



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Dear Players and Parents:*

Another season is upon us and I sincerely hope that El Niño does not have an impact on us in Howell like last season!

Over the winter, your Board has been extremely busy putting together another season for you all. We held elections on Trophy Night last season and I am proud to welcome our new Board members and the members with new positions. Taking over as Treasurer is **Tom Murphy** – Tom will continue to run the snack bar with his wife Mary, and to serve as our Tournament chairman. **Eric Hlava** has assumed the position of Secretary, **Tony Valenziano** has become our Assistant Treasurer and **Adnan Abu-Hala** will serve as our Adult Program coordinator. I would also like to welcome back our returning Board members, **Lynn Hoenig** (First Vice-President), **Tom Brandli** (Commissioner), **Chris Hunt** (Assistant Commissioner), **Gary Edinger** (Field Coordinator), **Melissa Rocks** (Special Projects), and last but certainly not least, **Bob Hoenig** (Referee Coordinator). We also created a new position as Board Consultant and that position is being filled by **Jem Treadwell**, an invaluable resource to our organization.

Please take the time to meet these folks if you have not done so, and, more importantly, please volunteer some time to help *your* club.

We've been very busy in the last month putting the teams together and getting ready for the Spring. Bob Hoenig organized a referee refresher course for our 41 referees, in conjunction with the US Soccer Federation and three representatives who are national assessors for referees. We also had a rules refresher course for our coaches, conducted by the USSF. Along with that, we sponsored another coach licensing course. These courses were all organized by Bob Hoenig and were well received – special thanks to Bob!

The Board also did some divisional realignment of our age groupings to bring them more in line with school grades and US Youth Soccer guidelines. We have made Division 3, an 11, 12 and 13 year old division, aligned with middle school ages. Division 2 now goes from 14 to 17, adding 17 year olds for the first time, and aligning this division with high school age. This allows more of our players to continue playing with us.

Last month saw the end of our winter indoor rec program which was also well received by all those who participated, both our kids and adults. Special thanks to Lou Napolitano, Gary Strucke and Mohammed Hamami for running this program over the winter – we could not have done it without them giving up all their Friday nights to this program.

The Pinelanders are charter members of the Howell Sports Federation, an organization of **all** the sports groups in Howell with a mission to better our youth programs for all the youth of Howell. The Federation is sponsoring a Federation VISA card, where a portion of the proceeds goes to the group itself on a monthly basis. These proceeds benefit us and all of the Federation's other members. Applications for this card will be available at our snack-bar during the season. The card offers very attractive rates, not only on balances carried, but also special rates on balance transfers until it is paid off. I urge you to consider participating.

I hope you all have a wonderful season, and if there is anything that myself or any of the Board can do for you, please let us know – we are at the fields all the time. Also, please remember: get involved, let the players play, the coaches coach and the refs ref. See you all at the fields!

Sincerely, **Ken Kinelski** President

## COMMISSIONER'S CORNER

Spring is coming and so is soccer! As we ready ourselves for the upcoming season, the Board is looking for help. Not a full time job, not even a season-long job, but maybe an hour or two helping Gary Edinger line the fields, helping with clean up day before the season starts, or volunteering some time when we are ready for our "Snack Bar Makeover".

The coach of your son or daughter's team would love to have the parents more involved – and for that matter, so would the league!

If you can find the time, please give a little for the kids. After all, the league is for them. To be a part of the "Helping Team" please call me.

Looking forward to a great **dry** season!

Regards

**Tom Brandli** Commissioner

## GROUNDS

Spring field preparation will be held on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Included for the spring are basically two activities. The first is the lining of the fields. If you ride past the fields you will see a number of yellow flags. Don't worry, there isn't another development being built. The flags mark each corner of the field, goal area and penalty area. To line the fields, string is pulled between each corner and the lines are painted over the string. Very easy to do if you can walk a straight line. The second activity is to check the nets for any holes, and patch any that are found. The optimal size crew to complete the above is five – two two-man crews to do the lining and one person to check the nets. In total it should take no more than 4 hours. I'll take the first 4 volunteers.

Once the season begins, weekly maintenance consists of about two hours to repaint the lines. I plan to do this on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. If it rains, or if the town doesn't cut the grass, I try to paint at noon on Friday. It's easier for me to plan if I have set volunteers for set dates. Ten volunteers means only four hours per person over the season.

With my work schedule and other personal activities, I don't have time to make calls to "round up" volunteers each week. Please call me to get on the list. This is a very small commitment to make so that your children have fields to play on every week.

If you expect to be a member of Pinelanders for a number of years and would like to assume the role of an Assistant Field Manager, please let me know. I've done the fields for a number of years and believe I can see light at the end of the tunnel. Someone must step forward to take that role and work with me over the next year to be ready to take over when I step into that light!

I look forward to your call.

Regards, **Gary Edinger** Grounds

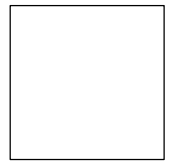
## REFEREES

Something new on some of our fields this season: games played on fields 1 & 2 will now be officiated using the 3-referee system. This is the same system used in travelling... and very similar to what the pro's do. It's our hope that this will help our youth refs improve their skills – and it should lead to better-officiated games. In addition, two of our refs – Gary Edinger and Tom Poznanski Jr. – will help me to evaluate our officials this season. By the way, as the winter was coming to an end, our referees attended a refresher class taught by a member of the State staff.

**Bob Hoenig** Referee Coordinator



Pinelanders Youth Soccer Club  
P.O. Box 455, Howell, NJ 07731



First Class

To:

*Support Youth Sports in Howell:  
Sign Up For The Howell Sports Federation VISA Card!*

# Visit your web page...

***www.monmouth.com/~pinelanders***  
***e-mail: pinelanders@monmouth.com***

## **EDUCATION**

Congratulations to the seven PYSC coaches who've just completed their licensing requirements. These coaches join the many Pinelanders coaches who have taken courses sponsored by the NJ State Youth Soccer Association. Kudos also to the coaches, Board members, and other Pinelanders who recently renewed their First Aid and CPR certifications. PYSC sponsors annual refresher courses through the American Red Cross.

***Bob & Lynn Hoenig***  
**Education Coordinators**

## **FUNDRAISING**

We'll be sponsoring team pictures again this spring. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to have a keepsake of your child's soccer season. Pictures are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, April 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, at Land O' Pines School. Your child's coach will have specifics as we get closer to the date.

***Lynn Hoenig***  
**Fundraising Coordinator**

## **REGISTRATION**

We currently have a very short waiting list in all divisions, but, as usual, will continue to take registrations for new players to replace the inevitable drops. If you know anyone who'd like to play, please ask them to call 364-6649 and press 1 to leave a message for me.

Thanks to everyone who signed up to coach again this season, especially to our new coaches. Special thanks to Tom Brandli, who had to work very hard to get the bases covered in every division. It's always a tough job -- and this season seemed a little tighter than most!

If you're interested in helping out with coaching, please make sure your coach knows -- he or she will be happy to have some help, and we need our parents to get the experience. If you're helping, though, please contact me for a KidSafe form -- all coaches and anyone helping with the team *must* complete one of these.

And finally, don't forget to visit our web page regularly -- there's some useful information there, and you'll usually find the latest standings by about Wednesday evening.

***Jem Treadwell*** Draft & Registration Committee