

BoardTalk

Another season at Pinelanders YSC brings another round of practice sessions, ten weeks of pulsating games to watch, and another newsletter to read. Read the newsletter first, then everything else will be a breeze.

Once again, the club has expanded dramatically this season, jumping from around **525** intramural players in the spring to **650** now - we are at the limit of our premises, and literally bursting at the seams. We've added a new Division 1 field, and the Township has now removed the baseball backstop from the far end of the field - we will bring that space into service in the spring season.

But these changes will bring only short-term relief - as the town and the club continue to grow, it's important that the Township recognizes our need, and takes action to increase the amount of recreation space available to our community.

We have a corresponding increase in the number of teams, with all divisions increasing in size. Teams in some divisions are still larger than we would like, but unfortunately we are still short of the number of coaches we need to bring team sizes down. Please bear with our coaches as they try to ensure that everyone gets their playing time.

Our older players (and many of our coaches) will be pleased that we have been able to introduce a new Division 5, for players 13 and above, so everyone will be playing with and against their own age group. Division 4, which now comprises only 11 and 12 year olds, has five teams and a new lineup of coaches, including Bill Reynolds who returns from an Intramural hiatus. Division 5 also has five teams, and you're likely to recognize most of its coaches from the previous few seasons.

We welcome a number of new coaches to the club this season - good luck to them and their new teams as it slowly becomes clear to them just what they've let themselves in for!

Another impact of the increase in the size of the club is the additional amount of work being shouldered by the members of the Board in recent seasons. We plan to try to spread the load a little more this season by asking parents to help in a few more ways, particularly in field maintenance and supervision of the snack stand. We thank you sincerely for your help with a job which for several Board members takes up *all* of their free time!

Last season's tournament format produced an exciting competition, and was generally successful. However, fine tuning at the end of the season was accompanied by some confusion, so this season we've reverted to our traditional league format. The season will start with scrimmage games, giving the coaches a chance to evaluate their teams; one or two double-header games will be scheduled later in the season in some divisions to compensate.

We hope the whole family enjoys the season!

President's Message

As always, I'd like to thank all our parents for the help and cooperation shown to the club each season. The club is growing at a very fast pace, and occupies an important position in Howell's community. We want it to continue to be a family oriented club.

Pinelanders' sole objective is to instruct your children in playing soccer - the game with the largest number of registered players in the country. All of our coaches are volunteers, with various levels of experience and expertise. Mistakes can and do occur from time to time, but please remember that coaches are always looking out for the best interests of the players. On the field, referees must often make instant decisions, and while you as a spectator may take a different view of an incident, please remember that the ref's decision is based on hard-won expertise.

In my capacity as President of the club I have to make many decisions over the course of the season, and some of them may be controversial or unpopular. Occasionally, they may even prove to be wrong! Please feel free to share your opinions with me; I welcome your feedback. But at the same time, please bear in mind that I have to consider the interests of the whole club, which may conflict with the wishes of a single team or individual.

If you have a question or a comment, please don't hesitate to contact me or any of the members of the Board, and we'll do our best to help you.

My thanks and best wishes for a great season go to the parents, the coaches, the players and the Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

Jim McMullan President

The Snack Stand

We're asking parents to help staff the snack stand again this season - each shift is only 30 minutes, and your help is invaluable.

In addition, we'd like to recruit a number of regular supervisors, to reduce the load on Board members, who often have to juggle supervision duties with coaching their own teams.

Supervision duties will involve only an occasional two or three hour shift, and will be scheduled conveniently. No experience necessary. Please contact Jim McMullan (☎ 363-2746) if you'd like to help us out.

Traveling Team News


We have nine Traveling teams competing in the Monmouth and Ocean Counties region, playing divisional games primarily on Sundays. Last season we were the most successful club in our league, with three of our teams taking first place in their divisions. This season we hope to build on that success!

Spectators are welcome at all traveling team games - please come and support our teams. Lou promises to post a schedule on the bulletin board.

Welcome and good luck to new Traveling team coaches Marilyn and Mike Muscarella and George Brady!

Several traveling teams are on the lookout for new players - contact Lou Napolitano (☎ 458-5199) for more information.

Tootsie-Roll Trade-Up

As part of our recycling and garbage clean-up effort, we're following baseball's lead and offering two tootsie-rolls for each empty soda can returned to the snack stand for recycling. Please encourage children to return cans, and let's solve this litter problem! 

Team Photographs

We will be offering professional team photographs this season. Photo sessions will be held on the evenings of **September 21st and 22nd**, at the **Howell Rec Building**. The cost of the basic package is \$10, with various optional packages available. Your coach will have more details nearer the date.

Thanks to Lynn Hoenig, one of our busiest coaches, for her initiative and hard work in organizing this program. Contact Lynn on ☎ 938 2861 if you need more information.

Trophy Night

Trophy night is **December 3rd**, at St. Veronica's. Your coach will have details of times later in the season.

Please Help Us by...

