

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Fall '95 Soccer season! As always, you'll notice a number of changes.

**1:** The complex has been rearranged to give us a total of five playing fields – one more than last season. The fields have been repaired with new sod, at considerable expense. Thanks especially to **Bill Young** for the tremendous amount of hard work he put into the fields over the summer!

Please walk around the *outside* of the fields. There are also areas marked with colored paint for fans to watch the games – please be sure to use these areas. Your coach has a plan of the fields showing spectator and player areas, and you should also find a map on the bulletin board.

**2:** For the first time in Pinelanders' history, we have girls-only divisions! This season we've been able to form five Division 5 girls' teams, and four teams from Divisions 3 and 4 combined. A number of our girls in these age groups elected to remain in the traditional mixed teams, but of course the number of girls you'll see on those teams will be sharply reduced.

Divisions 2 and 6 are still entirely co-ed at present.

**3:** No standings will be kept in Division 5 this season. The Board and a majority of coaches felt that eliminating standings would reduce the competitive aspect of this division, and allow coaches to focus more on teaching, resulting in increased opportunities for all players to participate and learn.

I have a personal request for all parents. When your coach or a club official asks for a small amount of your time, please try to do your part. Recently I made *forty-five* phone calls, trying to get help to prepare the grounds for the season. Over a four day period, I managed to get *only eight* volunteers!

Please remember that you are only charged a nominal fee, and when you register your child to play with us you commit to helping out as you are needed. The club cannot operate without volunteers, and the few who do give their time are stretched to the limit. ***We need your support!***

In closing, enjoy the season, and respect the referees, coaches and players. And, as always when watching a game, please cheer the teams in a generous and positive way.

If you have any comments, questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me, or drop me a line.

Sincerely,  
**Lou Napolitano**  
President

## TRAVELING TEAM NEWS - HOWELL UNITED!

As you may have heard, beginning this season some big changes have taken place in our traveling program. The biggest news is that for this year we are combining our traveling resources with Howell Soccer Club's, to represent all of Howell's traveling teams. This combined program is known as **The Howell United Soccer Club**. The new program has been recognized by the Monmouth Ocean Soccer Association (M.O.S.A.) – the league in which our teams will be playing.

Note that these changes apply *only* to the traveling program – the intramural program is unaffected.

As a result of combining the two traveling programs, we will be fielding 23 teams in M.O.S.A. this fall. Our teams will range from Division 5, which consists of players who are 8 years old, to Division 1, made up of 17 year olds.

The traveling teams will be playing games on Sundays throughout the fall season. Games will be played at two locations: in addition to **Hoffman Field**, where our intramural games are played, we will also be utilizing the fields at **Oak Glen Park** for some of our traveling team games.

As always, we would like to invite players and parents of our intramural teams to come out and support our traveling teams on Sundays. The games are enjoyable to watch, and all players can pick up some tips by watching play at a competitive level. Schedules of traveling team games will be made available to anyone wishing to come and watch the games.

If you have any questions about the traveling program, please call **Chuck Hoyt** at 905-0292, or **Joe Moscato** at 363-7228.

**Joe Moscato**

## GIVE 'EM A BREAK!

You'll notice once again this season that many of our referees are youngsters. Like many clubs, Pinelanders encourages players to get involved in refereeing, and sponsors them on state-run courses. It's an excellent experience for them, and, of course, we couldn't offer our program without them.

Please remember, though, that these young refs are in the early stages of their careers, many of them refereeing for the first time. Like *all* refs, no matter how old, they'll make mistakes. When they do, please **give them a break!** The last thing any kid trying to do a difficult job needs is an adult yelling at him – it shakes his self-confidence, and probably makes him reluctant to come back next week.

Please respect our referees, and help them to grow. Rather than criticizing them, please take time to give them a word of congratulation after a game – they do a great job for us, and they'd certainly appreciate the gesture.

**Rick Amsterdam**  
Commissioner

## Coming Up...

*In our next newsletter, we'll announce details of the Annual Meeting, and elections for the Board.*

*This is your club, and we need your involvement in its operation. If you're able to help more, or if you have an issue with the way things are being done now, we encourage you to **stand for election, and help to shape the club's future!***

*Watch this space for more details...!*

## REGISTRATION AND THE DRAFT

**The Draft.** This season, as in the spring, our intramural players were assigned to teams by computer, aiming to produce balanced teams, and to eliminate the perception that coaches are able to hand-pick winning teams.

Despite the assurances we gave last season, some parents still believe that coaches are able to retain the same players season after season. Please be absolutely clear that **no coaches were involved in selecting players for their own teams, either last season or this!** The only players preassigned to any team are the children of the team's coach and at most one official assistant. All other players are drafted initially by the computer; as replacement players are needed I assign them directly from the waiting list without input from the coaches.

