

SWM/SJK Joint Venture Agreement

The SWM board is looking for your opinion and input on the possible merger of SWM and the St. Joe Kickers Club. This will affect each individual in this program and the board would like your input. The SWM Board of Directors has reviewed this proposal and supported this endeavor. The idea was then presented to the coaches, who have recommended that we proceed with the idea of an agreement between the two organizations. We would like to hear your thoughts and ideas about this opportunity.

The timeline for this merger agreement has been the following: Many months ago, St. Joe Kickers Club (SJK) approached Southwest Michigan Select Soccer Club (SWM) about merging organizations. Your SWM board set up a committee to meet with representatives from SJK, gather information, create a tentative agreement, and bring it back to the board. Based on this information, the board decided that joining into an agreement would be an advantage for the kids in our program. This information was then brought to the coaches and discussed to get their feedback. Although the coaches were also positive about the agreement, they felt that the membership needed to be brought into discussions and an organizational meeting was held to present information to the parents of SWM players. This meeting was held on March 22nd at Lakeshore Middle School. Thank you to those parents that were able to attend the meeting. Since that date, we have been approached by some parents asking about the outcome of the meeting. We understand that even though individuals were unable to make the meeting our membership is still very interested in the future of our club. For this reason, we have provided a summary of the meeting below.

EXTERNAL – FOR OUR PLAYERS

- Provide better soccer opportunities for youth soccer
- Expand our soccer reach to include those players already involved at SJK, thereby increasing the talent level of teams
- Offer year-round program availability for players for games and training. Teams will have indoor training opportunities through the use of the indoor facility. The club will also offer indoor training during the winter months and possibly other times as well. Fees will also include one indoor session for each member player.
- Provide more consistent coaching and training from U8 – U19 by leadership committed to soccer for all ages
- Coordinate and promote additional activities through the idea of having a home base (including pre season event, post season club wide events)
- Pursue outdoor field expansion at the SJK facility.
- Player fees will increase slightly to cover these additional opportunities for year-round training and games. Fees will increase approximately \$75 per player to cover:
 - Team indoor training opportunities (6 – 8 sessions of 1 to 1 ½ hours each), one Indoor playing session, a beginning of the year party to bring together the membership and an end of year picnic celebration to recognize accomplishments of teams and individuals.

INTERNAL – FOR OUR CLUB

- Different organization structure for coaching and directorship.
- Reorganization of board positions to provide more consistent team management, coaching and training.
- Combining youth soccer with an organization of long standing soccer history among its membership.
- This endeavor will also offer an opportunity to explore a technical director to oversee youth soccer training and our coaching program. (This was a primary discussion point amongst those in attendance at the meeting. The membership and leadership were in agreement that this is something that needs to be further investigated.)

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WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?:

Each member should have received a survey via email regarding this merger. This survey will ask several questions including if you are generally for or against the merger, and also allows you to add any comments or concerns you have as a member. This survey will allow the entire membership to voice their opinion, and allow the board to respond to any concerns.

Pending any significant concerns or obstacles, this agreement will be finalized prior to June tryouts. Tryouts for SWM will be held as a joint organization with SJK.

The SWM board will stay in place and be a voice for the membership. This board will report to the Kickers Club Board of Directors.

There will also be an advisory committee that will include both SWM and SJK individuals for a three year period, in order to assist both organizations through this transition.