

Fall TouchLine

September 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Players and Parents:

Welcome to our Fall 2008 season! For those of you who are new, we welcome you to the Pinelanders Family. We have served thousands of children during our 37 year existence and we hope you have a very enjoyable experience. To those returning players and families, welcome back, we hope you have had an enjoyable summer and are ready for another exciting and fun season!

We have another great season planned with many key dates placed on our web site. I encourage you to check it often for club updates, especially when we are anticipating inclement weather. Other key dates and events are mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter for example: our **Coach Meetings** and **Team Picture Night**. **Trophy night** is planned for Saturday, November 22nd at Middle School North (unfortunately the weather at that time of the year does not allow us to do it at the fields); this is when we recognize all of our players. Also, Mario Guarino will be hosting coach training sessions during the week at the fields, please see Mario if you are interested. Please mark these important dates on your calendar.

We have been once again disappointed in the amount of late registrations we have received; this does not allow us to plan properly and provide the best possible experience for your kids. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to put teams together, especially getting coach volunteers, which this season, has been the biggest challenge we have ever faced. We certainly don't want to have to place any children on a waiting list, with the real possibility that they may not be able to play at all. We have also seen a significant drop in older players; this has forced us to realign certain divisions to afford an opportunity for all who signed up to play. We hope this re-alignment once again meets with everyone's expectations, we are confident that it will. Please ensure that you sign up early for each season and tell your friends to do the same. Beginning in the spring season we will have an absolute cutoff date where we will not accept any more registrations so we have time to plan for each season. Your anticipated cooperation is very much appreciated.

As always, we are in need of volunteers in all categories. All Board members serve as volunteers and we just can't run an organization this large without your help. When you signed up your child you committed to volunteer as a condition of membership. This season we have denied registrations from people who did not volunteer during the season; this will continue to be our policy. Please look on our web site on what you can volunteer for and sign up early! This is **YOUR** club. How can you help you may ask....we are in special need of people to act as snack bar supervisors, and grounds helpers specifically to line fields. The field lining is easy and not too time consuming...if we have two people each Friday for a 10 week season that would be fantastic. If you can help with the fields (please!!!!) contact Simon Smit or Bill Rittweger at the fields or via email at Simon.Smit@pinelanders.com or Bill.Rittweger@pinelanders.com. Simon or Bill will be more than happy to train you for this important task. If you would like to be a snack bar supervisor, please contact Maria.Stenborg@Pinelanders.com. Or, if you prefer, please contact me or any board member at the fields on any weekend.....**WE NEED YOU!**

We will once again have Board elections in November, if you are interested in running for an office or an appointed slot please let Kim Brown know, you can email her at Kim.Brown@Pinelanders.com. We have been working to bring more people on-board in the active management of the club to make the club run even more efficiently than it does today, and get more folks involved. If you have an interest in getting more involved, would like things changed, or are just interested in serving your community, please let any Board member know. We would love to have you, and we have lots of committees that need active volunteers.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable season, but please remember that our main goal is to teach the game of soccer through skills development, with sportsmanship being paramount, **not** winning games by overwhelming scores. We all need to be fair and let the children play and encourage them



with **positive** comments. Too often, we hear numerous comments from parents and coaches that are extremely negative and we will not tolerate it! Remember, let the coaches coach and let the refs referee and ensure the safety of your child through enforcement of the laws of the game. We are all here to have fun and provide for the best positive experience for our children.

See you all at the fields!

Sincerely,

-Ken Kinelski, President

IMPORTANT DATES:

Season begins September 5th

Team Pictures:

September 22nd and 23rd

Mid Season Coach Meeting:

October 7th

Trophy Night and Annual Meeting:

November 22nd

**THERE ARE NO GAMES SCHEDULED
WEEKEND OF OCTOBER 10TH**

TEAM PICTURES

Each season, we have what we call "team picture nights." The kids come in with their teams and a professional photographer takes their pictures. You can get various packages ranging from just a team picture to individual pictures in various combinations. Our photographer offers these packages at very reasonable prices. This fall, team pictures will be taken on September 22nd and 23rd. Each team will get a specific appointment. The schedule will be on our website a few weeks before. Your coach will have envelopes for you detailing the available packages and instructions for ordering. Watch for emails with more information.

-Lynn Hoenig, VP and picture coordinator

COACHES' F LICENSE CLASSES

Pinelanders will host *two* NJYS F License coaching schools this winter. All coaches are required to obtain an F License. If you signed up to coach and indicated you wanted get your license, here's your chance to do it locally. These schools will be held on January 16-17, and again on February 27-28, 2009. NJYS charges a one-time, \$30 fee for the class. For further information, email me at Bob.Hoenig@pinelanders.com

-Bob Hoenig

REFEREE SCHOOLS

Many of you have asked how your teenagers can become referees. You have to be at least 14 to become a referee – that's a U.S. Soccer Federation rule – attend a 24 hour, 4 day ref school and pass a 100 question test. We used to offer the schools here at Pinelanders, but we no longer do. You can get the latest list of area ref schools, and how to sign up for one, by going to http://www.njrefs.com/BecomingaReferee/index_E.html. Or contact me and I'll be happy to walk you through the process,

-Bob Hoenig

PARKING AT HOFFMAN FIELDS

Those of you who've been here even one season know what a pain parking at Hoffman can be. Here are some tips to ease the pain and keep everyone safe:

- The best place to park is next door, behind Memorial Middle School. There's tons of space, and it's easy to walk across the grass and through the gate to our fields.
- If you use the big lot by the Revenue Administration Building (the brick building between the fields and Adelphia Road), be sure to take a look at the ground. If you see a marked parking space, and it's empty, park in it. If you don't see markings, **do not park there!** The area along the road, and the curved driveway in front of the building, are **no parking** zones. If you insist on parking there, and the police see it (they patrol the lots), you will get a ticket.
- The small lot to the left of the building is restricted to head coaches, referees and board members. They've been issued special permits to use this lot. If you don't have one, don't park there.
- Never park at the social services building across the street. The lot there will be blocked off on game days.

