



The Kicker

SARATOGA AYSO, Region 27

Nov. 2009

From the commissioner

Welcome to our 2009 Saratoga Soccer season. We are looking forward to a great year here in Saratoga.

Our league is a 100% volunteer effort. No one gets paid. The great success of Saratoga Soccer is only possible because every family pitches in to do their part to help make the league run. I know that 16 hours is often hard to work into our busy lives, but with our combined efforts, all our kids will have a great program. Some volunteer jobs, such as being a coach or referee, require additional time, training and dedication. If you have an interest to be more involved, let us know. We have complete training for coaches and referees.

The most difficult part of having a successful program is having enough field space for practices and games. We are reliant on our neighborhood schools, city parks, and churches to provide the space we use. Please support our efforts in obtaining and securing much needed field space. As a reminder, we do not allow any alcohol, drugs, pets, or poor behavior at ANY AYSO activity. If the activity takes place at a public park, we still expect these rules to be adhered to. We are providing a safe and fun environment for all participants. If any rule is violated, we will ask you to leave immediately. Thank you for your cooperation.

As many of you know, AYSO is based on 5 philosophies: Everyone Plays, Balanced Teams, Open Registration, Positive Coaching and Good Sportsmanship. AYSO is an organization of inclusion. AYSO and the programs we run do not allow discrimination, nor do we subscribe to ethnic stereotypes. All players and parents have an equal opportunity to play and participate. It does not matter what school or church you attend, what country you were born in, or where you live. You are welcome as part of the AYSO family. To learn more about the AYSO philosophies, please look in the Policy Handbook, found on the web.

Finally, there are a significant number of new families or families with young kids that have never heard of Saratoga Soccer, especially in the Under-5, Under-6 and Under-8 divisions. We also have a VIP league for children whose physical or developmental challenges make it difficult to successfully participate on mainstream teams. We have a place for every child to play soccer regardless of past experience, where it is fun, positive and exciting to play. Please help spread the word!

Mark Chapman
Regional Commissioner
Saratoga Soccer

Dates to Remember!

Evaluations due Nov. 7
Picture Distribution Day Nov. 7
Trophy Distribution U5-U8- Nov. 7
U10 Tournament Nov 14 & 15 -page 7
Area Tournament Nov. 21 & 22- page 7

PLAYSOCCER

You must use www.eayso.org for registration of all players and adults

Spring Season March - May 2010

Spring 2010 registration is an extension of our fall 2009 program, therefore, in eayso.org all you need to do is:

For those playing current fall and want to play spring all you need to do is click the "print player form" option.

Those that played with AYSO Region 27 in Spring 2009 or fall 2008, all you need to click is the "application for a returning player" option

If never have played AYSO Region 27 click the "application" for new player

Early spring 2010 registration for player whose parents coach or referee

Date: Nov 6 & 10

Time: 6-7:30pm

Place: Argonaut Multi-purpose room

Regular spring 2010 registration

Date: December 11 December 12

Time: 6-7:30pm 9-11am

Place: Argonaut Multi-purpose room

Date: January 6 January 12

Time: 7-8pm 6-7:30 pm

Place: Argonaut Multi-purpose room

Date: February 3

Time: 7-8pm

Place: Argonaut Library

Fee: 110.00 for those players that did not play Fall 2009; 100.00 for returning players that did play Fall 2009.

You MUST use eayso.org for all registration forms. Players and Adults. Bring 1 copy of completed eayso.org player form per player and 2 copies of the adult application.

For questions, only e-mail the registrar at registrar@saratogasoccer.org.

Fees, dates and locations subject to change, please check back the day before any of the registration dates.



AYSO 27 SARATOGA JOB DESCRIPTION

YOUTH SOCCER COACH

Summary

AYSO Region 27 is offering the chance for our youth to become Youth Soccer Coaches for the upcoming Fall and Spring Soccer seasons. This is an amazing opportunity to learn from the region's soccer coaches and help coach other youth soccer players. You will be able to shadow and help coaches, demonstrate soccer skills to younger players, and help players develop their skills. You will have great training and development opportunities as a Youth Soccer Coach so that you could develop into a head coach yourself.

