

BoardTalk

As the Fall season approaches its climax, we once again have to reflect on some problems, and anticipate some changes for the future.

You will probably be aware of some problems which arose in the club this season, as a result of inconsistencies in the way teams were assembled. We regret these problems, and we have been aware of general discontent among parents. In order to redress the situation, we propose to make some significant changes for the future. Some details are still to be finalized, but current plans call for the following changes next season:

- All teams will be selected by a full draft every season. Only children of the coaching staff will be pre-determined choices for a team.
- Drafting will be anonymous, with players being assigned to teams according to a limited number of factors. We plan to draft by computer; but if we can't do that for any reason then the draft for each division will be carried out manually by people not associated with that division. The draft process will be documented.
- To expedite the registration and drafting process we will limit the opportunity to registers players for next season. We will introduce a *re-registration* form, which will ensure that all current players are able to return to the club next season. But registration of new players will be limited by using walk-in registration sessions, similar to those used by other sports. No registrations will be accepted after the final walk-in session. **It is very important that you read and understand the re-registration information on this page.**
- We are considering introducing a \$25 volunteer fee, to increase the level of involvement of parents in the operation of the club. If adopted, the fee will be payable at the start of the season, and will be returned as soon as possible after completion of a volunteer assignment.

We hope that you will recognize that these steps are necessary. Our intent is to reduce the competitiveness being demonstrated in some quarters, to limit the long hours we play on Saturdays, and to reduce the burden being placed on club officials. Like you, the members of the Board are tired of the problems which resurface continually and which continue to detract from our program.

It's also time we reconsidered the aims of the Intramural Program, and what you should expect from it.

The sole objective of the program is to teach Howell's children the skills needed to play the world's most popular game: soccer. Along with the individual skills of soccer come the essential skills of sportsmanship and teamwork.

The reason for keeping standings and offering differentiated trophies in the upper divisions is to provide an incentive to excel as a team. But, win or lose, coaches, players and parents should measure the success of a game or a season by considering how much the kids learned and improved - not by the score or the size of the trophy.

Our coaches are expected not only to teach the kids how to play the game, but also to demonstrate good sportsmanship and grace, no matter what the outcome of a particular game. They should not over-emphasize competition or reward.

You should expect your coach to play your child for at least half of each game, and in a number of different positions through the season.

Having said all that, we'd also like to point out that a lot of great games have been played this season - the kids have once again put heart and soul into their games, and come out winners

November 1994

all round. In addition to some wonderful matches played in the Intramural season, take a look at the articles about our Traveling Program, our State Cup entries, and the success of John Scaduto's Traveling Hornets - a team that had never played together before - in the Berkley Tournament, and think what a great success story this club is!

Our special thanks go to Lynn Hoenig for her work in organizing the team photos, and to Lori Buffa for the great Halloween basket that we raffled in the snack bar.

Good luck to all our kids for the rest of the season, and we look forward to seeing you at Trophy Night.

Registration For The Spring Season

All players currently registered with the club will receive a re-registration form from their coach before the end of the season. In order to guarantee a place next season, the form must be returned to your coach, with fees, by Trophy Night, December 3rd. **Reregistration forms will not be accepted after December 3rd.**

We will also hold two public walk-in registration sessions - dates to be announced. Attendance at these sessions will be the only way that children who did not play at Pinelanders during this season can be registered for next season.

The number of players admitted to each division will be limited, and may be lower than this season. Any player not accepted at the first registration will be placed on a waiting list.

Trophy Night

Trophy night is **December 3rd**, at St. Veronica's. Your coach will have further details nearer that date.

Parents...

...if your child is not going to make a game - **please** let your coach know in advance.

We have many instances of coaches being forced to play games short-handed, or having to shuffle their teams at the last moment because players they counted on didn't show up. It's not fair to the team or the coach to do this.

Remember - if a game is canceled for any reason, you will be called. If you don't receive a call, it's your responsibility to your team to show up at the field.

The Snack Stand

We've been fortunate in having a number of parents volunteer to supervise the snack bar this season. We still need a number of additional volunteers for next season, however, to assure a reasonable level of coverage.

Most people will tell you that supervision is actually an enjoyable experience, and you need only sign up for the hours you can afford. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Jem Treadwell (☎ 938-2041), or just sign the volunteer list in the snack bar.

In the meantime, thanks to Diane Poznanski, Sue Messina, Anne Treadwell, Melissa Rocks, Robin Costa, Sheryl Obertlik and others for their invaluable help in supervising this season - as well as to all those parents who willingly did their bit in the front line!

Traveling Team News

Our nine Traveling teams have continued to excel this season - with a few weeks to go Joe Papola's Bombers and Joe Moscato's Stealth are at the tops of their divisions, and the other teams are also all doing well.

Two of our teams entered the State Cup this season - Joe Papola's Bombers made it to the third round before being eliminated in a penalty shootout following double overtime - their best ever showing. Tom Connors' Under 10 Boys' Blast were eliminated in the first round, but gained some great experience and vow to use it to go all the way next season! Congratulations to both teams on their showing in New Jersey's premier competition.

