



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Players and Parents:

I certainly hope that everyone has had a great season so far! The weather unfortunately has not cooperated so far this season.... let's hope our remaining few weeks are OK! We have been able to reschedule all our games so far, of course, but we could use some dry weather for the last couple of weekends!

I believe we have had another good season with our continuing soccer education program on Saturdays run by **Mario Guarino** and our goalie clinics from **Vinnie Cafiero** both are excellent coaches and experienced players themselves. Special thanks to them, and to **Tim O'Brien**, for the extra time they have given to provide additional instruction to our kids and coaches. The larger clinic we held recently was a big success and we hope to do more of these in the future.

The season is just about over, the trophies have been ordered and we are looking forward to another fun **Trophy Night at Middle School North on Saturday, November 18th**. The sessions will be scheduled shortly and I ask that you check the details with your coach in the coming weeks. You will also find the schedule on our Web site shortly and on signs posted around the fields. Please plan on attending and have a fun team party! Unfortunately the Fall season does not allow us to have an outside event like we did last spring.

I would like to thank our many volunteers who stepped forward to work the fields, man the snack bar, do mail-outs and help with registrations.... we cannot run such a large organization without additional volunteers. I ask that those of you who have **not** stepped forward yet please do so as there are still many things that still need doing.... remember, this is **your** club for **your** kids. So please get involved!

I have been disappointed with the snack bar volunteer turnout for our makeup games—just not enough people are volunteering. **We need your help**, if only for half an hour!! Please step forward and help **your** club!

We will be holding our annual Board elections at Trophy Night and I encourage you to consider running for a Board position. If there is some special talent you can bring to the Board, or if you just have a general interest in seeing kids have fun, please consider running.... it is personally rewarding to see our kids have fun and succeed on and off the field from skills they have learned at the Pinelanders. If you are interested in running, please see myself, **Bob Hoenig** our Board Secretary, or any other Board member at the fields.... **we need you!** If you prefer not to run but would consider a one-year appointment please let us know as soon as possible.

Finally, please remember to register early for the Spring season.... we cannot continue to do a last-minute scramble to accommodate your children... you need to do this early!

See you all at Trophy Day! Sincerely,

— *Ken Kinelski, President*

REFEREES' NOTEBOOK

Pinelanders Families,

Thanks to all of our referees for another great season at Pinelanders. I have been the Assignor for Pinelanders for three seasons now, and this has been the smoothest. The referees are progressing and many got the chance to work on fields that they never had before. Our goal is to help the referees develop and grow into top quality refs, and that seems to be happening.

We are running a referee class this winter. We hope to train several members of our club and help them become referees. If you, or someone you know, are 14 or older and want to be a referee and make \$10/hour or more, go to pinelanders.com for more details.

TouchLine

October 2006

As referees develop and branch out onto fields that they may not have experience on, it becomes even more important for coaches, parents and players to make sure that they watch their language and do not yell at the referees. Regardless of the age of the referee, **no verbal abuse of any referee will be tolerated**. However, if you have any input on the quality of the referee in a particular game, please let me know. You can find me at the fields, or send me e-mail at Lou.Haggar@pinelanders.com.

— *Lou Haggar, Referee Assignor*

SNACK BAR VOLUNTEERS

Hello Everyone,

Thank you Snack Bar Volunteers! Your effort and commitment have kept the snack bar running smoothly this season, generating the proceeds necessary to pay the referees.

The new scheduling system that we've just introduced will make volunteering easier than ever next season: you'll be able to schedule your snack bar volunteer time on your My Pinelanders page. Check it out!

Supervisors are needed! If you have been a Server for several seasons and are familiar with the running of the snack bar, please consider volunteering to be a Supervisor when registering for the Spring season. If you have questions about being a Supervisor, you can contact me at BobbiSue.Bowers@pinelanders.com.

