



The Kicker

SARATOGA AYSO, Region 27

March, 2006

From the commissioner

Fall Soccer is Coming!

Welcome to the start of the Saratoga Soccer, AYSO Region 27 Fall 2006 Soccer Season. Welcome to one of the best youth sports leagues in America! The Board and several other volunteers started planning the fall '06 season in January. We plan to continue the great programs for Under-5 (U5), U6 and U8 kids, as well as build on our programs for older kids in U10 and U12, and to strengthen our top ranked U14, U16 and U19 competitive programs. We are expecting 1200 kids and over 800 families to participate again this fall.

Our league is a 100% volunteer effort here in Saratoga. 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 have a great program. Some volunteer jobs, such as being a coach or referee, require additional time, training and dedication. If you have the interest to be more involved, 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. We have also reduced the number of practice days for Under-8 to one day per week, and for some divisions we have early and late practice times on the fields we do have. Recently you may have read about the improvement plans at Kevin Moran Park. The city council voted 4 to 1 to move forward with the planning phase to add one full size soccer field to the existing park. These types of projects have many, many hurdles to overcome before a kid can play on new grass. I expect there to be several future public hearings where your help will be needed. If the city does ultimately add this field, this would greatly expand the available practice space for our older kids. In the meantime, we will continue to work with those fields available to us to provide better experience for our children.

In an effort to simplify the registration process, AYSO has instituted a process of electronic paperwork. When you come to registration with your printed forms, you only need to select a volunteer job and pay the fee. This greatly improves the accuracy and readability of the information on the forms. Also, once you have entered your data into the system, it simplifies registration paperwork for future seasons. Starting this spring we required both Volunteer and Player forms be completed online before registration. While the system is not perfect, we will continue this in Fall. Please visit www.eayso.org and complete both a Volunteer and Player application; Bring a print-out of both to registration. You are not officially registered until you attend registration and turn in your paperwork and check.

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; We do not subscribe to ethnic stereotypes. All players and parents have 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!

Howard Miller, Regional Commissioner Saratoga Soccer, 2005 AYSO Platinum Region

The Volunteer Jobs of Every Other Family

This Fall season, our soccer league will again have over 1200 kids and 800 families! This is one of the largest single volunteer efforts for our kids in the city. To make such a huge undertaking successful we need a lot of help. This Fall season we will need 240 Coaches / Assistant Coaches, 100 Referees / Assistant Referees, and 120 Team Reps.

These people make up the core our program and make it one of the best youth sports leagues in America. A great way to be more directly involved with your child and their activities is to volunteer for one of these core positions. When you get ready to pick your volunteer job this fall, remember that Every Other Family will take on one of these roles, so why not you!



Open Board Positions

In Saratoga, we are lucky that we have so many highly talented people willing to help deliver a Quality program each season. If you are organized and want to be part of the best run youth organization in the nation, please contact Howard Miller (commissioner@saratogasoccer.org). We have the following Board positions available:

* **Child and Volunteer Protection Advocate:** Are you a teacher, lawyer or safety officer? You would be ideal for this job.

* **Special Programs Commissioners:** Are you a leader and can organize people well? You would be ideal for this job.

* **Assistant Purchasing Director:** Are you good with Excel and organized? You would be ideal for this job.

Have you checked out the Saratoga Soccer website?

Go to www.saratogasoccer.org for all the latest information about your child's soccer league! Click on **Calendar** on the left hand tab on the main page and you will be directed to the calendar for the entire year of 2006.

Sign up to receive **email updates** on all important Saratoga AYSO information by scrolling down toward the bottom of the home page and following the instructions where it says:

Attention: Parents, Coaches, and Referees

Register you email address today to receive important communication from the league. Please click [here](#) to register (or de-register).

Make sure your player has their ball,and make sure YOU have www.saratogasoccer.org

League Recognition

Saratoga Soccer AYSO Region 27 was again recognized for exceptional performance by receiving its fourth consecutive annual AYSO Platinum Award for Excellence. This award signifies that they have attained the highest level of proficiency and accomplishment in the management and delivery of AYSO soccer to their communities. Two years ago Region 27 was recognized as the AYSO Region of the Year. This year, Howard Miller was also honored with the Manny Hirschel AYSO Volunteer of the Year Award.

Saratoga Soccer is one of the five regions in AYSO Area 2J. Area-2J was honored with it's second Platinum Award for Excellence and was the 2005 AYSO Area of the year.