The Howell PD patrols our lots. **If you're parked illegally, you will get a ticket.** It's that simple. And always drive slowly and carefully in the lots – there are lots of kids out there.

-Bob Hoenig

THE PLAYGROUND AND THE TREES

The playground at Hoffman is part of a town park, and is there for your use. But please remember that it's up to you to keep an eye on your kids. The playground does not belong to Pinelanders, and the club is not responsible for your kids when they're on it. As for the trees, please don't let your kids climb them. We've seen too many kids fall and get hurt over the years. Again, it's up to **you** to know where your kids are.

ROBERT'S RANT

I've been at Pinelanders a long time – a real long time. My oldest kid, who is now 27, started here when he was 5. I've been lucky enough to have a hand in shaping the club's philosophy as a rec and teaching organization. And looking back, that mission we've set for ourselves seems to be working just fine. So it really bothers me when I see parents and coaches who think rec soccer for a 5, or 6, or 7, or 10 year old kid is the MLS or the World Cup. Our goal here is to help kids learn soccer and gain a love for The Beautiful Game. We take kids, coaches and refs who honestly wouldn't recognize the business end of a soccer ball if they saw it, and teach them the basics. We don't claim to be a training ground for the pro leagues, or the Olympics. What makes us proudest is to see kids who came through our program make it to high school or college ball. And what's best is these kids accomplish these things on their own merit. So please, when you come out here to watch or coach, kick back a bit and relax. Have a good time. Let your kids have fun. Because after all, that's what we're all about.

-Bob Hoenig

PINELANDERS WEAR

Our popular line of "Pinelanders Wear" clothing will be available for sale on selected Friday nights and at Trophy Day. Selection includes sweatshirts, sweatpants, jackets, and many other items. Watch for announcements or look for the big table in front of the green trailer.

STAY IN TOUCH

A club the size of Pinelanders depends on good communication to run efficiently. At every game there is a Board Member on Duty. This is the person to see if there are any questions or concerns. While we may not know the answer to your question immediately, we will pass it along to the person who does.

If you have any general questions, or are unsure of whom to contact, feel free to contact me and I will make sure the appropriate Board member gets your note.

-Kim Brown, Secretary

IMPORTANT EMAIL CONTACTS

President Ken Kinelski	Ken.Kinelski@pinelanders.com
Vice President Lynn Hoenig	Lynn.Hoenig@pinelanders.com
Secretary Kim Brown	Kim.Brown@pinelanders.com
Registrar Jem Treadwell	Jem@pinelanders.com
Commissioner Mario Guarino	Mario.Guarino@pinelanders.com

PLEASE HELP OUR REFEREES

Another season is upon us and I would like to remind you that we have many young referees who are still in the learning stages of their careers. Just as we always want to provide a friendly atmosphere for our players, we also want to provide a friendly atmosphere for our referees to develop. Regardless of the age of the referee, no verbal abuse will be tolerated. If you have any input on the quality of the referee in a particular game, please let me, or the Board Member on Duty know. I can be reached at Lou.Hagggar@pinelanders.com

-Lou Hagggar Referee Assignor

REGISTRATION & THE WAITING LIST

The inaugural season of on-line registration went very well, and saved a lot of the work associated with paper registration, as well as increasing the accuracy. Out of 837 registrations so far, 446 were made on-line, and I have no doubt this number would have been much higher if I'd managed to open it a few days before Trophy Day, and if I hadn't then closed it down for a couple of weeks. If you registered that way I hope you found it easier.

Nevertheless, there were some issues that I'll have to handle better in future seasons. Top is that a large number of people registered but either didn't pay when they registered, or didn't follow up with a birth certificate. The result is that we have a number of players who actually registered in good time but are still on the waiting list, because I cannot assign any player for whom I don't have a fully completed registration. And this season we also have a remarkably large number of late registrations.

I'll keep in touch by e-mail with families who have players waiting, and, as always, Wave 2 assignments will begin **after** the first week of the season. Waves 3, 4 and 5 will follow in subsequent weeks until we've placed everyone we can. Please remember that you need to register completely and in good time if you want to avoid the waiting list.

- Jem Treadwell, Registrar

VOLUNTEERING & THE WAITING LIST

Ah, yes: there's also a connection between **volunteering** and being on the waiting list. When we say we won't assign your child if you have a red status from a prior season, we really mean it – and that's another reason for several players being on the waiting list right now.

Every week through the season I send at least one message to all members with a "red" volunteer status, outlining the help we need. If you receive that mail it means you're in the "red zone." Maybe it's a mistake, but that's where you are. If you don't read that mail, or if you **do** read it but you ignore it, you're still in the red zone. And if you're still in the red zone after the end of the season you'll be on the waiting list next time around.

We do try to help if you have problems, but you have to let us know. Please don't watch the season go by without doing or saying anything.

To sign up, please find the volunteer links on your My Pinelanders page, and then check the available activities. Once the season gets fully under way we'll have things scheduled two or three weeks in advance – as each week fills up I'll open another. Once you're signed up your status will change to yellow. Please be sure to sign the sign-in sheet – otherwise there's no way we can change your status to green.

When you signed up your child for this season we said we'd take your registration if you'd help out, and you **PROMISED** that you would. We hope you meant it. We certainly did!

Thanks for helping out this season.

- Jem Treadwell, Volunteer Coordinator