Responsibilities

- Attend team practices and games to assist the co-coaches
- Help develop youth soccer players in AYSO Saratoga under instruction from the coaches
- Be available for the Spring Season which runs for 9 weeks
- Be available for the Fall Season which runs for 11 weeks

Training

- All successful applicants will need to take a day's training before they begin as a Youth Soccer Coach. This includes Safe Haven and U5 – U10 AYSO training from the region's coaching team. The training will typically be on a Saturday in Saratoga and run for 5 hours
- Youth coaches receive on going training from US Soccer Coaching, the professional training organization in AYSO 27, including attending coaches clinics with all other coaches and any specialist events.

Benefits

- Great experience to be involved in youth soccer coaching and help many younger players
- Expert soccer training from AYSO 27 professional training organization
- Coaching hours go toward your high school community hours
- Saratoga Coaches t-shirt and soccer equipment
- Access to the region's coaches folder with hundreds of coaching games
- Future possibility as a AYSO co-coach or professional soccer coach

Qualifications and Requirements

- Must be age 12 and over
- Must be available at least 1 evening a week and for Saturday games during the season
- Want to have fun!



Youth Referee Program

After watching a competitive soccer game, were you confused by a call made by the referee and your child had to explain it to you? Does your child talk about the offside law and how a team can make it work to their benefit? Well, your child is beginning to understand more about the game of soccer and how the referee plays an essential part of the game. Perhaps it's time for your child to formally learn more about the game from the referee point of view and actually be one of the officials for some youth soccer games. This coming spring and fall season, Saratoga Soccer will begin its fifth season of the Player Referee Organization (PRO) program. The program is open to all soccer players 12 years and older. The youth referees do not need to be a registered soccer player to participate.

The program consists of a one-day training class. The class will be similar to the regular adult regional referee class but geared towards youths already familiar with the game of soccer. The class will cover the Laws of the Game, referee mechanics, foul recognition, and referee teamwork. The training will continue on the field throughout the season. Youth referees will be assigned games appropriate for their age, experience, and skill level. There will be an adult referee at all the games as a mentor who will give them feedback and to assist with any special situations. As they gain experience and proficiency, they are eligible to move up to more challenging games.

Some of the benefits of being a youth referee include:

- **Build self-confidence and better able to meet new challenges**
- **Foster leadership and critical thinking skills**
- **Increased knowledge of the Laws of the Game will help become better players by understanding the finer points of the game.**
- **Make new friends with people who share the same interests**
- **For some, a way to fulfill community service requirements**

Our region also benefits by having an increased pool of qualified referees for the many games we host. AYSO is for kids to have fun and for learning. This program is also designed with these objectives as its top goals.

To signup, all you need to do is go to our web site and register your and/or your child's email address at <http://www.saratogasoccer.org/main/email.html>. (check the "Youth" box under Referees.) All further communication about this program, the class, and scheduling will be sent to this youth referee email list.

Send email to youthrefadmin@saratogasoccer.org if have any questions or need further information.

Saratoga AYSO, Region 27
Ram Kunda

NOTE CHANGES FOR 2009

New program format for U12 Boys & Girls. We will play 9v9 on game days instead of 11v11. This will allow all players to have more touches on the ball.

The term co-coach is now used for all coaches. We do not distinguish between coach and assistant coach. Both volunteer positions are treated the same.



NEW PROGRAM FORMAT FOR ALL U5 AND U6 DIVISIONS

U5 and U6 Program:

We will have both a girls and a boys division for both ages. We will play all games in Saratoga at Congress Springs Park. Each division will have an hour on Saturdays in which to practice and then play.

To make the format more flexible and to better serve the kids, we will have US Soccer Coaching LLC available for most of the season to help the coaches lead the practices, organize the games and to monitor progress.