Critical Referee Information

Make sure you take advantage of all the “perks” which referees are entitled! We accept new and returning Adult Referees and well as returning Youth Referees. Here’s a list of upcoming events for referees:

Early Registration for Fall – Save up to \$50 per child on your fall registration fee by coming to one of these registration dates: March 18 and 19 from 10-11am or 4-5pm; and April 2 from 3-5pm. All registrations are in the Argonaut Elementary School Library.

Referee Appreciation BBQ – Following the success of our first BBQ last fall, we’re having another one at the end of the Spring season. All referees and their families are welcome to attend an evening of fun, food, and prizes. May 20, 6-7:30pm at El Quito Park.

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 fall season, Saratoga Soccer will begin its fourth 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.

Also, plan on attending the mandatory training class on Saturday, August 19, from 9:00 to 4:00 at the Argonaut school library. If this date doesn’t work for you, you can attend the adult referee class on July 20 & 22 or August 10 & 12. Send email to youthrefadmin@saratogasoccer.org if have any questions or need further information.

Garrett Short
Saratoga AYSO, Region 27

Referees Corner By Jordan Silver

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. -Laws of the Game

Referees are the guardians of the game. They protect its spirit by making sure that the game is FAIR, SAFE and FUN.

Without Referee volunteers, AYSO would not be able 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!

Some important dates to remember (please check the web for latest info):

Date	Day	EVENT LOCATION/TIME
2-Apr	Sun	Early Registration Fall Referees 3pm-5pm
21-Jul	Fri	Golden Gate Camp Advanced Referee Training
27-Jul	Thu	U5/U6 Referee Training 6pm-10 pm
27-Jul	Thu	Basic Referee Training, Part 1 7pm-10pm
29-Jul	Sat	Basic Referee Training, Part 2 9am-3:30pm
30-Jul	Sun	Referee Refresher (returning referees) 11am-3pm
10-Aug	Thu	U5/U6 Referee Training 6pm-10pm
10-Aug	Thu	Basic Referee Training, Part 1 7pm-10pm
12-Aug	Sat	Basic Referee Training, Part 2 9am-3:30pm
13-Aug	Sun	Referee Refresher (returning referees) 11am-3pm
19-Aug	Sat	Youth Referee Training 9am-4pm
26-Aug	Sat	Opening Season Soccerfest U5/6/8/10/12
26-Aug	Sat	Referee Bar-B-Que 6p-7:30p El Quito Park
26-Aug	Sat	First Game Divisions U19/16/14
9-Sep	Sat	First Reg Season Games U5/6/8/10/12
4-Nov	Sat	Last Regular Season Game U10



*Saratoga Soccer
Games are*

***FAIR,
SAFE,
And FUN!***

AYSO Region 27 Sponsors

Become a Saratoga Soccer Corporate Sponsor!

For only \$500, your business can become an official sponsor of Saratoga Soccer AYSO region 27. For this fee, we will hang a 4 x 3 foot banner at our main fields complex, Congress Springs Park for the duration of our Fall 2006 soccer season (August 26 through November 19). There are 7 soccer fields at this park. **Every week, over 800 families and over 3000 people visit the park for soccer.** The vast majority are Saratoga residents. This is a cost effective way to inform a large number of people about your business.

Also, your business will be listed on this web page and potentially in future written communications produced by the league.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact our [Sponsorship Coordinator](mailto:SponsorshipCoordinator@SaratogaSoccer.org), at sponsors@saratogasoccer.org.

Thank YOU!! Fall 2005 Corporate Sponsors

Ken Callahan, Intero Real Estate

Leiter's Pharmacy

John Faylor, Coldwell Banker Previews

Bob Lewis Hyundai

Kenneth A. Shimizu DDS, MSD - Orthodontics

Smart & Final

Mario Ramirez, Alain Pinel

Akeena Solar, Inc.



Coaches Corner

Believe it or not early registration for fall coaches is just around the corner: March 18 and 19 from 10-11am and 4-5 pm; and April 2 from 3-5 pm. All registrations will take place in the Argonaut Elementary School Library. Be sure to come early so you get the position you want plus **save up to \$50 per child** on the fall registration fee!

Well trained coaches are what make this league work for us as coaches as well as for the kids! There are a number of opportunities for coach training at all levels this summer. Mark your calendars for the training you want and RSVP to Ken Izzo at coach@saratogasoccer.org to reserve your spot.

7/15 - Coach Safe Haven and U5-U10 Coach

7/21-23 - Advanced Coach training at Golden Gate Camp

7/29 - U12 Coach

8/12 - Coach Safe Haven and U5-U10 Coach

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.

PLAYSOCCER

2006 EARLY JOB REQUEST OPPORTUNITY

Dear AYSO Family,

Thank you for participating in our pre-selection program for volunteer job opportunities. We have a wonderful soccer program, and you have generously stepped up to help keep it going.

