

Good day Drillers membership,

My name is Kyle Jhamandas, and I have been appointed the position of “Acting” President of the Drillers Soccer Club until the Annual General Meeting of the organization in September.

Our Past President Todd Tansowny has taken on a position with the EIYSA FC program, and has been nominated as President of that newly formed Board. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Todd for his tenure this past year in navigating our club through the start of an unprecedented time of challenge due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We wish him best of luck in his future endeavors and involvement representing Drillers in the new program with EIYSA FC!

To provide you some background on myself, it is safe to say that I have some deep roots and investment with the Drillers organization. I played my U-14 and U-18 Soccer youth years with the Drillers, and have been with the Drillers Men’s (AMSL) team for the past 13 years. I have been a Head Coach and Technical Coach for the club since 2011, and have held a Board member position since 2014. I graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor in Physical Education & Recreation, and have experience in past several years of working for various sport organizations, and am currently in my third year working for the City of Beaumont as the Supervisor of Sport & Fitness programs in the Department of Recreation & Culture.

We are in the midst of a challenging time for not only our club, but for youth sports as a whole. The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in disruption of normal social and physical outlets that children not only depend on, but that are essential to their growth and development. However, I firmly believe that our club has the ability to navigate through these challenges and come out positively on the other side. The main driver for my belief is embedded in our collective committed resources.

Our club has tremendous and unheralded resources in the form of our dedicated coaches, technical director, admin, board members, volunteers, and our players and parents. In an ever-changing landscape of youth soccer in Edmonton, dictated in part by the fluctuations in health policy decisions, the primary goal for our club will continue to be (and always be) to provide opportunities for youth to develop, challenge and enhance their soccer skills, growing in a positive social and competitive environment – while learning what it means to be part of a team.

The ultimate vision for the club is continue to use and build upon our resources to grow and develop our players through the entire spectrum of age groups. This begins with the “learn to move and play” Grassroots stream, which is one of the best developmental programs in the city (designed by our Grassroots Lead, Alex Dickson). This leads through into our competitive youth ranks (led by our Technical Director Ernie Cavaliere), where we strive to create strong and cohesive teams, while also fostering a demanding, yet rewarding training environment for players. This transitions all the way to our adult program, both by giving players the opportunities or outlets to continue to play soccer competitively or recreationally, and to challenge themselves for post-secondary or professional development opportunities. Many of our former youth players return to the youth organization to give back to the sport they love and get involved in coaching, and we look forward to bringing them back full-circle as young adult mentors!

Thank you as always for your time and support. I look forward to a time when we can celebrate the club all as one at Club Days (our weekend Jamboree of training/games for all youth teams and BBQ), when it is safe to do so, and bring our Drillers family together in-person.

Please feel free to reach out anytime!

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