

# Spring TouchLine

March 2009

## President's Message

Welcome to Spring, 2009 at Pinelanders Youth Soccer Club! To our new members, our warmest wishes for an enjoyable, fun-filled season with our family here at Pinelanders. To our returning members – welcome back. It's time for another season of friendship, some exciting games, and learning more about the world's favorite sport.

Our website is your one-stop source for information about all our club's activities. Check back often for current information about upcoming events - and especially if the weather is threatening or predicted to become so. We will post cancellations as early as possible. You'll also be able to check for times of regular and make-up games. Mark Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup> on your calendar – it's our annual Trophy Day/ Family Picnic - lots of food, games and awards for everyone.

Pinelanders is an all-volunteer organization. Your membership included your agreement to help out at some point during the season. There are many areas that need volunteers: snack bar, field lining, field set-up and clean-up each week, and various administrative tasks, to name just a few. Go to your personal My Pinelanders page, click on a Volunteer link, and sign up for your choice of activity. We post new volunteer opportunities frequently, so check back often.

Special thanks to those members who notified us that they “want to do more”. We appreciate your willingness to help. It is unfortunate that every season we are forced to defer the registration of a few returning players whose families failed to offer **any** assistance the preceding season. Happily, those numbers are becoming smaller each season.

The Pinelanders Board of Directors are volunteers charged with the administration of the 10-week spring and fall seasons, typically serving 800-900 players per season. Following the Fall 2008 season the terms of several Board members expired, with some opting to retire after many years of service and dedication to our club.

Our thanks to Chris Hunt, Simon Smit, Bill Bennett, Maria Stenborg, Laurie Szyarto, and Tim O'Brien for the countless hours they devoted to PYSC – and especially to Ken Kinelski, a Board member for 23 years and President for the last 13 years. You've left some big shoes to fill!

Welcome to new Board members Donna Spendley, Larry Gitlitz, Kirsty Kamen, Jason Schindler and Ron Gabbard. They really “hit the ground running”, devoting countless hours to helping the other returning Board members provide this Spring 2009 season for your child.

Our program is built around the concepts of fun, learning and sportsmanship – NOT win/loss records, blowing out your opponents by excessive scores, or negative commentary. Please be positive in encouraging your child and his/her teammates during games. Keep in mind that our referees are often young, newly certified and learning to apply the lessons they learned in their certification classes. Let the coaches coach, the referees ref and the players play the sport recognized around the world as “The Beautiful Game.”

Have a wonderful season!

*Lynn Hoenig, President*



## PINELANDERS PARTNERS WITH NEW YORK RED BULLS

Pinelanders Youth Soccer Club is proud to be a *Student of the Game Partner* of the New York Red Bulls of Major League Soccer. This program is limited to just a handful of clubs in the New Jersey/New York area. The *Student of the Game Partnership* is aimed at giving our members, our coaches, and, most of all, the kids the opportunity to develop a love and understanding of the game by seeing it played at a professional level. Here's just some of what the *Student of the Game Partnership* offers:

- You have the opportunity to purchase tickets to any Red Bulls home game, played at Giants Stadium, at a significant discount. We are offering \$32 Sideline Level seats for just \$22.
- We offer a special 4 pack of tickets for each home game. These are Season Ticket level seats, and include a pass to the Red Bulls Pub – a family restaurant at Giants Stadium open only to Red Bull season ticket holders. Players and coaches visit the Pub after games. This 4-pack is available for \$100
- There will be special Pinelanders Nights during the course of the season, including special recognition for club members attending these games.
- We have the opportunity to have our kids on the field at Giants Stadium for pre-game activities. And if we have enough kids, they'll be able to take part in special games at half time.
- There will be special clinics for players and coaches, and the opportunity to visit the locker room.
- Special giveaways and raffles, and an appearance by a Red Bulls player, will be scheduled throughout the year.

We'll be making announcements of special events throughout the year. Watch for e-mails and postings on our website. Please feel free to contact our program coordinator, Bob Hoenig, via email at [bob.hoenig@pinelanders.com](mailto:bob.hoenig@pinelanders.com) with any questions.

## TEAM PICTURES

Team picture nights are scheduled for **April 21-22**, in the Middle School North cafeteria. We do these pictures each season to give you a memento of your child's time with Pinelanders.

All Sport Photos offers packages at a variety of reasonable prices. Each team will have its own appointment. Your coach will have information about date and time as we get closer. And watch for an e-mail with full details.

## **PARKING AT HOFFMAN FIELDS**

Parking at our fields (formally known as Hugh Hoffman Memorial Park) is very limited. For your safety, and more important, for the safety of the kids, the Club has worked with the Howell Twp Police to develop the following parking rules:

- The small lot to the left of the brick building is reserved for game day staff and coaches. You must have a permit to park in this lot. If there are traffic cones blocking this lot, do not park by the cones.
- The larger lot to the front and right of the building is open to all. You must park in marked stalls only. Do not park along the road. And do not park in the driveways.
- If the lots at Hoffman are full, park behind Howell Memorial Middle School next door. There's a gate connecting that lot to our fields. Do not park on the grass area between the parking lot and the fence.
- **Never** park behind the Social Services Building across the street. Crossing Adelpia Road is **very** dangerous. The lot there is usually barricaded on days we play.
- Please drive slowly and carefully. Watch out for kids in the lots.
- **Always park courteously. Never park in no-parking areas and never block fire lanes. Because soccer is a contact sport, kids do sometimes get hurt. Cars that block emergency entrances are blocking the way for ambulances, and that could delay emergency treatment for a kid.**
- *Pinelanders reserves the right to have illegally parked vehicles ticketed or towed.*

## **PLEASE KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR KIDS**

The Club will make every effort to provide a safe and fun playing environment for your kids. But we ask you to keep an eye on them when they're not on the playing field.

Make sure you know where they are – and never let them wander off alone. Similarly, we expect **you** to supervise your kids when they're on the playground.

*The playground at Hoffman is neither maintained nor supervised by Pinelanders, and the Club cannot take responsibility for your kids when they're using it.*

We also urge you to make sure your kids don't go wandering in the parking lots.

## **Robert's Rant**

Pinelanders is an educational, recreational youth soccer club. We're here to teach the kids about "The Beautiful Game." But we also try to teach them good sportsmanship. And we want them to have fun. The emphasis is on fun. And that teaching process extends right down the line!

It's not just the kids who are learning. It's the coaches, some of whom have never coached before. It's the referees, some of whom are wearing "the shirt" for the first time. And it's the parents, some of whom may not have even seen a game before.

We offer training and mentoring programs for the coaches and referees. The kids will get the benefit of these as well. And we hope that the parents will watch and learn and ask as the season goes along. There's a saying in youth sports: "Let the coaches coach, the refs ref and the players play." We hope you'll abide by that – and remember the spirit that drives this club.

Cheer for the kids. Praise the things they do right. Don't get on the coaches' or refs' cases. They're all going to make mistakes, and they're all going to learn. And if we let them all have fun while they're doing it, we've achieved a big part of our mission.

I join Lynn and the rest of the Board in welcoming our new members, and saying "hi again!" to those of you coming back. As Communications Director, I'm always available to answer any questions and listen to any concerns. The best way to reach me is via email, at [bob.hoenig@pinelanders.com](mailto:bob.hoenig@pinelanders.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

*-Bob Hoenig, Communications Director.*