...parking thoughtfully

Having had to call the First Aid squad to the field three times last season, we'd like to underscore the importance of proper parking, to ensure that emergency vehicles have proper access to the field. **In an emergency, the time taken to move a thoughtlessly parked car could prove critical.**

If necessary, additional parking is available behind the old court house across the road.

...not littering

An enormous amount of litter is left around the field each game day, particularly around and under the bleachers. It's left to people who already put a great deal of their own time into the club to walk around the field cleaning up. Please help us, and make the club more pleasant for everyone, by placing litter where it belongs, and by picking it up when you see it on the ground. Thanks!

...showing up on time

Please help to keep our games on schedule by showing up at least **15 minutes** before game time. Please don't decide not to show up because the weather is bad - the play/no play decision is made at the field, and you will get a phone call if the game is canceled. One of the most frustrating things for a coach is finding out he or she is short of players two minutes before the game is due to start!



...staying off the field

Spectators are not allowed on the field of play at any time when a game is in progress. Please do not step onto the field or attempt to approach or communicate with the referee.

Abuse of referees is a growing problem in many sports around the country, and there are moves to introduce State-level legislation which will provide for stiff penalties for threatening or attacking an official. We've recently had some unsavory incidents at Pinelanders which we do not want to see repeated.

Raffle '94

Joe Papola will be organizing our annual raffle once again this season. The raffle is the Club's *only* fund-raiser of the year, and is vitally important in enabling us to keep our fees at the same low level year after year. Each player will receive four books of ten tickets; please try to make sure that **all four** books are sold. Joe will be delighted to supply extra books - you can reach him at ☎ 938-3412.

	
P.O. Box 455, Howell, New Jersey 07731	
1st Prize: . . \$400. GIFT CERTIFICATE	No. 20071
2nd Prize: . . \$300. GIFT CERTIFICATE	
3rd Prize: . . \$200. GIFT CERTIFICATE	
4th Prize: . . \$100. GIFT CERTIFICATE	
5th Prize: . . \$50. GIFT CERTIFICATE	
* for PATHMARK SUPERMARKET *	
Drawing To Be Held NOVEMBER 13, 1993 at 1:00 P.M. at HUGH HOFFMAN SOCCER FIELDS, Howell, N. J.	
--- NO FREE SUBSTITUTION ---	
RL 709	DONATION: \$1.00 ID #229-523486

In addition to our usual high-value prizes for our top-selling players, this year's top-selling team from each division will be treated to a **free pizza party!** What greater incentive could there be?

Also, please return all stubs, cash and unsold tickets to your organizing Team Parent in good time so that they can be returned to Joe by **Saturday October 29th**. The winning tickets will be drawn at the field, at 1 p.m. on **November 5th**.

Joe and Janice are once again putting a *lot* of effort into the raffle's organization, so please help to make the job go smoothly - and make it another great success. Thanks to them, and thanks to all our players and their families and friends for their support.

Summer Soccer Camp

This year's summer camp, held at the field in August, was once again a great success, with 150 kids taking advantage of the opportunity to sharpen their skills with Monmouth College's head coach Wayne Ramsey and his staff. Didn't sign up? Make it a date for next August...

Coaches' License Course

We plan to hold an F-License course during the 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.

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

A Look At Some Rules

A frequent source of spectator frustration is the belief that the referee is making bad calls. Often, though, the fact is that the spectator is misinterpreting the rules - which are more complex than many people realize. Here are some key points to a couple of the most troublesome rules: **offside** and **handball**.

The Offside Rule

Because of the complexity of the offside rule, its implementation is often misunderstood. Some key points are:

- ☐ The offside rule only applies in open play. You cannot be offside from a corner, a throw-in, a goal kick or a dropped ball - but these plays are over as soon as another player touches the ball. You also can't be offside if you're in your own half of the field, if the other team has possession, or if the ball is in front of you.
- ☐ Timing is a key factor in the offside rule. Offside is only called if the player is in an offside position **when the ball is passed**. If he begins to run forward *after* the pass has been made, but *before* the ball reaches him, he is *not* offside.
- ☐ Offside may be called against **any** player who is in an offside position, **not** just a player receiving a pass. However, it is up to the referee to decide whether a player in an offside position is interfering with play or seeking to gain an advantage for his team.
- ☐ The offside rule is open to the referee's interpretation - and referees often disagree amongst themselves about calls in particular instances. Offside is often a hard call to make, and the referee has to make an instant decision. It is harder still when there are no certified linesmen to assist!



Handball!

- ☐ A handball is called when a player *intentionally* handles the ball - i.e. carries, strikes or propels the ball with his hand or arm. Note the word "intentionally" - it's up to the referee to decide whether a touch was intentional, and it's unlikely to be called just because a ball happens to hit a player's hand when it's by his or her side. Note that club rules allow girls to use their hands to protect their faces or chests.
- ☐ The punishment for an intentional handball is a direct free kick, or a penalty kick if the offense occurs in the player's own penalty area.

The Laws of The Game

If you'd like a copy of FIFA's Laws Of The Game, please contact Bill Young (☎ 458-6538). The price is only \$2.75, and having a copy around will help you to understand the ref's decisions and to be able to discuss the game with your family.