

Some Important Answers About the New Select Soccer Club

(We'll add to this as more questions come our way.)

Why Are We Creating a New Select Soccer Club?

The short answer is that many of us believe that a single select program will provide better playing and training opportunities for young people in our area. Over the past few years, several communities have created select programs that primarily serve youth in their community. While creating community teams—and perhaps reducing—drive time, this compromises important goals of select soccer programs:

- Fielding teams at all levels that can compete with the best teams in the State;
- Providing young people who love the game with the opportunity to play at the highest level consistent with their skills and understanding of the game;
- Building friendships across the Stanwood, Camano, and Skagit area
- Providing high level coaching and training to all players who choose to play select.

The discussion between an area-wide select program and community-based select programs has valid points on both sides. On balance, we think a gradual move to the former will be beneficial to our soccer loving young people.

Why Are There Still Teams Outside of the New Club?

It's important to understand that to be successful, the move to the new club will take place over time—basically this year and the coming year. The phased implementation is designed to provide existing select teams with the opportunity to stay together. This is only fair to those players, coaches and parents. They formed a community team and they should be able to continue as a community team for as long as they field a team comprised primarily of players from the 2007 season.

What's the Implementation Timeline?

In a nutshell--

For the 2008 seasonal year,

- Boys and girls U11 teams will be formed as a part of the new club. There will be no “community” select teams
- 2007 select teams which were not part of the old select soccer organization (Skagit Storm) may continue to play as independent community teams—if they hold select tryouts and at least half (50%) of the players from the 2007 team return to play this year. We say that **these teams are “grandfathered”** in that they maintain their right to play select soccer as long as they meet the 50% requirement.
- The new club will hold tryouts and form teams at all age-levels. Players from the 2007 community teams may try out for the new club's teams, for their original teams or for both.

For 2009 and beyond

- The community select teams may continue to play as independent select teams as long as 50% of the players are from the 2007 teams.

One caveat: Only teams formed under the auspices of the new club will be able to participate in the State League (after attending the State's League Placement Tournament). Community teams will be able to play in District I's gold and silver divisions.

I Bought New Uniforms this Last Year... Why Do I Have to Buy New Ones in 2008?

You don't. Teams may continue to use their existing uniforms. U11 teams and new teams that are part of the new club, will of course need to have uniforms. These new uniforms will be in the colors and with appropriate logos indicating that they are part of the new club.

Do You Have to Keep Saying the New Club...Can't You Give it a Name?

We can...and will! Or rather YOU will. Near the end of February, you (players and parents) will have the chance to vote for your favorite club name from among five top candidates suggested on the web site: www.nameourclub.com. Then we all can start referring to the new club by a real name. A name we expect to be a force in (and friend to) soccer for years to come.

Is There a Written Agreement Where I can Read All of the Details of the "Merger?"

There is. Check out the full text of the agreement at www.skagitselectsoccer.org and select the menu item "New Club News."

By the way, we'll also have a new web site--as soon as the new club has an official name and we iron out a few other details.