Thank you again for your dedication,

— *Bobbi Sue Bowers, Snack Bar Volunteer Coordinator*

YOUR TURN: HOW WAS THE SEASON?

If you have feedback about any aspect of this season please let us know. If you wait until the start on next season, it will be too late for us to make any changes. Your thoughts about our operation, your team experience, or concerns or requests about your child are all important—but we can't help you if you leave it too late to tell us.

The best way to give us information is in writing—if you just tell someone when you see them at the field or on Trophy Night, there's a good chance it will be forgotten or not make it to the right person. We'll have an on-line feedback form on My Pinelanders soon, or you can leave a note in the wooden report box in the Office.

If you do want to speak with a Board member, **Ken Kinelski** (President), **Mario Guarino** (Commissioner), **Lou Haggar** (Referees & Field Ops), **Bob Hoenig** (Secretary), **Lynn Hoenig** (VP & Pictures) or **Jem Treadwell** (Registration & Team Assignments) are the people you're most likely to want to talk to—but all Board members are available as always.

If you have a comment that needs action, **please make sure you follow up with us** if you don't get a timely response—we should **always** respond to you, and if we don't it's a sign that your request has been forgotten. It happens!

— *Jem Treadwell*

YOUR NOMINATIONS FOR AWARDS

It's time for you to tell us who should win our annual end-of-season awards. Each season, we recognize members who have made an important contribution to the club in one of several areas. **You** nominate these people. The Board will sort through your nominations and pick the winners. But the process starts with **you**. Here are the awards categories:

Joe Parato Sportsmanship Award: Presented each season to the member (player, coach, parent, referee, volunteer) who symbolizes the spirit of sportsmanship that forms the foundation of Pinelanders. It may have been a small act, or a major undertaking, but by doing it this person showed you and others what sportsmanship is all about. This award is presented in memory of Coach Joe Parato, who served the Club for many years, and whose memory those who knew him still cherish.

Tony Valenzano Coach of the Season: Presented each season to the coach or coaches who brought a love of the game and a sense of accomplishment to the players on his/her/their teams. We can, and often do, present multiple awards if there are enough deserving nominees. This award honors Coach Tony Valenzano, taken from us way too young.

Referee of the Season: Presented from time to time to a youth or adult referee who does the job well and understands what our program is about.

Olivia Zonis Courage Award: We don't present this one very often. But if you've seen a member show unusual courage—for whatever reason—tell us about it. We give this award in memory of a young member who died of brain cancer at the age of 6, and who showed the kind of courage we recognize with this award.

You can email your nominations to me at Bob.Hoenig@pinelanders.com, or write them neatly on a sheet of paper and put them in the game reports box in the Office. Please be sure to tell me who you're nominating, and give a few sentences about why this person deserves an award. And please make sure to tell me who you are!

The deadline for nominations is **Saturday, November 11**. Awards will be presented at Trophy Day on November 18th.

— *Bob Hoenig, Board Secretary*

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND BOARD ELECTIONS

Pinelanders will hold its annual membership meeting as part of Trophy Day on **Saturday, November 18th**, in the cafetorium at **Howell Middle School North** on Squankum Yellowbrook Road.

Club business to be conducted at this meeting will include the election of 6 members to 2-year terms on the Board. A list of candidates will be posted at the elections table.

If you would like to run for the Board, or are interested in serving a one-year term as an appointed Board member, please let me know no later than **November 10th**. You may email me at Bob.Hoenig@pinelanders.com.

— *Bob Hoenig, Board Secretary*

REFEREE SCHOOL

You asked for it, we scheduled it! Pinelanders will host a USSF Grade 8 Referee School on **February 3-5, 2007**, here in Howell. The class will run from 8am-5pm on Saturday and Sunday, and 6:30-9:30pm on Monday. *You must be 14 or older by February 3rd to take part.*

The cost of the school is \$35. If you finish the class and pass the 100-question test, you may register as a referee for an additional \$25. Making that cost back, and the cost of your uniform, is pretty easy.

