



Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange
Celebrating 22 years of Unforgettable Experiences

2019-20
Information

**(Includes cost and registration information for
2020 host year and 2021 travel year to Sweden)**

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. 2020 host, 2021 travel). You can not join as a new U16 player.

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 a tournament during our host year or we will participate in the Lake Superior Open Tournament. 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 2004, 2005, 2006 to apply.

Enrollment will open for everyone on **May 15th**, and players are placed on application list based on registration date/time. 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 **May 31** to maintain their priority selection. It is recommended (but not required) that Legacy players have played competitive soccer within the past three years. Acceptance letters will be sent out starting **June 1st**.

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. **All** families will be required to volunteer for at least one event during a host year.

DVSE is looking for family members who are interested in serving on the DVSE Board during the 2019-20and/or 2020-2021 years. If you are interested in serving on the board please contact Beth Fait at 218-728-0619 (cell - text is best) 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 May 20th 5:30 - 6:30 or 7:30 - 8:30 pm at St Paul’s Church** – 1710 E Superior St in Duluth. The entrance we will be using is off Greysolon, but parking should be available on both Superior and Greysolon. Feel free to stop in anytime to talk to board members, players and parents about the program. We will be having our May general meeting 6:30-7:30 if you want to check out a meeting you are welcome to attend.

For new player applicants- Beginning May 15th we will have two open enrollment periods to complete the team rosters. Apply early as teams fill quickly. The dates for these periods are:

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

Upon receipt of completed application and registration fee of \$100, roster spots will be confirmed starting first week of June. 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, and/or those players in 2004-5 birth year. Applications not selected for the 2019-20 year will either be placed on priority list for 2020-21 year or there deposit will be refunded. Deposits for selected players will not be returned once they are confirmed.

If there are still available roster spots on either U15 team after June 15th – applications will be received and reviewed on a weekly basis until the teams are full.

Maximum numbers of players per team is 16.

If you are a birth year 2006 player and would like to pre-register for the 2020-21 DVSE year you can register online via our website under Join Team - 2006 birth year to be placed on the priority list. (The 2020-21 DVSE year will travel to Sweden in 2021 and Host in Duluth 2022)

For returning U16 players - You are also expected to go onto the website and register again for the 2020 host year by August 31, 2019.

Online only completed applications consist of:

- Player application form
- **\$100** registration fee (plus non-refundable processing fee) required;

Meeting Schedule

DVSE holds its General Meetings for parents and players on the third Monday of the month (subject to change) at: St Paul's Church – 1710 E Superior St in Duluth. The entrance we will be using is off Greysolon, but parking should be available on both Superior and Greysolon. Meetings start at 6:30 pm. All meeting dates are posted on www.sistercitysoccer.org

2020 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. DVSE players will be matched with a Swedish player, and your family will host the player during their stay in Duluth. (Players in their second year of DVSE - U16 - have same match from prior year)

2020 Host year costs

The annual **player fee** of a host year is expected to be **\$575.00** payable to DVSE:

\$100.00 is due with the completed player application.

The second payment for **\$225.00** should be received by DVSE no later than Feb. 1st.

The third payment for **\$250.00** should be received by DVSE no later than April 1st.

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.

2021 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 expected to be **\$500.00** payable to DVSE:

- **\$100.00** is due with the completed player application.
- The second payment for **\$200.00** should be received by DVSE no later than Feb. 1st.

- The third payment for **\$200.00** should be received by DVSE no later than April 1st.
- 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, provided 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, 2020. Full payment of plane ticket is due by April 1, 2021.

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, Poinsettia/hanging basket sales, DVSE Christmas Ornaments, 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. U15 player families are able to apply any remaining credits toward there U16 player year, except for \$100 registration fee. Those families on waiting list or priority for upcoming years can also participate in fundraising opportunities. Checks for fundraising amounts exceeding fees will be distributed to player's parents in June unless directed to be heldover.

Group Fundraiser: Every player 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 May 15th, 2019.** Shortly after Legacy Player applications will be reviewed and placed on the rosters. The open application window for new players that are not Legacy players is May 15th – June 15th. Beginning June 1, any remaining openings will be filled by non Legacy new applicants. Legacy applications received after May 31st are considered new applications. Apply early as teams fill quickly.

Returning U16 players should submit an updated registration form and registration fee by **August 31, 2019.**