



The Kicker

SARATOGA AYSO, Region 27

March, 2004

Regional Commissioner's Column

Welcome to the start of the Saratoga Soccer, AYSO Region 27 Fall 2004 Soccer Season. Members of the Board and other volunteers started planning our Fall season in January. We have another fun and exciting fall soccer season planned for our kids and the kids of our community. This news letter is the kick-off for the registration of our fall season.

During the off season, we have worked with the Saratoga Union School District and the City of Saratoga to improve our fields and to increase our access to these much needed fields. Improvements take time and are costly. However, we have made significant first steps and Foothill Elementary school, Kevin Moran Park and Congress Springs Park. If all goes as planned, this season, you will start to see changes in practice locations and field repair/improvement projects under way. Later in this newsletter, I outline these projects in greater detail.

Coaches for all ages, Assistant coaches for U8 and up and Referees are encouraged to take advantage of the Advanced Registration discount. The fee is \$100 per player rather than the regular fee of \$150 per player. As always, U6 Assistant coaching jobs are reserved for New families with only U6 players in the league. If you have never coached or refereed before, these are both wonderful ways to become more involved with the league, learn more about soccer and get involved with your kids. For the younger divisions, no knowledge is necessary, just the time and desire to help the kids. Complete training is provided. If you are interested in becoming a new Coach or Referee, please come to the Advanced Registration.

Major Changes for the Fall 2004 season:

It has been recommended by AYSO sports and child experts that we split our U6 program by gender. We are evaluating this change. Coaches that register will be asked to choose between a girls or boys team. However, if we do not think that will work, we may combine the two divisions into a co-ed division.

We will hold Opening Day before Memorial Day weekend. U6 through U14 continue to play on Saturdays (except Tournaments). U16 and U19 play on Sunday.

Schedule of Game Days:

August 28th and 29th, 2004 Opening Season Ceremony, Tournaments and Games

September 4th, 2004 No Games - Memorial Day weekend

November 13th, 2004 Last Regular Games (and U16/U19 Tournaments)

AYSO is instituting an electronic registration system for all training classes for Coaches, Referees and other certifications. As needed, Coaches, Referees and others will be given information regarding this system in May. Unfortunately, this system is not sufficient to support on-line registration. However, if you played in fall, we will have pre-printed registration forms which save a lot of writing. Of course you will need updated doctor information, emergency contacts and two references.

The timely flow of information to everyone in the league and community is important to the league. Please check the web site (<http://www.saratogasoccer.org>) for up to date information. This site contains information regarding registration and upcoming events. Once the season starts, it has official standings and field status (Open/Close for rain). Also, if you haven't already done so, please subscribe to the e-mail lists for regular e-mail updates about the league and registrations.

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 6 and Under 8 divisions. Please help spread the word! We have a place for every child to play soccer regardless of past experience, where it is fun, positive and exciting to play.

Howard Miller

Regional Commissioner

Updated Spring Soccer Information

Our spring soccer season is just about ready to begin. Everyone has already registered. Coaches will be given their teams in the first weekend of March. Practices start the middle of March. The first games are on March 27. We look forward to a great Spring Soccer season.

Coaches Corner

By Ken Izzo

I'm Ken Izzo, your new Region 27 Coach Administrator taking over for Kent Bossange. On behalf of all those associated with this region, I want to thank Kent for his hard work and dedication to our coaching program!

One of the greatest things about the AYSO soccer program in addition to its dedication to the kids is the opportunity for training. This spring and summer we will be offering coach training program at all levels. For those of you that are new to soccer, the courses will teach all of the basics you will need to work with the kids, and you can do it regardless of your previous involvement with soccer. All you need is your time and a desire to work with the kids and have fun. For those that have been around, there is always the next level of training including the opportunity to go to Golden Gate Camp or National. Advancing your training as your kids grow is a great way to keep up with your kids and learn more about how to coach soccer.

