

President's Message

Welcome to a new season! As you read this newsletter, you'll see that most of it is devoted to describing the many changes we've made in the club this season. These changes have been made to promote the international soccer ideal: "Fair Play For All," and to meet the standards of the US Youth Soccer Association.

Confused? You will be...

I'm sure the most confusing change will be the simplest: we've renumbered the intramural divisions. The old Division 1 (5-6 years) is now Division 6, D2 is now D5, D3 is now D4, D4 is now D3 and D5 is now D2. We don't have a Division 1 – that's reserved for future expansion.

This change has been made to bring us into line with other Youth Soccer clubs worldwide, which number their divisions from oldest to youngest.

Small-Sided Games

We are also moving to "small-sided games" in the younger two divisions, in line with the recommendations of the US YSA, and along with youth soccer clubs around the country.

Teams in Division 6 (5-6 years) will now only have ten players, and will play four 10-minute quarters with 6 players on the field. Division 5 teams (7-8 years) will have 11 or 12 players per team, and will play two 25-minute halves, with 8 players on the field. The small-sided system will give all of the players more quality time to develop basic soccer skills.

Divisions 2-4 continue to play traditional 11-player games.

Registration Revolution

The biggest change occurred off the field, with major modifications to the registration process – including deadlines for registration. These changes were made for two reasons: first, to allow time for the registration details to be entered into a computer database, and secondly, to provide a fair way to control growth. This season we have our highest number of players ever: 686 players spread across 56 teams, in what is usually our "quiet" season!

Computerized Draft

Having a database also allowed us to automate the draft. The drafting process this season eliminated pre-selection of any player other than the children of the team's coach and at most one assistant. The computer program balanced the number of traveling players, girls and boys in each team, and also attempted to balance the ability-levels of each team, through rating points assigned by last season's coaches. The better balance will promote the development of both technical and tactical skills in all players.

One of the key intents of the new drafting process has been to ensure complete fairness in team selection, with *no exceptions to the rules*. We have adhered strictly to age limits, and (with the exception of Division 6) drafted players into teams *only* as described above. The only changes we expect to be made to the original draft will be to compensate for players who drop out, and they will be replaced from the waiting list – not from other teams.

The cut-off date we used to establish ages for this season was March 1st – each child's age on that date determined which division her or she will play in. We also did not accept new registrations for any child under 5 years old on that date.

One unfortunate effect of the changes is that we have not been able to honor requests to place players with specific coaches or team-mates, or to "play up" in older divisions. We understand that this will cause inconvenience to already-busy parents; however we believe that these rules will produce a true competitive balance, and eliminate many of the problems which have caused discontent in previous seasons. In addition, as we draft new teams each season, players will have the chance to make new friends and to experience different coaching styles.

Youngest Players Stay Together

Many parents were concerned that we should keep our youngest teams together, and I'm pleased to tell you that we've done this. As far as possible last year's D1 (now D6) teams have been kept together, and we honored parents' requests wherever we could. I apologize if your D6 child didn't get into the team you requested – but several teams were oversubscribed, so some movement was unavoidable.

On the Side

Around the field we've made a number of changes to the rules. Spectators are being asked to keep behind the blue painted lines along the *outside* areas of the fields, while coaches are restricted to the "technical areas" marked on the inside boundaries. This is intended to allow the kids to use the techniques their coaches taught them *at practice*, and to discourage coaching during games.

Coaching the Coaches

Your coaches have had a busy pre-season, aimed at giving the players the best possible instruction. Most coaches attended our new Pinelanders coaching clinic, developed by Bill Young, Joe Moscato and Chuck Hoyt, and many also earned their wings at the state-run FIFA F-license course. Our coaches are highly motivated to do their best for our kids – they deserve your support and assistance through the season.

And Finally...

I'd like to thank the Board members and their families for all their time and work. They have put forth a great deal of time and effort to redirect Pinelanders YSC, and I hope you'll appreciate the improvements.

I'd also like to congratulate Lynn Hoenig on her election to the Board, and thank Joe Papola and Bill Reynolds for their services over the past few years. Good luck also to Chuck Hoyt as he takes on the job of coordinating the nine teams in our Traveling program, and to our many new coaches.

