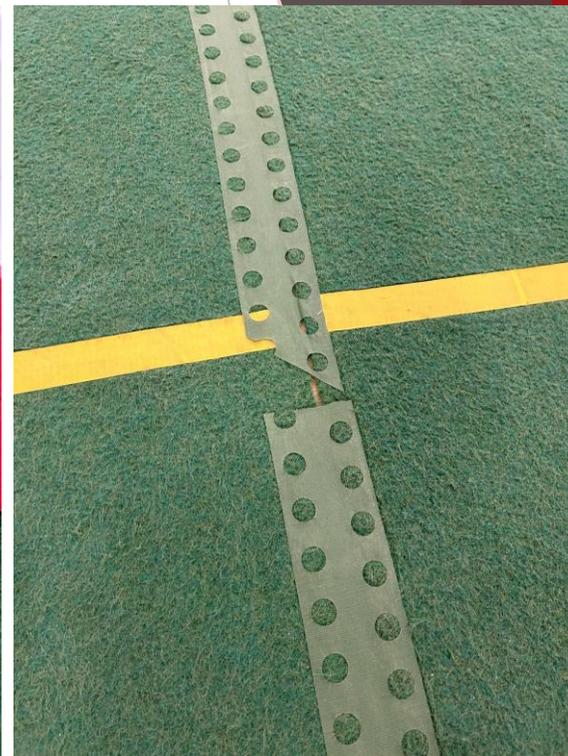
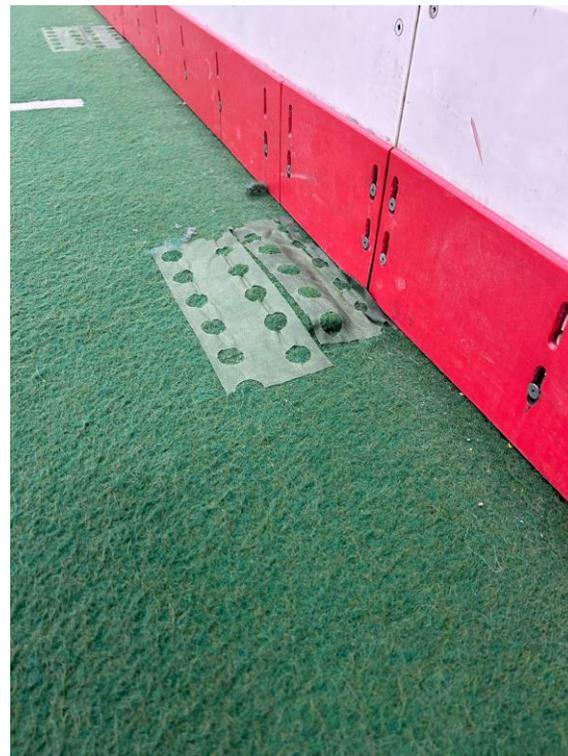
Current Indoor Space



- ▶ LRC Co-op Fieldhouse - Build in 2012.
 - ▶ Green Carpet - not turf.
 - ▶ Is removable
 - ▶ Not properly adhered to the floor.
 - ▶ Carpet slides around - risk of injury
 - ▶ No rubber padding underneath
 - ▶ Almost fully booking Monday to Friday between 5pm and 10pm
 - ▶ Not used much on weekends as games are played in Edmonton as turf is not of sufficient quality to host games.
 - ▶ Adult Recreation teams have left for Beaumont and Turf Training Center in Nisku as they have real turf.
- ▶ School Gymnasiums
 - ▶ Due to LRC capacity constraints and to reduce costs we have our indoor U5, U7 and U9 House League practice in school gyms.
 - ▶ School gyms are at capacity due to Basketball and Volleyball School and League practices/games in Leduc.
 - ▶ Scheduling programs in school gyms is challenging due to closures on professional development days, holidays, and the allocation of time for school-related events and functions.



Current Indoor Space



Our Indoor Space Needs

- ▶ A larger facility is needed to grow our program.
- ▶ Looking for an unboarded turf facility.
- ▶ Share with Baseball, Football, Lacrosse, etc.
- ▶ Warehouse Facility
- ▶ Inflatable Dome



Indoor Space Options

Option 1 - New unboarded turf facility



Option 2 - A domed facility similar to the 'Dome Red Deer' or the 'Edmonton Soccer Dome'



Option 3 - Replace the carpet in the LRC with permanent artificial turf that is not removed



Final Thoughts



- ▶ The LRC Co-op fieldhouse is underutilized due to its inadequate playing surface.
- ▶ Upgrading the LRC Co-op fieldhouse to turf may increase weekend bookings but won't meet Leduc Soccer's weeknight indoor season needs nor facilitate club tiered teams unboarded requirements.
 - ▶ Will prevent multi-use of the LRC Co-op fieldhouse for other activities that may damage the turf.
- ▶ There's a high demand for indoor turf for practice and games.
 - ▶ Turf Training Centre in Nisku is booked during peak hours.
 - ▶ Planning is underway for more soccer domes in Edmonton.
- ▶ Consider partnerships with County of Leduc and local turf sports clubs for running a turf facility, whether for practice or full games.