Referees must renew their licenses each year, by attending a USSF Recertification Clinic.

The school is taught by USSF-certified instructors, all of whom are senior referees in New Jersey, and is supervised by the NJ Referee Committee.

Registration will open in early December. We'll make an announcement via email and on our web site when you can start signing up on-line.

Our Referee Assignor, Lou Haggard, can tell you that we have an urgent need for **youth and adult** referees. It's a great first job for the teens, and a good sideline for the adults. All you need is your license, a love of soccer, and the willingness to work.

Watch for an update soon!

— *Bob Hoenig, Education Committee*

COACHES' F-LICENSE CLASS

We are rapidly running out of space in our January F-License class.

All coaches who have completed two seasons with us **must** obtain an NJYS F-License. If you don't get one, you can't be a head coach.

The class runs from 6-9pm on **Friday, January 26th**, and 8am-2pm on **Saturday, January 27th**. The cost of the class is \$30. NJYS will award an F-License certificate to all who complete the class. You do not have to renew your license.

Our class is one of only two currently planned in the entire state this winter. Seats are filling up fast—don't be left out!

Email me at Bob.Hoenig@pinelanders.com for more info and a registration form. Forms are hanging over the desk in the Office.

This class will be full before Thanksgiving! Once we've sold out, it cannot be expanded. Register now!

— *Bob Hoenig, Education Committee*

WINTER INDOOR SOCCER

Our winter indoor soccer program begins soon after the New Year, and runs each Friday evening through the end of February. It is open to players who played with us (or participated in some other way) in the Spring or Fall 2006 seasons, and who will be aged 7-18 on April 1st 2007 (in other words, those who will be in D5/D5G or above next Spring).

If you're the parent of an eligible player, you're also eligible to play in the adult game, later in the evening.

More details are on the registration forms, and in our Policies document, which you'll find on-line. Registration forms will be available at our registration sessions, and (soon) from our web page.

PINELANDERS-WEAR

Thank you for your support of our new PinelandersWear program. We've tried to bring you a selection of clothing and collectable items that we hoped you would enjoy. And judging by your response, you certainly do!

We will continue to sell PinelandersWear at our fields for the remainder of the season—when my schedule permits. Look for the table in front of the Office on Saturdays.

I will also have a table set up at Trophy Night. Orders placed then will be delivered in time for the holidays. Remember, cash or checks only—no credit cards!

Our club makes no money from the sale of these items—we sell them to you at cost. They make great holiday gifts. If you haven't checked out the latest items in the PinelandersWear line, be sure to stop by.

— *Lynn Hoenig, Vice President*

FINAL WHISTLE

Our final registration count this season was 1005—a major milestone as we jumped from 911 last season. Of those, 42 dropped (three because we didn't have room for them), so our final count is 963 playing.

A few weeks before the season started we thought our numbers were going to be low, and we planned accordingly. Then we had to scramble to add more teams and coaches. But once we've set the schedule and assigned players, the teams are set—anyone who registers after that time can only play if we can find room. This season over 100 players were registered late, and although we did eventually place all but three of them, they all had to miss at least one game, and many missed three or four or more as we waited for places to become available.

I can't stress enough that this is in **your** hands: if you snooze, you very definitely risk your children losing out. I see no reason that we would ever want to close registration for administrative reasons, but there are limits to how many players you can put on a team, and we have to walk the line between accommodating late registrants and overloading the teams.

This season you should be sure to get your registration forms in by February 3rd. If you don't, there'll be no guarantees, and no apologies.

Finally, I keep saying we'll have on-line registration soon, and the only reason we don't already have it is that once we get through the registration and drafting my time gets consumed with other enhancements to My Pinelanders. The last few weeks have been tied up with the new snack bar scheduling system, but that's done now, and registration is my current focus. It's getting very close—watch for announcements soon!

All the best,

— *Jem Treadwell, Registrar*