Please remember that you are an important part of this club, and give your feedback to your coach and to Board members. The Board and I are here to serve you, but we need your help and support in order to continue to grow and improve. Remember: we're all volunteers together.

Yours in soccer,

Lou Napolitano, President

Would You Like To See...

...all girl teams? We're considering introducing all-girl divisions for some age-groups in our intramural program next season, if there's enough demand.

Please take a moment to complete the questionnaire attached to this newsletter, and return it to your coach or leave it at the snack bar.

...an adult soccer camp? We're also wondering if adults would be interested in skill-building sessions at our summer camp in future years. Please let us know by responding to the questionnaire.

Summer Camp

Once again this year we'll be holding our annual summer soccer camp, run by Monmouth College's coaching staff. This camp is an opportunity for your children to consolidate and improve their skills and learn new techniques by working under professional guidance, and it's always well attended.

Make a note on your calendar now: the camp will be held at Pinelanders each weekday evening during the week of **July 31st** through **August 4th**. The camp will be open to players in all divisions. Further details from Rick Amsterdam nearer the time.

Get Ready For College Game '95

Our third annual college game will be played on **Saturday, April 22nd at 7 p.m.** This year the game will feature two Division 1 teams: **Monmouth College Hawks** against **Lehigh University, PA.**

People who watched the game last year will tell you that this event is always held on a warm and dry summery evening, and features some great exhibition soccer and awesome hot-dogs – so get it down on your calendar now!

Indoor Soccer

This winter's inaugural Friday night indoor soccer program at the Middle School was a great success – 170 kids signed up for the fast-action scheduled games, and thoroughly enjoyed playing soccer in a non-competitive atmosphere. 20-40 adults also showed up each week for the pickup game, and reacquainted themselves with various muscles that were previously thought to be extinct.

If you missed it this year, make a note to sign up for next winter.



Congratulations to Lou Napolitano for his work in getting this program off the ground. Lou has ideas for improvements next year, but if you'd like to make any suggestions please let him know.

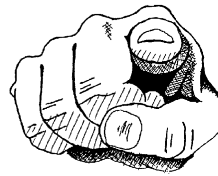
Please Remember...

...that the club and all its volunteers are here with one common aim: to teach kids good sportsmanship and how to play soccer.

As you watch a game, remember that the referee is in charge – he or she may occasionally make mistakes, but the referee's decision is final, and will not be changed. Please **do not** engage in abuse of the referees, players or anyone else – spectators so doing will be ejected.

Volunteer Activities

This season's redesigned registration form included more detailed categories for volunteer sign-up than in previous seasons.



By far the most popular category was telephone liaison – more than 200 parents volunteered for this! We also had plenty of volunteers for snack bar supervision and buying, which

tremendous difference to the season.

Quite a lot of parents did not check any items, though, and they will be arbitrarily assigned to categories as they're needed.



Thanks for your support in helping us to maintain our soccer program as the club continues to grow.

Parking...

We'd like to remind you once again to please be thoughtful in the way you park at the club. Apart from minimizing inconvenience to others, we do occasionally have to bring emergency vehicles onto the field, and a carelessly parked car could have serious consequences.

We have also been asked to remind our members that when you go to the Howell Rec Building you should park only in designated parking spaces. In particular, any cars parked in the tree line opposite the rec building **will be ticketed!**

...and Litter

And once again, we'd like to remind you not to drop litter around the field – *someone* has to spend time picking it up.

Please look around after your game, and pick up anything left on the ground or the bleachers, and also remind children to use the trash cans. Thanks for your help!

Club Officials

For your convenience, here's a list of the various club officials:

Board of Trustees

Lou Napolitano.....	<i>President</i>
Ken Kinelski.....	<i>Treasurer</i>
Rick Amsterdam.....	<i>Commissioner</i>
Don Deakyne.....	<i>Field Maintenance</i>
Bill Young.....	<i>Field Maintenance</i>
Henry Rocks.....
Joe Moscato.....
T.C. Connors.....	<i>Referees</i>
Jem Treadwell.....	<i>Communications</i>
Gary Strucke.....
Lynn Hoenig.....

Traveling Program Coordinator

Chuck Hoyt