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Contact: Toni Christenson  
LSO Tournament Director



## **East Select Soccer hosts Duluth's Biggest Soccer Weekend of the Season**

Duluth, Minn.— The East Select Soccer program in Duluth will host an exciting weekend of soccer June 23-25 featuring 220 soccer teams from across Minnesota and the upper Midwest.

The 18th annual Essentia Health Lake Superior Open Soccer Tournament will draw about 3,500 boys and girls ranging in age from 8 to 18. Soccer fans can cheer on their favorite team beginning Friday afternoon at the 350 games being played at 18 fields in Duluth and the surrounding area.

The tournament provides a significant economic impact to the area—it is one of the top summer revenue generating events in the Northland, with more than 1,100 hotel rooms booked from Cloquet to Two Harbors as well as into Superior and all of Duluth.

Planning for the Lake Superior Open is a year-round project for the ESS club and club officials credit parents who log more than 1,500 volunteer hours and local referees for the tournament's success.

"It has been great to see the growth of the LSO tournament not only in terms of numbers but also competition," said ESS Director of Coaching Steve Polkowski. "The Essentia Health Lake Superior Open is now a destination for teams from the Dakotas, Wisconsin, Michigan and even Sweden last year. The success of the tournament and the way our community supports us has really put East Select Soccer and Duluth on the soccer map. We welcome all participants to a great tournament on a great lake."

Polkowski says the ESS club is especially grateful for the service of the soccer officiating community who fill over 825 referee positions over the weekend. Many of the referees are local young people for whom officiating is their first job.

"The sport has grown rapidly in our region and throughout the state and builds talented athletes and leaders on and off the field," Polkowski said.

A tournament schedule is available at <http://dulutheastsoccer.com/lso/schedules-results.php>

Those with questions can contact Toni Christensen, LSO Tournament Director at [tchristensen0745@msn.com](mailto:tchristensen0745@msn.com) or 218.349.8384; or Steve Polkowski, ESS Director of Coaching at [coachstevepolkowski@gmail.com](mailto:coachstevepolkowski@gmail.com) or 218.464.7009