For each division, all the players will be placed on to one "team". This "team" will be split up on game day based on skills and interest. That way, every game will have equal players and balanced play, regardless of who shows up each weekend.

We will have all co-coaches.

Team Reps you can plan on one large team party per division! One big team picture.



Sponsorship opportunities with AYSO

Saratoga AYSO soccer offers two types of sponsorship. Both types enable AYSO to provide scholarships to children that might otherwise be unable to play soccer, fund improvements to our fields and fulfill your family volunteer requirement. The first level is a League Sponsor for a \$250 donation. The second is a Corporate Sponsor for a donation of \$400. At the Corporate level you will have a banner displayed at Congress Springs Park and a thank you on our website. Your banner will be seen by the families of over 1200 children who play soccer in our league each week.

Please email sponsors@saratogasoccer.org for more details.

Thank you to our Corporate Sponsors:

Action Pool and Spa Service and Repair
515-5314

Akeena Solar
1-888-253-3628

Pure Swiss Water
1 877 60Water

Liberty Lighting
867-3706

Timeline Design
741-3000

Medi Weight Loss Clinic- Los Gatos
871-7726

Dr. Phan Dental
364-1122

Referees Corner

1. Each match is controlled by a Referee who has full authority to enforce the Laws of The Game in connection with the match to which he has been appointed.
2. Referees are the guardians of the game. They protect its spirit by making sure that the game is FAIR, SAFE and FUN.
3. Without Referee volunteers, AYSO would not be able to field a soccer league and provide the opportunity for our kids to learn teamwork, make new friends and discover the fun of playing the game.

Being a Referee can also be a very rewarding experience. It affords you:

- Wonderful light exercise
- The best seat in the house
- An appreciation for the number one team sport in the world
- The chance to be a role model for the kids
- The gratitude and respect of coaches, players and parents

Saratoga AYSO has a strong Referee support structure; with simple classes, experienced team leaders, and helpful mentors. We make it easy for you.

WE NEED YOU! IT'S FOR THE KIDS!



Coaches Corner

I would like to thank all of our volunteer coaches who dedicated so much of their personal time to make this fall season a success.

The fall training:

Please visit our website saratogasoccer.org for complete details.

Mark your calendars for the training you want and RSVP to Stu Chambers at coach@saratogasoccer.org to reserve your spot.

The Coach Administration team has many tools available to support our returning and novice coaches to make your coaching experience fun and rewarding! Let's all remember that the best teacher of the game is the game itself!

Please be sure to register your email address via the email link at www.saratogasoccer.org so you are up to date on the latest coaching information.

Best Regards,
Sarang Kirpekar
Regional Coach Administrator



End of Season Tournament Information

- All U-10 Division teams will play in the Ending Season Tournament. Standings from the regulars season games are used to seed the tournament. The tournament is held on both Saturday and Sunday, two weekends before Thanksgiving. The tournament format is a round robin of short games. The first place team in the tournament (and sometimes second and third) will receive awards denoting their finishing place in the tournament.. All other teams in the tournament will receive participation awards. Depending on the number of teams, U-10 Divisions may be divided into two groups for tournament.
- The first (for U-14B and U-14G and sometimes more), second, and third place U-12B and U-12G will be invited to participate in an Area 2J Tournament. The tournament may be held on both Saturday and/or Sunday, the weekend after the end of the season but not on Thanksgiving Weekend. The tournament format is a round robin and elimination of short games. The first, second, and third place teams in the Area Tournament will receive awards from the Area. A section tournament consisting of AYSO teams from Northern California may be available after Thanksgiving.
- Turkey Tournament open to U10, U12, U14. Region 249 in San Bruno has invited all Saratoga U10, 12,14 teams to participate in a bay-area wide AYSO Soccer tournament on the Saturday and Sunday of Thanksgivings Weekend. There is a nominal fee per team. Team must register before October 31 (Halloween). If two teams need to combine players due to a lack of players, all players must play equal time in the tournament. Please contact the Coach or Regional Commissioner if you are interested rc@saratogasoccer.org, coach@saratogasoccer.org