The drafting system is intended to do these things:

- to distribute players evenly by sex, age and ability.
- to distribute traveling players evenly, to avoid the perception of unfairness. Be aware, though, that many players joined traveling teams during the summer, and may not have been identified as such at the time of the draft.

To help in the draft, coaches rate their players at the end of each season, and a rating committee reviews the ratings. Inevitably, there will be some disparity – especially with players we don't know, or who haven't played before. New players, of course, are our wild-cards, adding to the unpredictability of the season!

Once the draft has been run, the policy is to avoid changes. This season, I made only these *necessary* changes after the draft:

- I swapped three pairs of equivalent players between teams, in order to give assistants to three coaches.
- After discussion with various Board members, I corrected a mistake by moving a player from a girls' division onto a D5 mixed team which had no girls, giving that team an extra player.
- I replaced dropping players with players from the waiting list.

**The Waiting List.** This season, really for the first time in recent seasons, we've implemented a waiting list. Here's why.

Before the Spring '95 season, we set a cut-off date for registration of returning players and siblings, and held a walk-in session for new players. All players registering after the initial cut-off were assigned a sequential waiting list number.

But we didn't *use* the waiting list – we assigned all registered players to teams. Then when players dropped we had no extra players to give to the coaches. Talk to any coaches who consistently fielded teams with only eight players instead of eleven, and they'll tell you they would have found a waiting list useful.

This season, we didn't guarantee a place to *anyone* who didn't play for us in the spring. After the walk-in session, we worked out the number of teams needed in each division, *including* a short waiting list, and we stuck with those numbers. Doing this let us recruit coaches and assistants, run the draft, and order shirts and equipment. Any new names that came in were added to the waiting list.

Although we have around 700 players, most divisions have been very stable this season – but a few drops have occurred in the last few days. In all cases, *except* for D5G, where we could use a few more players, I've been able to give coaches replacement players – maintaining the balance achieved by the draft.

If you have a child who's still on the waiting list, I hope this helps you to understand that it's important to hold a few players in reserve. No player should be on the waiting list more than one season; we'll mail priority registration forms for next season to all unassigned players. Once your child does get a place, he or she should benefit from the greater stability in the teams.

I hope this season works out well for you, and your children are happy in their teams. We've tried, and continue to try, to make decisions that are right and fair for everyone, and to work effectively with our coaches. You'll probably notice that some good intentions get lost along the way – but please make allowances, and work *with* us. We're *all* volunteers!

*Jem Treadwell*

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## FIELD RULES

We'd like to draw your attention to our short list of field rules. Some of these items are new, and some are things we've mentioned in the newsletter several times, but which still seem to resurface. You'll find the rules posted on the bulletin board (sometime this season we hope to get a bigger board ☺), and they may change now and again, as new issues surface.

Please take a look, understand why they are necessary, and do your best to abide by them. Thanks for your cooperation!

1. **Smoking.** For their own health and safety, players are not permitted to smoke at the fields. In support of this policy, parents are asked to refrain from smoking in the presence of our players.
2. **Dogs.** For reasons of health and safety, no dogs are permitted on the fields. Spectators with dogs will be asked to watch from the parking lot.
3. **Litter.** All litter must be placed in trash cans. Please use recycling cans where appropriate. *If you see litter on the ground, please help by picking it up!*
4. **Spectators - positioning.** Spectators must watch games from the marked spectator areas. The areas between fields should be kept clear.
5. **Spectators - conduct.** Verbal or physical abuse of referees or players will not be tolerated. Spectators who engage in such conduct will be ejected from the field. Note that vocal dissent is regarded as abuse.
6. **Car parking.** Cars must be parked considerately, allowing a clear exit for cars already parked. Access *must* be available for emergency vehicles to be brought onto the field if necessary. Additional parking is available at the old court house across the road. Please take care while crossing the road. *Pinelanders reserves the right to have inconsiderately parked cars towed.*

## SNACK BAR & VOLUNTEERS

As always, each team is scheduled to staff the snack bar for a short time this season. Your team is only being asked to put in 1½ hours this season, and you should find that your schedule overlaps one of your games, to give the most flexibility.

Please remember that working the snack bar is a condition of accepting your registration. All parents are expected to put in some time behind the counter, in addition to any other volunteer work you may be asked to do.

The Board has now mandated that teams which fail to staff the snack bar when scheduled will be penalized as follows:

- Divisions D5, D5G and D6 – game canceled
- All other divisions – loss of 2 points in the standings

## SURFED THE NET RECENTLY?

I'm wondering how many Pinelanders families regularly access the Internet, in case we can make use of e-mail.

If you have access, please send me a *very brief* message at [jem@tinton.ccur.com](mailto:jem@tinton.ccur.com) – and then (very important ☺) forget the address. In the message just give an indication of the method you use to access the net – do you dial in from home, or do you have full-time access at work? *Jem Treadwell*