Spectators are welcome at all traveling team games - please continue to support our teams.

Take A Team To The Americas Cup

The Americas Cup is a one-day 8-a-side tournament for boys, girls or co-ed rec teams (no traveling teams), ages 5-10. It takes place on Saturday 19th November, at Freehold Boro High School.

Any coaches interested in taking a team to this tournament please contact Rick Amsterdam (☎ 364-7377).

Sign Up For Our Indoor Soccer League

We are planning to form a winter indoor intramural league, playing at Howell Middle School. All games will be played on Friday evenings, from January to mid-March. Signup sheets will be available at Trophy Night for interested Division 2-5 players.

And for the adults...

Any adults interested in playing in a late-evening Friday indoor soccer league at the Middle School please contact Lou Napolitano (☎ 458-5199).

Hornets Sting At Berkley Tournament

Over the weekend of October 8th/9th, John Scaduto, Tim Hall and Joe Plantz took a scratch team of '86/'87 girls to the Berkley Township Columbus Day Tournament. The girls, who had never played together before, finished in third place, winning two out of their three games.

The successful girls were: Ashley Cahill, Erica and Eve Kinsella, Elizabeth and Jennifer Warson, Jocelyn Ritter, Courtney Mason, Melissa Scaduto, Denise Hall, Jennifer Straw, Joyce Hessler, Lindsey Connors, Diana Plantz and Sara Bergstrom.

Congratulations to John, Tim and Joe and all the girls of the **Tournament Hornets** on this great success!

John is now looking for '86/'87 girls to begin a new traveling team for a Thanksgiving tournament and to play tournaments and traveling games in the spring. Call John Scaduto (☎ 370-5449) for more information.

Raffle '94

The raffle's over, and looks like being another record breaker. Thanks to everyone for their efforts - awards will be presented at Trophy Night. Congratulations to Joe Papola once again for the hard work and organization, and to the team mothers for getting the returns back to Joe!

Team Photographs

This season's team photographs were a great success, and resulted in almost \$1,600 going to club funds! We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to get a professional photo of your team.

A vote of thanks on behalf of the whole club goes to Lynn Hoenig and her helpers for their initiative and organization in getting this venture off the ground!

Litter

We're pleased to say that the Tootsie-Roll recycling program did reduce the number of cans lying around the field - although we do now have lots of Tootsie-Roll wrappers lying around instead!

The general litter problem remains, though - and you can help to solve it:

- Make sure that litter is placed in the trash cans, and not left on the bleachers or tables.
 - When your game ends, please take a look around and dispose of any litter you see.
 - If you see litter anywhere, please pick it up!
 - Please encourage children to follow these rules too!
-

Coaches' Corner

We occasionally have problems with players refusing to shake hands with the opposing team after a game, spitting on hands etc. Coaches: please remind players that the handshake is an important part of the game, and that players caught abusing the other team in any way will automatically be suspended for one game.

We ask coaches to set an example by leading their teams in the handshake, not following them.

We also occasionally have problems when both teams attempt to coach from the same side of a field. Please try to arrange it so that the teams are coached from opposite sides, and **do not** send an assistant to the other side of the field. *Thanks!*

Coaches' License Course

We plan to hold an F-License course before next season. All coaches *and assistants* are strongly encouraged to attend, to improve their coaching skills. The course is informative and enjoyable, and takes one Friday evening and a Saturday.

We are proposing to make licensing mandatory for all coaches in the near future, so please sign up as soon as possible.

If you're interested in signing up for this course please contact Lou Napolitano (☎ 458-5199) or Jem Treadwell (☎ 938 2041).

What Is A Traveling Player?

When we evaluate the strengths of an opposing intramural team, one of the first things we tend to do is count the number of traveling players on that team. What is a traveling player, and does he or she really bring superstardom to an intramural team?

The majority of the kids in our traveling teams have come through our intramural program - although in fact relatively few of them are playing intramural soccer today. Any child playing soccer with Pinelanders has the opportunity from time to time to try out for a traveling soccer team in his or her respective age group. But last year open tryouts were held for *all* of our traveling teams - yet in the 84/85 age group only one child out of more than 150 eligible intramural players showed up!

Most coaches who work with both intramural and traveling players will tell you that travelers are not necessarily differentiated by their skills or their strength, but by more practical factors: their own interest in the game *and* the ability of their parents to dedicate the extra time demanded by a child playing traveling soccer. In fact, many intramural players are more skilled than traveling players on the same team, but simply prefer not to (or are unable to) participate in the traveling program.

When we think about traveling players, we shouldn't single them out as "ringers" - rather we should recognize them for their hard work and extra commitment to the game. Our drafting process, for all its flaws, has always attempted to spread the traveling players around the intramural teams - but we would rather see more of our intramural players showing their commitment by becoming involved in the traveling program!