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

We are offering early registration to all:

- Coaches
- Assistant Coaches
- Referees
- Returning Youth Referees
- Division Mgrs
- Board Members
-

PLEASE COME AND REGISTER on one of the dates

March 18, from 10am-11am or 4pm-5pm

March 19, from 10am-11am or 4pm-5pm

April 2 from 3pm-5pm

Argonaut Elementary School Library

For all other job opportunities and regular registration dates, please see second page.

Thank you, Dianne Depositari, AYSO Registrar, 249-8389

ATTENTION

Registration process is new!

Before you are able to enter the registration process, you

**MUST bring 2 copies of the
eAYSO Adult/Parent Volunteer Application.
And 1 copy of the eAYSO Player Form**

No exceptions

You obtain the above forms by pre-registering on-line with National AYSO's eAYSO database. www.eayso.org/

The job selection portion of the Adult/Parent Volunteer Application and on the Player Form is not confirmed until your presence at registration.

The name on the Adult/Parent Volunteer Application is the person that **MUST** come to registration with Photo ID

For more information, please visit

www.saratogasoccer.org/

Please feel free to call the Regional Registrar
at 408-249-8389

eAYSO Information

www.eayso.org

Please Keep in Mind That eAYSO is only PRE-Registering. Your player and yourself are not processed until you finalize the paperwork & payment on the scheduled registration dates.

1. The volunteer selection drop down in eAYSO is for informational purposes only. This gives you an idea of what is offered.
2. Your selection of volunteer position in the eAYSO program must be **REGIONAL STAFF.**
3. When you arrive at registration you will pick your volunteer position among the choices that will be on tables with detailed descriptions. The jobs are first come first serve.
4. You may take advantage of our Pre-selection of jobs and receive a job confirmation in the mail by following the procedure outlined in this Kicker. This will also get you through the registration day process quickly
5. Please be sure to fill in the where do you go to **School & Experience data fields**



EARLY VOLUNTEER JOB SIGN-UP

This is your opportunity to request a VOLUNTEER job before registration! Jobs which are not filled through this process will be available at walk-in Registration on May 20 and June 3.

Your pre-selected job is **only valid this registration date May 6.**

All job forms not picked up on May 6th will be returned to open positions for others to choose from on the remaining registration dates.

All jobs are a minimum of 16 hours commitment. Jobs (BBQ Worker & Snack Shack Worker) require a shift and the shift must be selected at registration in person.

Print Volunteer Name _____ Phone # _____

1. Review the list of jobs you are willing to help with. Select up to 4 jobs and list them by number in order of preference. Number your choices 1, 2, 3 & 4
2. Mail to: **AYSO Registrar 1150 Ranchero Way #23
San Jose, CA 95117**

Referee _____ Teams may be adjusted down if we do not get 90 referees!

Coaching/Ass't Coaching Jobs (If the information below is missing you will not secure the job)

Please include child's name and the division for which you are going to assistant coach or coach.

Coach _____ Assistant Coach _____

Child's name: _____ Birth date: _____ Div: _____

Team Representative (If the information below is missing you will not secure the job)

Please include child's name and the division you are going to Team Rep for.

Child's name: _____ Birth date: _____ Div: _____

Support Workers (Please number your selection 1-4):

	Team Assignment Wkr		Nets & Flags Worker		Fields Painting Worker
	Sweatshirt Distrib. Wkr		Safety Clean-up Worker		Awards Distrib. Worker
	SoccerFest Worker 8/26		Day Camp Worker		Registration Worker*
	Picture Day Worker		Player _Eval. Clinic Wkr		Awards Prep Worker
	Snack Shack Worker		First Aid Safety Worker		Fields Layout Worker
	BBQ Worker		MLS Housing		Late reg. worker 7/8, 8/24

*Remember that registration workers must commit to all Registration dates. The dates are: 4/2, 5/6, 5/20, 6/3, 7/8. You must be able to report to registration 1 and 1/2 hours before the doors open for training and set-up. Registration is a full day of work.

ALL REQUESTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 19th!



Saratoga AYSO
P.O. Box 2933
Saratoga, CA 95070

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
SARATOGA, CA
95070
PERMIT # 12

Bulletin:

**Every Family should sign up EARLY for their
volunteer job for FALL SOCCER**

**Check inside for information on what jobs are available!
Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Division Managers,
Referees, and Board Members -**

**Mark your calendar for the EARLY registration dates
available to you inside!**

Always check www.saratogasoccer.org for more details