Following are this season's local training classes:

U6 Coach July 24 - OR - August 14

U8 Coach July 24 - OR - August 14

U10 Coach July 24 - OR - August 14

U12 Coach May 2 - OR - July 31

Intermediate Coach (U14) June 4 and 5

Golden Gate camp is a Friday through Sunday residency camp at Saint Mary's college in Moraga. The cost of the camp will be fully paid by Saratoga soccer for those coaches approved to attend. At the camp, you can take either:

Intermediate Coach (U14) July 16, 17 and 18

Advanced Coach (U16) July 16, 17 and 18

Please contact me if you have any questions or are interested in more coach training. In addition, if you are able to help me instruct in any of these classes, I could use your help. The spring season is just about to kick off. See the web for more info and remember to register early for fall.

Referee Corner

By Vikram Kohli

"Each match is controlled by a Referee Team who have full authority to enforce the Laws of The Game, in connection with the match to which appointed!" *Laws of the Game*

WELCOME to Spring Soccer 2004 Season. Referees did a great job during Fall 2003 and we're planning to do more great work during the following seasons. We are led by the New Commissioner for Region 27. Let's offer our best support to give him a Good Start!

Here's how more experienced referees can help: Help with leading referee teams and refereeing AYSO Soccer games; give 1-2 hours to teach, at one of the upcoming Referee Clinics; helping and mentoring newer referees.

Here's how newer referees can help: Give required time to officiate AYSO Soccer games through the season; complete the training & Safe Haven Certification requirements; be willing to learn & be mentored for conducting AYSO Games.

All levels to remember that it's important that we ENJOY the games and ensure the KIDS have FUN.

Remember to keep your email information current at
<http://saratogasoccer.org/main/email.html>

Referee Trivia: Is it permissible for a goalkeeper to take a Throw-In, Corner Kick, Penalty Kick etc.?

Answer: YES. He is a player of the TEAM.

Current Referee Certifications / Levels:

U-8 Official (New!)

Regional Referee

Intermediate Referee (Formerly know as Area Referee)

Advanced Referee (Formerly know as Section Referee)

National Referee (combined National 1 & National 2 Referee)

Opportunity to upgrade to Advanced Referee (from Intermediate) and to National Referee (from Advanced). Required courses are being offered at Golden Gate Camp at Saint Mary's College, Moraga, CA on July 16, 17 & 18

Where your Fees Go

Have you ever wondered where your \$150 per player fee goes? In our policy handbook, we publish our budget for the season. Everyone will get a copy of the handbook when they register. Here is a simplified preview of the fall 2004 budget:

Income:

\$170K Player Fees
\$11K Sponsors
\$10K Fundraising and Snack Shack
\$19K Summer Camps
\$29K Field Development Reserves from Previous season
\$239K Total income and allocation from reserve

Expenses:

\$19K AYSO fees and Soccer Accident Insurance
\$66K Stuff for the kids: Uniforms, Sweatshirts, Pictures and Trophies
\$28K Training: MLS Coaches, Coach clinics, Referee clinics and other Training
\$10K Equipment: Nets, goals, Safety Equipment
\$79K Field Expenses: Fees, Repairs and Improvements
\$10K Communications: Handbooks, Web, News Letters, Postage
\$21K Summer Camps
\$6K Overhead (Board meetings, training, travel and other expenses)
\$239K Total expenses

Fields, Fields Everywhere...

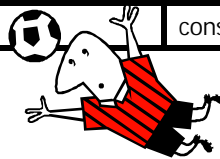
Fields are the lifeblood of any soccer league. With over 1200 players in Fall soccer and over 300 in Spring soccer, year round access to safe fields is critical to Saratoga Soccer's future. We have great access to fields owned by our city and the schools in our area. But, as you might have noticed, we don't have enough field space to insure everyone gets a good field at a time that the coach and team can use it. This last year was very difficult for many teams because of the construction in the Saratoga Union and the Campbell Union school districts. In addition, a serious grub worm issue and rain further impacted our practices. Coaches, parents and player were all very patient with these issues. The good news is that no games were canceled!

Looking to the future, we are working hard to improve access to and the quality of our fields. In many regions of AYSO, it is easy to create new fields. In Saratoga, with the extremely high prices of vacant land, we are extremely limited in what is possible. However, there are opportunities to work with the schools and city to create new fields! We are also working to improve our existing fields.

