



Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange

Celebrating 11 years of Unforgettable Experiences

2009

Information

Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange

Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange (DVSE) is a self-supporting, non-profit organization that promotes a cultural and sports exchange between **Duluth, Minnesota** and **Växjö, Sweden**. Cultural exchange is the primary goal, competitive soccer is the medium.

Each summer Duluth or Växjö hosts an annual soccer tournament. Players from each country are matched with a visiting player. The visiting player lives with the family of his or her counterpart during the exchange. Swedish players are from Växjö and the nearby towns in Småland (the name of the area surrounding Växjö). These towns include: Lamnhult, Braas, Ingelstad and Rottne.

DVSE and Växjö each field four teams, U-15 and U-16 boys and girls. Players are selected from from Duluth and surrounding communities. We have had players from Duluth, Cloquet, Esko, Hermantown, Proctor, Superior and Two Harbors. Competitive teams from the region are invited to participate in the tournament during our host year. There are a maximum of 18 players per team, each with competitive soccer experience. Practices are organized by each team's volunteer coaching staff and are arranged to work around player's summer schedules. Every attempt is made to not conflict with summer tournaments, high school tryouts and or games. Participation is flexible, but a commitment is required.

2009 is a Travel Year

An official entourage of approximately 84 adult coaches, managers and players will travel to Växjö, Sweden 28 June 2009 through 9 July 2009. Known and estimated costs are as follows:

- Travel Deposit of \$100 - paid to DVSE - refunds will be distributed after travel and upon return of a laundered uniform.
- Player Fee of \$150 - paid to DVSE each year
- Warm-up - cost is approximately \$100 - Warm-ups are mandatory for all players, optional for coaches and managers. Warm-ups allow easy identification while travelling.
 - Players will make payment for warm-ups directly to the vendor.
 - It is the players responsibility to order the correct size and to place order.
 - DVSE will provide multiple opportunities at general meetings for vendor to secure orders and arrange delivery.
- Air travel estimate, \$1395. Payment arrangements between Duluth Travel and player/family. This allows for payment via cash, check, or credit card.
- Ground transportation to Minneapolis and back to Duluth, and to Växjö and back from Copenhagen is estimated at \$100 (total for both).
- Passport Fees of \$110 for 15 and under, \$115 for 16 and over.
- Spending Money - this will vary by family. Rule of thumb is \$200 to \$300.

Total cost including player fee, warm-up and travel (air and ground) is currently estimated at \$1745. Total does not include deposit, passport or spending money.

Player Eligibility and Family Responsibilities

We are inviting male and female players who will be 15 or 16 years of age next summer (2009) to apply. If a player is age eligible and participated in the program in 2008, he or she is considered a 'legacy' player and is accepted upon receipt of the completed player application and fees. The exception is age eligible players who have enjoyed two years in the program. Those players will be given consideration should our recruitment efforts fall short.

*** All fees must be current and laundered uniforms must be returned before any player will be considered for registration.

We also give priority to players from 'legacy families', families with siblings who are past participants.

Although the cultural exchange is our primary focus, it's important that players have competitive soccer experience. The Swedes and other teams in the exchange play at a level that necessitates skills and understanding of the game. We require a player card from a competitive, recreational, junior or senior high school team or a signed note from your coach confirming your experience.

All families who have players participating in the exchange will be required to participate on a committee this year. There will be no buy-out option available. For U15 players who are new to the program, you and your family need to be able to fulfill hosting and volunteering responsibilities for 2010. Committees in need of volunteers for 2009 include fundraising, travel and merchandise. A list of committees and hosting duties/tips will be provided by the DVSE board for 2010.

Time-lines for team sign-up and what do you need to do and when

September 8, 2008 E-mails sent out Legacy Families

September 21, 2008 Attend 1st General Meeting 7-8 PM in the Great Lakes Ballroom at the Holiday Inn downtown Duluth

October 12, 2008 Deadline for Legacy Families to return application, forms and fees (including uniform return and outstanding 2009 fees). Upon receipt, your roster spot is confirmed.

Beginning October 13th we will have three open enrollment periods. The dates for these periods are:

Oct 12 - Nov 16

Nov 17 - Dec14

Dec 15 - Jan11

Upon receipt of completed application, forms and fees, roster spots will be confirmed at the end of each open enrollment period. If during any period, applicants are greater than available roster positions, all applications for that enrollment period will be placed in a lottery and randomly drawn to fill the team. Fees and deposits for all applicants not selected, will be returned.

Maximum numbers of players per team is 18.

Please complete all forms included in this communication and send to DVSE:

- Player application form
- Player card or signed note from competitive team coach
- Player contract
- Player profile
- Write **two** checks to DVSE: one for \$150* and one for \$100** Send to:

DVSE

23 West Central Entrance, #329

Duluth, MN 55811

*This check is for the player fee

**This second check is for the travel deposit. DVSE will be issue refunds after travel and upon receipt of the player's laundered uniform.

Write your full name on the application. Your check will indicate your interest in traveling to Sweden. Once your application is accepted and you are assigned to a team, you will be given a payment schedule for your air ticket.

If you do not have a passport, a representative from St. Louis County will be available at a future DVSE meeting to answer questions and assist with the application. It is your responsibility, however, to secure your passport. DVSE recommends completing and filing the application before years end.

We **highly** recommend you take advantage of the many fundraisers sponsored by DVSE to offset the cost of travel. The sooner you register, the greater the opportunity to participate in fundraising.

Meeting Schedule

DVSE holds its General Meetings for parents and players meetings at the Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites in downtown Duluth, 200 West First Street. All meeting dates are posted on www.sistercitysoccer.org.

General Meetings scheduled:

Sunday, September 21 7-8 PM Great Lakes Ballroom

Sunday, October 26 7-8 PM site to be determined

**Scheduled dates for future General Meetings and other meetings/activities including fundraisers and planning committee meetings will be announced and posted on website. Intention is to meet monthly.