

Proposal to add Men and Women Soccer Programs at Snow College

November 5, 2015

Proposal

It is proposed that Snow College include men and women soccer as part of its sanctioned NJCAA athletic program beginning with the 2016-17 academic year.

Background

Soccer is one of the fastest growing high school sports in the state of Utah. The addition of soccer has been a topic of discussion for several years at Snow College and over these years, the Soccer Club on campus has continued to grow. A group of faculty members have worked to gauge interest, holding meetings with several campus groups and meetings for public comment. In each of the various settings, the support for soccer to become a NJCAA sanctioned sport has been very positive. The athletic department has worked within Region 18 to determine interest levels within the Scenic West Athletic Conference (SWAC). It was found that there is a strong interest in all areas to include soccer in the Snow College athletic program. The students have been very supportive, especially international students and members of the Soccer Club. The strategic plan adopted by the College acknowledged that adding soccer would be the next logical step in the athletic department. The SWAC is strongly encouraging schools to add soccer as soccer is one of the core sports for the conference and is the sport of choice for schools considering adding teams. Presidents at the SWAC schools have also indicated strong support for adding soccer. CNCC has indicated they may be adding two teams, Salt Lake has proposed adding soccer, and College of Southern Idaho and Southern Nevada are reviewing the addition of soccer to their programs. The primary benefits for adding soccer include: increasing student enrollment, encouraging diversity on the teams and on campus; providing additional opportunities for students to participate in a sport that continues to grow across the country; and an additional sport for people to watch and enjoy.

Soccer Seasons

Soccer season is in the fall for both men and women. Teams may play up to 22 matches per year and conclude with a National Championship tournament. Practice begins August 1 each year, so these team members would arrive early to campus, as football and volleyball teams do currently. There is a competitive fall season and also a spring season. During the spring, teams continue to practice and scrimmage, but do not compete with actual games or championship tournaments.

Schedule

Since USU-Eastern already has men and women soccer teams, the SWAC would play a round robin schedule. If SLCC, CNCC, Southern Nevada and CSI field teams, there would be between six and 12 league matches. Other games could be scheduled against four-year schools in Utah, and possibly one trip to either Wyoming or Arizona, where there could be two or three matches. For the first few years, Snow would not play a full 22 game schedule in the fall. There is an opportunity to have four dates for scrimmages in the spring; these dates could be used to play against teams that are located close to Snow College.

Sample Schedule:

- USU Eastern 2 matches
- SUU 2 matches
- UVU 2 matches
- Western Wyoming 2 matches
- Possible Phoenix Trip 4 matches
- Possible SLCC 2 matches
- Possible CSI 2 matches
- Possible Southern Nevada 2 matches
- Possible CNCC 2-4 matches

Coaching Staff

It is proposed to hire two part-time head coaches, one for the women's team and one for the men's team. Potentially there is a good pool of candidates in the area for the two positions. A coach for each team will allow for different travel options, recruitment of high school players and the ability to focus on academics and other concerns of each team. It is anticipated that each team will also hire a part-time assistant coach to assist in the operations of the program.

Projected Budget (per team)

Coach	\$20,000
Assistant	\$8,000
Travel	\$14,500
Operating	<u>\$20,100</u>
Total*	<u>\$62,600</u>
*Not including scholarships	
Proposed Scholarships	\$20,000

The travel budget pays for busses for the teams travel:

Sample:

St George to play Dixie State	\$2,500
Price to play USU Eastern	\$2,000 (2 trips)
Las Vegas to play College of Southern Nevada	\$3,000
Wyoming or CSI	\$3,000
Playoffs	<u>\$4,000</u>
Total	<u>\$14,500</u>

Operating Budget:

Uniforms	\$2,000
Safety Equipment	\$1,000
Hotels	\$4,000
Food on Trips	\$4,000
Balls and Nets	\$2,500
Travel Gear	\$1,800
Referees	\$1,800
Fees and Dues	\$2,000
Miscellaneous	<u>\$1,000</u>
	<u>\$20,100</u>

There is a limit of 18 players who may receive an athletic scholarship so the \$20,000 will be split between the 18 student athletes.

There will also be one-time costs involved in the development of a soccer field. Estimated costs for the development of the field have not been determined at this point. It is anticipated that the development of the field will begin in the spring of 2016 and that the field will be ready for play in the fall of 2017. A temporary location will have to be found for the upcoming fall 2016 season.

Roster

There is no limit on the number of students on each team. Many teams carry a roster of 35-40 players. This number is reduced to a squad of 18-20 when a team is playing a match and especially for traveling squads. USU-Eastern has reported a growth in their enrollment nearing 100 additional students who are reported to be involved in their two soccer teams. USU-Eastern is in its second year of competition and continues to report growth and interest in the programs. Because there are very few opportunities for graduates of high

schools to continue to compete in soccer, this provides them an opportunity for them and will be a recruiting tool for Snow College.

Soccer Camps

Snow College has hosted the Wasatch Soccer camp for the past three years, bringing nearly 400 girls and 200 boys to campus each summer. These are high school teams who participate in these camps. It is expected that this will be an opportunity to produce revenue, and introduce potential students to Snow College. The camp directors have been working with the athletic director to plan a smooth transition for the camp to be hosted by Snow College. The increased revenue can be used to help offset costs associate with the Snow College soccer program.

Projected Timeline

If approved, two coaches will be hired and schedules developed. Recruitment of high school players, and other interested students will begin immediately. Team tryouts could begin in Spring semester 2016. Both teams will begin competition in the fall season of 2016 and be eligible to compete for the national championship that year. During spring of 2017 a schedule for practice and up to four scrimmages will be instituted.