



**Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange**  
Celebrating 18 years of Unforgettable Experiences

**2017**  
**Information**

**(Includes cost and registration information for  
2017 travel year to Sweden and 2018 host year)**

## **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 and Växjö alternate hosting the Sister City Soccer Cup. 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 Smaåland (the name of the area surrounding Växjö). These towns include: Lammhult, Braås, Ingelstad and Rottne.

**DVSE is a 2-year program. Players enter the program and play as a U15 in their first year, and play as U16 their second year. Participants will travel on an odd numbered year and host on an even numbered year (ex. 2018 host, 2019 travel).**

DVSE and Växjö each field four teams, two U-15 and two U-16 boys and girls. Players are selected 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 or we will participate in the Lake Superior Open Tournamnet. There are a maximum of 16 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.

## **Player Eligibility and Family Responsibilities**

We are inviting male and female players who are birth year 2003 to apply.

Selection priority is given to players from "**legacy families**" (families with siblings who are past participants in DVSE) who register by the first enrollment deadline of **August 15** to maintain their priority selection. It is recommended (but not required) that Legacy players have played competitive soccer within the past three years.

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 highly competitive level. DVSE may require a player card from a competitive, recreational, junior or senior high school team or a signed note from your coach confirming your experience. Families should understand that all players will play in the tournament games, but it is considered competitive play, and time on the field may not be equal between all players.

Participating families need to inform DVSE coaches and/or the DVSE board of all player medical conditions and injuries. This information is initially recorded on the DVSE player profile/medical release. Please keep the DVSE leadership informed of health changes, as it allows us to make accommodations relating to travel and ability to play in the tournament games.

DVSE is volunteer run organization. **All** families who have players participating in the exchange will be required to participate in a DVSE committee. These committees include individual fundraising, group fundraising, corporate sponsorship, merchandise/apparel, tournament, hospitality, travel/transportation, communications/web social media.

DVSE is looking for family members who are interested in serving on the DVSE Board during the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 years. If you are interested in serving on the board please contact Alicia Dahlin at 218-729-0519/chefdahlin@hotmail.com or sistercitysoccer@gmail.com.

### **DVSE Information & Registration**

For registered DVSE families or for new families looking to gather additional information on the program, please attend the Open House – **Information Meeting August 7th 6:30-8 pm at Peace Church @ 1111 N. 11th Ave. E.** Feel free to stop in anytime to talk to board members, players and parents about the program.

**For new player applicants-** Beginning August 1st we will have two open enrollment periods to complete the team rosters. Apply early as teams fill quickly. The dates for these periods are:

- **August 1 – August 15**
  - Legacy applications and registration fee must be received by August 15 to maintain priority status.
- **August 1 – August 31**
  - New player applications accepted. Applications will be accepted in the order of application date.

Upon receipt of completed application and fee, roster spots will be confirmed the first week of September. If during any period, applicants are greater than available roster positions, the first 16 enrolled will be accepted on the team and the remaining applications will be placed on a waiting list. Preference may be given to applicants that are able to fill certain positions such as goalie, coaches, and team manager. Deposits for all applicants not selected will be returned.

If there are still available roster spots on either team after August 31 – applications will be received and reviewed on a weekly basis until the teams are full.

Maximum numbers of players per team is 16.

**For returning U16 players** - You are also expected to go onto the website and register again for the 2018 host year by August 31, 2017.

**Online only** completed applications consist of:

- Player application form
- **\$105** registration fee (\$5 non-refundable processing fee) required;

### **Meeting Schedule**

DVSE holds its General Meetings for parents and players on the third Sunday of the month (subject to change) in the Fellowship Hall of Peace Church (lower level at back entrance), 1111 Eleventh Ave. East, Duluth, MN. Meetings start at 6:30 pm. All meeting dates are posted on [www.sistercitysoccer.org](http://www.sistercitysoccer.org)

## **2018 is a Host Year**

A delegation of Swedish players, coaches, managers, board members, and tourists will travel to Duluth, sometime in late June to early July for 12 to 14 days. Duluth 2003 birth year players will be matched with a Swedish player, and your family will host the player during their stay in Duluth. (2002 birth year players already have been matched)

### 2018 Host year costs

The annual **player fee** of a host year is **\$525.00** payable to DVSE:

**\$105.00** is due with the completed player application.

The second payment for **\$200.00** should be received by DVSE no later than Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.

The third payment for **\$225.00** should be received by DVSE no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>.

The player fee is higher in a host year than in the travel year because the fee covers group activities for the player and their Swedish guest, including a day trip to MOA and Valleyfair as well as additional costs for local transportation, other events and costs only incurred on hosting years.

Host families are responsible for all food, entertainment, and other incidental costs incurred on behalf of their Swedish match during their stay. Specifically: food and water at the tournament & DVSE sponsored activities/events. USA and Swedish player's banquet tickets are covered by their registration fee. Additional tickets to the banquet are available for family members. Past banquet tickets have cost around \$30.00.

## **2019 is a Travel Year**

The American delegation of players, coaches, board members, and tourists will travel to Växjö, sometime in late June to early July for 12 to 14 days. **Estimated costs** are as follows:

### 2019 travel year costs

The annual **player fee** for a travel year is **\$450.00** payable to DVSE:

- **\$105.00** is due with the completed player application.
- The second payment for **\$200.00** should be received by DVSE no later than Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The third payment for **\$150.00** should be received by DVSE no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Individual fundraising dollars can be applied to the February and April payments. They may also be applied to the air travel costs during travel years. Checks for fundraising amounts exceeding fee and travel deposits will be distributed to the player's parents at the June general membership meeting.

Player warm-up and uniform (cost is approximately **\$175.00**) - Warm-ups are mandatory for all players, optional for coaches and managers. Warm-ups allow easy identification while travelling. **Players will use the same uniform for both years.**

**Air travel estimate: \$1500.00: a non refundable deposit of \$250 is required by Dec. 1st, 2018. Full payment of plane ticket is due by April 1, 2019.**

Every team member, coach, manager, and any family traveling to Sweden with DVSE

will need a U.S Passport. The estimated fee for travelers age 15 and under is **\$105.00**. The estimated fee for travelers age 16 and over is **\$135.00**. Families are responsible for securing their own passports – this is not done through DVSE.

Spending Money - this will vary by family. An estimate for budgeting is **\$100 to \$200**.

All ground transportation costs for team members (players, coaches, team managers and board members) while in Sweden will be covered by the Swedish delegation. Travelling tourists (family members) may incur additional travel costs while in Sweden.

### **Fundraising**

**Players and their families may participate in individual fundraising events to offset costs in host and travel years.** Individual fundraising events may include: grocery bagging, shiny paper collection, Butterbraid sales, Blackwoods gift card sales, Betty's Pies, Kwik Trip Car Wash cards, etc. Travel years typically have more fundraising events than host years.

Individual fundraising dollars can be applied to the February and April payments. Checks for fundraising amounts exceeding fees will be distributed to player's parents in June.

**Group Fundraiser:** Every play is also required to participate in the team's group Soccer Skills Clinic fundraiser. It is typically on a Saturday or Sunday in Feb or March. More details to come...

\*\*Registration opens **August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**. Shortly after August 15 Legacy Player applications will be reviewed and placed on the rosters. The open application window for new players that are not Legacy players is August 1 – 31. Beginning September 1, any remaining openings will be filled. Apply early as teams fill quickly.

**Returning players** should submit an updated registration form and registration fee by **August 31, 2017**.