



# Futsal Club Toronto

Hello and greetings to the FCT Family,

I hope you all had a great Christmas holiday and closed off the year with love, joy, and a ton of soccer as we all got to witness our country compete back on the big stage after so many years. It's been a difficult couple of years to say the least with the stop and go of competition due to the pandemic. I commend and applaud you all for your efforts hanging in there and making the best of these difficult times. 2022 has been for the most part a positive step forward getting back into a full groove of things and wrapping it up with our Athletes getting the opportunity to enjoy what was a fantastic FIFA World Cup and hope it has a lasting effect for years to come. As someone who has a great passion in the development of youth through the game of futsal and soccer, I feel a deep personal sense of satisfaction and pride in seeing our athlete compete once again.

This past year just like any year, we faced some challenges in certain areas but also seen many positives that outweigh our challenges. Starting from the bottom it was very nice to see our Gators House Program takeoff once again after a long halt due to the pandemic. We were able to run a successful program that seen kids from the community back on the fields with kids from U4-U10. From the Gators summer house league program, we were able to recruit athletes for our U8 rep program which are currently competing in the Peel Halton Futsal League. To add to that we also recruited players for our U10 rep program.

Another huge positive this year was seeing our athletes in almost all divisions get back onto the courts to compete in the PHSA Futsal League that was also at a halt due to the pandemic. Currently we have six divisions competing in the league from U8-U16. For FCT this is a very important part of our methodology in development and it's great to see that can get back on the courts to deliver this component of our program.

In the early part of 2022, we began to slowly see growth in both grassroots and youth divisions as parents began to feel that it was safe for their athletes to compete again. Following this summer, leading into the winter season, we saw massive growth in almost all divisions and even doubled up in teams both in the U13 and U16 programs and I strongly believe that this is just the beginning to what will be an even bigger outdoor season this summer coming up.

As evidence of our strong efforts and partnerships built, we got to witness moment that will flourish in 2023 and years to come. With our efforts many of our senior athletes that have been with us from a very young age have graduated from the club and moved on to pursue new careers both at the university, and professional level. Coach Hugo has been a vital part of the growth of the club but also with the partnership with The Unik Group that has opened doors for our athletes. Our partnership with Unik will not only continue to put players abroad in pro clubs but also get us back on track in taking our teams to Europe as we have done in the past prior to the pandemic.

As previously mentioned 2022 closed off in positive form with our athletes getting the opportunity to witness our country play in a world cup something that many previous generations did not get the opportunity to do so. I strongly believe that this has motivated our athletes to even further push for their dreams considering that 73% of that team were players that developed in Ontario. During the month of December FCT have taken a step forward to provide an even stronger pathway to the professional game by applying for League 1 Ontario for the 2024 season. Our aim is to provide our athletes with the highest level of competition to nurture their dreams.

Once again, I thank all our members for all the work and efforts put into the day to day to make this club what it is today. I wish you all nothing but the best in 2023. Go FCT Go!

Roy Blanche

President

FC Toronto