

## **THSC Fall Soccer Celebrates Successful Season**

The Two Harbors Soccer Club (THSC) celebrates a triumphant fall season on the North Shore, marked by growth, development, and success across all age groups. The club fielded seven upper-division teams and offered a robust U6/U8 program, welcoming enthusiastic young athletes and their dedicated coaches to the fields starting in late July.

"It was a fantastic season filled with a lot of growth and success for both our players and coaches," says Club President Ashleigh Swanson. "It's one of my favorite times of year because we have so many new players trying out soccer for the first time and loving it. At the same time, we get to see our returning athletes, who come back each season eager to develop their skills and compete."

### **Building the Foundation: U6/U8 Program**

The U6/U8 program had an exceptional turnout, with many children between the ages of 5 and 7 participating in twice-weekly sessions focused on learning soccer fundamentals. "At this level, our goal is to keep it fun and engaging while teaching the basics—passing, dribbling, and shooting the ball," explains Swanson. The emphasis is on cultivating a love for the sport in a playful environment, making sure that every child leaves the field smiling and excited for the next session.



*U6 Players*



*U8 Players*

### **Training and Teamwork: U10 Age Division**

As players move into the U10 division (8 to 9-year-olds), the emphasis shifts slightly to developing individual and team skills. The club's two boys' U10 teams and one girls' U10 team practiced diligently, transitioning to playing 9 v. 9 games against other local clubs.

The two boys' teams often worked together in practices, fostering a sense of camaraderie and mutual support. "We love seeing the players cheer each other on at games and offer each other encouragement," shares Swanson.



*U10 Boys Team #1*



*U10 Boys Team #2*

The girls' U10 team also showed substantial numbers, with 18 players filling the roster—just shy of the requirement for fielding a second team. Despite having players share more than anticipated playing time with their teammates, the team was competitive and continued developing its technical and tactical skills throughout the season.



*U10 Girls Team*

### **Rising to the Challenge: U12 Age Division**

The U12 teams (9 to 11-year-olds) competed in ten games each, leading up to the highly anticipated AYSA Final Four Playoffs in Duluth. The U12 girls' team had a positive developmental season and finished in fourth place in the Bronze Division. "This group

showed tremendous improvement throughout the season as many are first-year U12 players," says Swanson.



*U12 Girls Team*

The U12 boys' team also made waves this season, finishing with a record of 4-4-1. They battled through the first weekend of playoffs to secure a wildcard spot and went on to clinch the third-place championship in the Silver Division. The dedication and teamwork displayed by this group were commendable, and the entire club was thrilled to celebrate their achievements.



*U12 Boys Team*

### **Transitioning to the Next Level: U14 Age Division**

The U14 division (11 to 13-year-olds) marked a pivotal point for many players as they prepare to transition to junior high school soccer in the upcoming years. The U14 girls' team had a good development season, working hard to refine their skills and gain experience in more competitive settings. The coaches commended the athletes and their hard work for both individual and team development.



*U14 Girls Team*

The U14 boys' team had an outstanding season. Building on their experience from competitive spring and summer tournaments, they brought high intensity and skill to each match. This group has set a solid foundation for continued success as they progress through their soccer careers, and their accomplishments have set a strong example for the younger age groups. With a record of 5-3-1, they secured the Gold Division rank for the Final Four Playoffs. In their first round this past weekend, they went head-to-head with other talented teams in the Northland. Exceptional performances by the players and coaches secured their spot as the winner of the Gold Division Pool #3 with a 4-0 win over Cloquet. They will go on to compete next weekend, which will determine if they advance to the championship game or the third and fourth place game at the Final Four Playoffs. Their games will be played on Saturday, October 5th at 10:30 AM and 3:00 PM in Duluth.



*U14 Boys Team*

### **Celebrating Club-Wide Success**

The fall season at THSC wasn't just about wins and losses but a celebration of growth, learning, and teamwork from the players and coaches. The club hosted a Fall Banquet and Club Night on September 24th, inviting the players, coaches, and all THSC families to an evening event with food and awards. The club also watched the Two Harbors High

School Girls Varsity team versus the Proctor Rails soccer game.



*THSC Fall Banquet and Club Night Girl's Varsity Game*

At the event, all coaches were recognized for their performance and dedication. "Our coaches are what make our club, and it was great to recognize them in front of their players and families for what they do for our club. We appreciate them and the time they put into our players and soccer so much." reflects Swanson. Awards for Hardest Working Players and Sportsmanship Awards were also handed out to elected athletes based on their coaches' recommendations.

As the season concludes, Swanson and the rest of the THSC community are already looking forward to what comes next. "We're excited to keep building on this momentum. Seeing the kids develop not just as soccer players but also as teammates and young leaders is what makes it all worth it."

With a strong foundation built during the fall season, the club eagerly anticipates continued success and growth in the next year, beginning with its Winter Indoor Sessions, which are hosted from early January through April.

**Get Involved!**

As the Two Harbors Soccer Club looks ahead, they encourage parents and community members to stay involved and support local youth soccer. Whether volunteering, coaching, or cheering from the sidelines, there are many ways to contribute to the club's ongoing success. Visit the THSC website or connect on social media to learn more about upcoming registration opportunities and events at [www.twoharborsoccer.com](http://www.twoharborsoccer.com).