NSA and KUFA Technical Director AGM Report 2026

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This year, our focus has been on creating a more connected club, with year-round opportunities for players of all ages and abilities and a clearer support system for our coaches. Through Nelson Soccer Association (NSA) and Kootenay United Football Academy (KUFA), we have expanded programming while developing the structure needed to support long-term player and coach development.

Year-round programming for all

One of our most significant achievements has been establishing year-round programming catering for all levels and ages. From players taking their first steps in soccer to those seeking additional challenges through representative and academy environments, our aim is to ensure everyone has an appropriate place to play, learn and progress.

Our programs include grassroots and recreational opportunities, development groups, academy training, specialist goalkeeper and striker sessions, camps, and the Elevate morning program. Together, these provide more consistent opportunities to participate throughout the year.

- A particular highlight has been **FootSkills Fridays**, which gives younger players an opportunity to develop confidence with the ball in a fun, active environment. Through ball mastery, individual challenges and small-sided games, the program encourages players to try new skills, express themselves and build a strong foundation for their future involvement in soccer.

Across our programs, our coaching approach prioritises maximum time on the ball, minimal waiting and meaningful opportunities to make decisions. We want players to leave sessions feeling that they have learned, improved and enjoyed their experience.

2025/2026 KUFA INDOOR PROGRAMS	Registrations
U10 Boys Academy	16
U10/11 Girls Academy	17
U11 Boys Academy	16
U12 Girls Academy	16
U12 Boys Academy	15
U13 Girls Academy	15
U13 Boys Academy	15
U14 Girls Academy	15
U14 Boys Academy	14

2025/2026 KUFA INDOOR PROGRAMS	Registrations
U15/16 Junior Girls College Academy	19
U15/16 Jumior Boys College Academy	18
U17/18 Senior Girls Academy	18
U17/18 Senior Boys Academy	21
U10/11 Elevate	16
U12 Elevate	9
U13 Elevate	14
U14/15 Elevate	15
Total registrations	**269**

2026 KUFA SUMMER PROGRAMS	Registrations
Three summer camps	295
Striker Academy	56
Summer Academy	133
GK Academy	34
FootSkills Fridays	20
Total registrations	**538**

A connected club system

Alongside expanding our programs, we have created a club system for players and coaches. This gives NSA and KUFA a clearer shared direction and helps connect the different stages of participation and development. The key elements include:

- **NSA and KUFA Club Model:** Establishing how our programs connect and support players across recreational, representative and academy soccer.
- **NSA Grassroots Philosophy:** Establishing a shared approach to age-appropriate coaching that prioritises enjoyment, confidence, inclusion and maximum time on the ball, helping every player build a positive foundation in soccer.
- **Grassroots 8-Week Mentorship Program:** Providing a structured framework to help grassroots coaches develop their confidence, session delivery and understanding of young players.

- **Club-Wide Coach Development Pathway:** Creating clearer opportunities for coaches to learn and progress within the club.
- **Nelson Soccer Rep Philosophy:** Establishing shared principles for player development, coaching standards and the representative soccer experience.
- **Staff Coach Development Pathway and Support:** Providing direction for ongoing staff learning, mentoring and support.
- **NextGen Youth Coaching Program:** Giving young people a pathway into coaching and an opportunity to develop leadership skills while contributing to the club.

These initiatives provide a foundation for greater consistency across NSA and KUFA, supporting coaches at every stage, from young leaders and parent volunteers to experienced staff.

Player development and opportunity

Through KUFA, we continue to provide additional opportunities for players who want to challenge themselves, with an emphasis on technical development, game understanding, confidence and positive training habits. Recreational and grassroots soccer remain central to our work. Success includes helping a beginner feel comfortable, supporting continued enjoyment of the game and preparing an ambitious player for their next challenge.

- ALL players are offered training opportunities, some will be given more time to develop but in 2026 All players that wanted to do KUFA were offered a place to develop.

Community contribution and fundraising

Through our tournaments and camps, we have raised money for the

- Michael Cuccione Foundation **($6200)**
- Everest Legacy Fund **($1600).**

Thank you to the families, players, coaches, volunteers and supporters who have contributed. These events demonstrate how soccer can bring our community together and support causes beyond the field.

Priorities for the year ahead

- Our priorities are to maintain year-round opportunities, strengthen the connections between programs and put our coaching pathways into consistent practice. We will continue to focus on the quality of each player's experience, support for our coaches and clear communication with families, ensuring players of every age, ability and ambition feel valued within NSA and KUFA.
- A key focus will be strengthening our grassroots program, with particular attention to player development, enjoyment and retention. Coach education will be a priority, ensuring our coaches feel supported, confident and equipped to deliver positive, age-appropriate sessions that help every player progress.

2025-2026 Indoor Season

The Nelson Soccer Association ran the 2025 Fall Indoor Soccer Season from October 14 to December 22.

2026 Winter Indoor Soccer Season ran from January 5 to March 15.

First Kicks Fall & Winter	43
2025-26 Indoor Youth League Registration	
Fall Leagues & Programs	317
Winter Leagues & Programs	276
Total Youth Leagues	593
2025-26 Indoor Adult League Registration	
Adult Co-ed League	105
Women's Open League	50
Men's Masters League	75
Men's Open League	51
Co-ed Masters Program	50
Winter Women's Skills	30
Total Adult Leagues & Programs	361

2026 Outdoor Season

The 2026 Spring/Fall Outdoor Season ran from April 20 till June 27. After Summer break Fall season was run from September 8 to October 3.

Participation in 2026 Outdoor Youth Leagues & Programs

- U4 Intro Mini 53
- U6 Mixed Mini 113
- U8 Boys Rec 80
- U8 Girls Rec 40
- U10 Boys Rec 78
- U10 Girls Rec 53
- U12 Boys Rec 54
- U12 Girls Rec 48
- U13+ Boys Rec 69
- U13+ Girls Rec 53
- Foot Skills Fridays 24
- Total Recreational 706
- Volunteer House Coaches 99

- Rep Program 314
- Volunteer Rep Coaches 46
- Volunteer Rep Managers 20

Participation in 2026 Outdoor Adult Leagues & Programs

- Men's Open 88
- Women's Open 74
- Men's Masters 98
- Women's Rec Spring 26
- Total 286

We hosted the Terry Walgren Memorial Tournament on May 8-10. 40 Festival teams (U10-U13) and 44 Tournament teams (U14-U18) were part of the biggest tournament Nelson has hosted so far. Total of 138 games were played. Balfour and Bonnington Fields were utilized in this year's schedule. Revenue from registration was $50,600 minus expenses equals profit of $28,933.42. Concession brought in $12,546.30 minus expenses equals profit of $8,424.43.

Rep Provincials – 5 teams from Nelson qualified for Provincials: U14 Boys, U15 Girls, U15 Boys, U17 Girls and U17 Boys. U17 Girls won Gold and U15 Boys won Bronze.

2026 Referees

- Referees (26 district entry level referees and 46 small-sided referees)
- 6 adult referees and 66 youth referees
- 24 female referees (1 adult and 23 youth referees)
- 48 male referees (5 adult and 43 youth referees)
- Total Nelson referees 72 (number that was consistent in pre-Covid seasons)