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Know Your 2004 SARATOGA AYSO BOARD
PO Box 2933, Saratoga CA 95070

Title	Name	Email
Regional Commissioner	Howard Miller	commissioner@saratogasoccer.org
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Purchasing Commissioner -Equipment, Uniforms & Sweatshirts	Mahesh Jethanandani	uniforms@saratogasoccer.org
Purchasing Commissioner - Awards & Pictures	Lisa Payne	awards@saratogasoccer.org
Snack Shack Commissioner	Sukhdev S Kapur	snackshack@saratogasoccer.org
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Publicity Commissioner	Nancy Cheadle	pr@saratogasoccer.org
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Consultant	Mark Chapman	consultant@saratogasoccer.org
Consultant	Vance Nelson	consultant@saratogasoccer.org



Fields Continued from page 2

We are working with the Saratoga Union School district on the development of the upper field at Foothill Elementary School. This field would be used by the Los Gatos - Saratoga girls softball league in the spring and by Saratoga Soccer in the fall. Saratoga Soccer will be a significant contributor to this project. Depending on when the work is completed, we may have a new practice field for Fall 2004 or Fall 2005!

The City of Saratoga has started the process to more fully develop Kevin Moran park. This decision was in part, based on our feedback at two city council meetings late last year. I want to thank all of you that came to these meetings or that sent e-mail to the city council. There is money available that can only be used for the development of parks. We have the potential to add a wonderful practice field and other improvements in a great location not only for the benefit of our kids, but for the general enjoyment of all residents of the city. The process of expanding a park is a long collaborative effort between the city, the members of the community and the user groups (AYSO and others). This process has not yet started. If you are interested in being involved, I recommend that you contact members of the Park and Rec Commission. This park improvement project will provide an additional practice field later this decade.

Saratoga Soccer is also working with the City of Saratoga to improve the drainage at Congress Springs Park. This will allow us to more quickly return to using the field after rain, improve the long-term wear at the park and improve the playing surface. This is a costly project that will be done in phase as funds become available. Saratoga Soccer is contributing funds now for work that will be completed before our Fall 2004 season.

As has been done for the last 2 years, we continue to fund maintenance and repairs of the field at Blue Hill Elementary School.

Last year we formed an active Field Repair crew. They frequently filled gofer holes and depressions to improve the safety of our fields. We plan to expand the activities of this crew in the coming season. If you are a green thumb (or own a landscape company), we have the perfect volunteer job for you!

Saratoga Soccer is spending a substantive portion of our annual budget to use, improve and even create fields within our region. This benefits our kids, the schools and our community.

PLAYSOCCER

2004 ADVANCED REGISTRATION JOB REQUEST OPPORTUNITY

Dear AYSO Family,

Thank you for participating in our pre-registration program for jobs. We have a wonderful soccer program, and you have generously stepped up to help keep it going. Just fill out the form on the page 5 of this newsletter and mail it in as specified!

**We are offering advanced registration to all Coaches,
Assistant Coaches, Referees and Board Members.**

PLEASE COME AND REGISTER ON

**March 27, 10am-Noon or 3pm-4pm
OR APRIL 24, 10am-Noon or 3pm-4pm
Place: Argonaut Multi-Purpose Room**

There will be more information at registration and
a chance to talk to the Regional Coach Administrator.

Thank you,
Dianne Depositar
AYSO Registrar

Kicker Editor Needed

If you are a writer or creative with news letters and your kids love to play soccer, we have a couple of year round positions available to you. No more waiting in line in hopes of getting a "good job". Contact Nancy Cheadle at 255-6462 or nancy.cheadle@gte.net if you are interested.

The Kicker is our leagues news letter sent to all families three to four times a year. It is generally two to three double sided pages. If you have Microsoft Publisher, we can transfer the soft copy templates to you directly. Many other types of publishing software would work, however, and the communications team will support you to get you up and running. Articles are submitted to you, and there is a whole team of folks who take care of the copying and mailing. You just put it all together and make the master copy look great!

Player's Corner

In our last issue, you enjoyed a great article written by one of our players, Arjun Dutta, on his "life as a goalie". His was the first in an occasional series we wish to continue in our Kicker.

