

## September 2017 Blizzard Club Update

### Indoor Registration Now Open!

Our indoor registration is now open at [www.calgaryblizzard.com](http://www.calgaryblizzard.com). Please note that we will be holding our walk-in registration evening on Thursday, September 14th, at the Uplands Community Hall at 20 Hawkside Road NW. This registration is suited for those not wishing to pay by credit card or who need assistance in applying for Kidsport.

### New This Season - Two-payment Installment for Registration

Blizzard has implemented a two-payment fee structure to assist the burden on many families during the busy and costly fall season. Registration fees will be due in full upon registration with technical fees debited on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 (technical fee costs vary depending on what tier players make – visit our website for full details).

### Try Out Dates

Tryouts for indoor have been scheduled between September 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> at the Calgary West Soccer Centre. All players must be registered to attend and families will receive direct emails inviting players to certain sessions. It is possible that some sessions may take place for some age group and tiers before and after that date on the outdoor fields at Inland. Again, emails will be sent asking players to attend.

### Free Drop-In Soccer at Inlands for U6 to U12 - All Players Welcome!



Andy Fleming, our Grassroots Technical Director, will be supervising Drop In soccer at the Inland fields from 6:15pm to 7:15pm on the following dates:

**U6/U8 - Tuesday, September 5, 12, 19**

**U10/12 - Wednesday, September 6, 13, 20**

These sessions are for any player keen to participate in an informal Kick About. You do not have to be a member of Blizzard to join in. Andy will be available to answer any questions you may have about our Club and programs. Come on out and bring a friend!

### Support our Alumni!

Blizzard has many players who have graduated from Calgary Minor Soccer and are now continuing their love of the game playing for the [University of Calgary](http://www.ucalgary.ca), [Mount Royal University](http://www.mroyal.ca) and [SAIT](http://www.sait.ca). In addition, both our technical directors are involved at this level with Brendan O'Connell as the head coach of the [Men's Dino's](http://www.dinos.ca) and Glenn Ramsay assistant coach for the [Women's Dinosaurs](http://www.dinos.ca). Come cheer them on! Schedules available on the linked websites above.



**Provincial Results**

Blizzard was pleased to have various teams participating in Alberta Provincials during August and a big congratulation to these medal winning teams; BU12 Liverpool, GU18 Porto and GU18 Rangers, Bronze GU14 Alliance! Also, our Blizzard SC Women’s Team are the Premier Division silver medalists!



**Blizzard Porto GU18 – Gold!**



**Blizzard Alliance GU14 – Bronze!**



**Blizzard Rangers GU18 – Gold!**



**Blizzard SC Women - Silver!**

**A Week of Fun and Learning at the Blizzard hosted Vancouver Whitecaps Camp**

Blizzard was pleased to host our first Whitecaps Camp in July. Here are some highlight photos from a successful week which included a visit from special guest, Canadian international David Edgar.



**Summer of Travel and Tournament Success!**

A big shout out to teams who travelled near and far representing the Blizzard orange with Pride! Thanks to all the parent and volunteer coaches and managers for supporting their player and teams with these memorable team trips! Here are some summer highlights!



**U14 Girls Blizzard SC03! Gold Calgary Cup**



**Girls SC03/02/00 in NYC**



**Girls SC01 and Boys Alliance 04 at San Diego Surf Cup**



**Girls Alliance 03 at Schwann Cup Minneapolis**



**Girls SC04 & 06 in Portland**



**Blizzard SC02 and SC06 Boys in the SX Cup in Vancouver Labour Day Weekend**



**Blizzard Girls SC05 SX Cup Premier Champions!**

**Blizzard Boys Train at Wigan FC Academy in UK**

Finn Linder and Will Antoniuk from the Blizzard SC04 boys team had a fantastic UK experience training and testing their skill with the Wigan FC academy in the UK. This trip was arranged by our boy's technical director Brendan O'Connell. Brendan not only played for Wigan in his professional days during the late nineties, but he was also a coach for their academy and reserve teams. Brendan said of the experience, "It is important for our players to gauge where they are in their development with teams in Europe. This experience will give the boys a chance to test their abilities in unfamiliar surroundings, providing them with a physical football challenge as well as character building being placed in a new team, in a new country! I look forward to creating more opportunities like these for our Blizzard boys program in the future."



The boys began their experience with a full day of training with a combined U13 / U14 squad at Wigan's Christopher Park training ground, with immaculate pitches. The boys mixed in well with their new team mates and enjoyed the banter with the UK lads! The next day they took the team bus to Manchester United's Carrington Lane training ground for a game against the U13 Man U academy. The Man U facility was amazing, with pitches like carpet! The facility was under top security as the first team were training as well. The boys played well against the Man U side coming home with a 4 to 1 win.

Thursday was a day off after the game, with the boys well rested to resume training on the Friday. They trained for the day with the U14 boys team working on passing, shooting and set plays. The final challenge for the boys was a game away in Coventry with Will and Finn joining the Wigan U14s. They took the two hour journey on the team bus and arrived to the Coventry training ground. The game was more fast paced and physical than the Man U game, but the boys held their own, helping Wigan to a 4 to 3 victory!



Will said of the experience, "The best part of the trip was seeing how fast the game was compared to here and of course beating Man U at their training ground!"

Finn agreed with Will, he said, "Winning the game against the Man U boys academy team was awesome and also seeing how soccer in England was much tougher and more physical than here. I also loved going to my first Premier league games and watching Manchester United play at Old Trafford and my favorite team, Arsenal F.C in person.

A huge thank you to Gregor, Jake, Sarah and the whole Wigan team for having the boys and making them feel so welcome. Thank you to Brendan for organizing this trip, the 04 boys team are currently planning a 10 day UK tour for Spring Break 2018!