



# Is there a Blizzard life after Minor soccer?

By: MJ Spence

## Blizzard Ladies Teams lead the pack

*Did you know that  
in Ladies and  
Men's teams,  
Blizzard doesn't  
hold try outs?*

*Did you know you  
can sign up  
throughout the  
season?*

I have been lucky enough to be associated with the Blizzard Soccer Club for many years. I saw a wonderful opportunity to align some Ladies teams so that our female players could continue to play the "beautiful" sport. So I volunteered to be the first "Adult Team Coordinator" for the club.

We started small, and not with many players, but Blizzard Ladies quietly began making a name for themselves. We had an upper and lower divisional team. Thanks to one of our ex-minor coaches, Bill Sherlock, we had a pretty successful season. Next season, our upper divisional team struggled, but we kept on being a contender. We began working with other coaches, players and personnel. Quietly, but yet defiantly, we continued to be on the radar. Slowly we began to recycle the coaches who daughters graduated out of the minor system. Players actually had a place to play outside of minors and represent the orange.

Then in 2007 outdoor, Blizzard grew to have a real big presence in Calgary Women's Soccer Association. I am thrilled to report in 2007 outdoor we had 11 ladies teams!

From the Blizzard Striker Premiers, coached by Frank Tuss (and me!), we were able to recruit former Blizzard players and had a very successful season.

We also had teams in Division 1 - coached by Jerry Kramer, two in Division 2 - recycled coaches Andy Luger and Tom Rouse, Division 3 - coached by Bill Sherlock, Division 4 - coached by Marco de Hoogh, Division 5 - coached by Mike Eckinger and finally, Efem Yildirim coached in Div 1, 4, 2 teams in 5 and 1 in Div 6!

We expect to fill vacant spots on six indoor teams this year. So if you are wondering what to do for indoor since you aren't a minor anymore, send me an email, and come and join your friends! [mjspence@calgaryblizzard.com](mailto:mjspence@calgaryblizzard.com)

## Blizzard Men's team will not be second fiddle!

Not to be outdone by the Ladies Teams, the Blizzard Men's teams have quietly been operating within the Calgary United Soccer Association.

Warren Chorney, originally from the boys minor program, has been coaching the Men's Blizzard Dynamo for a couple of years. This year they came in third in their ladder, and we are quickly filling spots for indoor.

We encourage the vacant spots to be taken by our graduating U18's!

We also have one team, which is an outdoor only, staffed with winter hockey players that really enjoy the fitness and camaraderie of this team. These guys have been together for two seasons now and are coached by Phil Franssen.



***Without all our  
volunteers - past and  
present coaches,  
assistants, and  
management, we  
could not have been  
this successful -  
thank you to  
everyone!***