If you have a player who would like to try their hand at news-writing, please encourage them to pick a topic related to their AYSO experience, and write a "who, what, where, when and why" style of article for submission to the Kicker Editor. How about some news about spring soccer? Or maybe an article about how soccer helps kids learn things they don't learn at school and how it helps them make lots of new friends?

Please forward the article via email to nancy.cheadle@gte.net for consideration. Publication is determined by the Editor. Thanks!

Corporate Sponsors Needed

Saratoga Soccer has adjusted our Sponsorship program for Fall 2004. We eliminated "Team Sponsors" because very few people were interested. We have reduced the cost of our general "Family Sponsorship" to \$350. We have also reduced the cost of our Corporate Sponsorship to \$500. Corporate Sponsors get a banner prominently displayed at Congress Springs park. The advertising value of a corporate banner is large. Nearly 3000 people visit Congress Springs park each weekend during our 12 week season. Also, AYSO is a non-profit organization so your sponsorships maybe tax deductible (check with your tax professional).

If there are Corporations that are in the landscape industry or corporations that would like more significant exposure than the single field banner, please contact the Regional Commissioner.

Sponsorships provide funding for our needs-based player scholarship program and for field improvement projects. They are however, no substitute for enough Coaches, Referees and other volunteers. No matter how many sponsors we have, the number of kids that can participate in the league is limited the number of volunteers we have. "We welcome anyone as a sponsor, but to best support the league, be a volunteer!"

Registration Information

This is your opportunity to request a job before registration! Jobs which are not filled through this process will be available at walk-in Registration on May 1. If you know of new families who plan to join AYSO this season, let them know that we have reserved some jobs just for them. This pre-assignment of jobs is for returning families only. **The date for this registration will be May 1 only.** Pre-selected jobs will only be available May 1st, all job forms not picked up on May 1st will be returned to open positions for others to choose from.

If you are returning to your leadership job this year, please return this form for confirmation. Thank you. All jobs are a minimum of 16 hours commitment. Jobs which require a shift are reserved by job. Shifts will be selected at registration.

Print Volunteer Name _____ Phone # _____

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.

Mail to: **AYSO Registrar**
1150 Ranchero Way #23
San Jose, CA 95117

Coaching/Ass't Coaching Jobs

Please include child's name

Coach _____ Assistant Coach _____

Child's name: _____ Birth date: _____

Referee : _____

Support Workers

	Team Assignment Wrkr		SoccerFest Opening Day		Fields Painting Worker
	Kicker Distrib. Worker		Safety Clean-up Worker		Nets Worker
	Roster Handbk Worker		Day Camp Worker		Registration Worker*
	Area Tournament Wkr		Fields Layout Worker		Awards Prep Worker
	Snack Shack Worker		Tournament(U10) Wkr		Sweatshirt Distrib. Wkr
	MLS Housing		New Plyr Eval Worker		Picture Day Worker
	BBQ Worker		Registration Wkr Sept		Awards Distrib. Worker

***You must be able to report to registration 1 hour before the doors open.**
Registration Dates: March 27, April 24, May 1, May 15, June 5

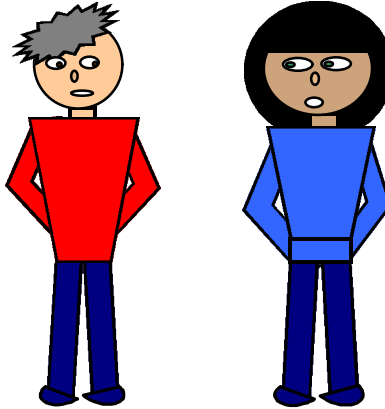
ALL REQUESTS MUST BE POSTMARKED BY APRIL 1st!
IT'S FOR THE KIDS!

PSST...

Do you know what's inside this mailing?
Don't spread it around but it's the
PRE-SELECTION of Volunteer Jobs
for the Fall, 2004 Soccer Season!!

WOW!!

I should ***read this now*** and send it in so
I get the volunteer job of my choice!!!
Thanks for the tip!



Advanced Registration March 27th and April 24th - see details inside!

Saratoga AYSO
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