



OYSA News Brief – May, 2009

From the Desk of Chuck Keers, Executive Director

Communication: One of the most frequent comments I get is that our member clubs don't always know what is going on at Oregon Youth Soccer. So often we rely on departmental memos, board minutes or Goal Lines to tell the stories. So I thought I'd start e-mailing a brief summary of noteworthy happenings. Additional information will usually be available on our website, or you can contact me directly at chuck@oregonyouthsoccer.org or 503-626-4625.

New Logo: We launched our new logo at the State Cup Finals this month and received some great feedback.

Goal Lines: Our old periodical will be replaced with an e-newsletter beginning in July, 2009. This will save us money and also allow us to be timelier, relevant and focused in our content. We will keep the April periodical which will be mostly dedicated to try-outs and summer camps.

Website: We will be launching a new website in the next few months. Expect a new and vastly improved portal to all Oregon Youth Soccer information in the coming months. There will be new advertising opportunities as well.

New Recreational Tournament: There will be a new tournament for recreational teams, probably on the weekend of November 21st and 22nd, 2009. It will be for U10 through U14 teams and will cost about \$350 per team.

US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup Regional Tournament coming to Oregon: The President's Cup used to be the end of the road for Classic level teams in Oregon, but US Youth Soccer has established another National Tournament for teams that don't participate in the National Championship Series. Oregon has been selected to host the 2010 Regional Presidents Cup. The event will be held in Medford at the new US Cellular Community Park June 10 through June 13. The Region IV Presidents Cup is made up of U13 to U17 US Soccer State Presidents Cup winners from each of the 14 states in the Region.

US Cellular Community Park Multi-Sport Complex in Medford opens: The city of Medford cut the ribbon on their new multi-sport complex this month. It is a 132 acre community park that has five lighted dedicated turf soccer fields, including one stadium field as well as six lighted turf soft-ball diamonds that can convert to soccer fields. It is one of the most spectacular soccer venues in the country.

OYSA to bid on other Regional/National Events: We will be seeking to bring the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup National Championships to Oregon in 2011, further we hope to persuade Region IV to have their annual planning conference in Oregon in October of 2011 or 2012.

New Board Members Appointed: Steve Hershberger and John McCafferty were appointed to serve as District Director for the Central Valley and Western District, respectively, on the Oregon Youth Soccer Board of Directors. John Thomas was also recently appointed to represent the Central/Eastern District after resigning from his position as Tualatin Hills District Director.

State Cup Champions/Far West Regionals: State Cup Finals were held May 9th and was widely regarded as the best run State Cup ever. Congratulations to everybody who participated. Special congratulations to the following teams and clubs that will be representing Oregon at the US Youth Soccer Far West Regional Tournament in Lancaster, CA from June 15th through the 21st: Lake Oswego's Defeeters, Extreme and Soul Crew, Westside Metros' Premier, Remix and Internationals, FC Portland's G16 Green – 92 and G18 Sapphire – 90 (wild card), Southside's 94 Ireland, Oregon Rush's 93 Girls Nike, Tualatin Hills United's Neon, Cascade FC's Boca Jr. and Atlas, North West Soccer and Scouting Association's Eagles, Eastside United's Liverpool and Santos FC's River Plate (wild card).

US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup Regionals (2009): This is the first year this tournament is available to all State Association in Region IV. It is being held in Tri-Cities, Washington from June 11 through the 14th. Congratulations to the following clubs and teams that will represent Oregon: Eastside United Fulham and Portsmouth, Portland City United Stryka and Gunners, Rogue Valley Shockwave, Centennial SC U17 Boys, Mount Hood SC Mount Hood United, Corvallis FC Tsunami and Cascade FC Juventes (WC).

Clinics and Camps: Our free Youth Modules are filling up fast, so if you'd like your coaches to take these hugely important novice coaching clinics this summer or fall I'd encourage you to contact Mike Smith to get on the calendar. Our free West Coast Bank Recreational Player clinics will also be scheduled soon, so if your club would like to host one of these, please let us know. Lastly, we are running a player camp for all levels and ages of players in conjunction with Bridlemile Soccer Club from June 22nd through the 26th. If you have players who you think would like to participate, please check the Bridlemile website link at www.bridlemilesoccer.com. We will be expanding player camp offerings, so if your club is interested in hosting a player camp, please give Mike a call.

Nike Friendship Cup: Some of the best soccer played all year in Oregon will be this weekend, May 22nd through the 25th at the Tualatin Hills Park and Recreation Department's fields at their Howard M Terpenning Complex (the Rec Center). Over 60 ODP teams from around Region IV and beyond will be presenting their best in front even more college coaches.

Luiz Verdini, Brazilian staff Q & A: Luiz Verdini, U19 and U20 Brazilian staff coach will be at the Marriott Residence Inn (18855 NW Tanasbourne Dr., Hillsboro from 7-9PM on Saturday, May 23rd for a discussion and Q and A. Everybody is welcome and admission is free.

Junior Olympic Camp, Warrenton, Oregon: Our first ever JOC on the Oregon coast will be June 20th and 21st at the Warrenton Soccer Complex in Warrenton, OR. Designed for U11 to U14, the camp will educate player and parents about State and Regional ODP. It will be a combination of technical training and small-sided-games. Camp fee is \$50 and are due by June 18th. Go to our website or contact Erik Lyslo in our office for more information.

Recreational, Competitive and Premier Advisory Committees forming: Every club with a team in one of these areas will have a seat on the respective committee. Participation is not mandatory, but I would strongly recommend it as it is your club's opportunity to help us prioritize, design and influence our services. Participation is critical in helping us make sure our services are as relevant to you as they can be. Conference calling will be available, so travel to Portland will not be necessary in order to participate. Staff will be contacting clubs shortly to solicit committee members.

Travel Papers to Washington and Idaho no longer necessary: Oregon Youth Soccer, Washington State Youth Soccer and Idaho Youth Soccer have entered into a cooperative agreement in which teams no longer need travel papers to travel between/among these states to play sanctioned, sponsored or "friendly" competitions. Notification is required however and every member of the team must be a member in good standing with their home state. Go to our website (in a week or so) or call for more information.

Fall League and District Recreational League registration dates approaching: Fall League and Qualifying Tournament registration deadline is June 9th. DRL registration deadline is August 4th.

Changes to the Fall League and Qualifying Tournament structure:

- There will be no Qualifying Tournament for the U11s in the Fall League. The U11s will play regionally within one of three regions in the state to reduce travel.
- The Qualifying Tournament for U12s will be open – teams will be scheduled based upon a blind draw.
- The four semi-finalists and finalists in 2009 State cup at the U12 and U13 ages will receive a bye and be placed directly into the Fall League Premier Gold Divisions at U13 and U14. The remaining U13 and U14 teams will be seeded into the Premier Qualifying Tournament based on their standings in the 2008 Fall League (assuming they have at least 9 returning players).
- The U12 through U14 Premier teams will play in a state-wide extended season, with approximately half of their games being played in the fall and the other half being played in the spring.
- The U12 through U14 Division 1 teams will also play state-wide, but will play all 12 of their games in the fall.
- The U11 through U14 Division 2 and below teams will also play all 12 of their games in the fall; however they will play within one of three regions in the state, to reduce travel. The metro region will include teams from District 5 in Washington State (Vancouver).

District Recreational League: Currently limited to the Portland metro and surrounding areas (including Hood River and Salem), DRL offers eight games for recreational teams ages U11 to U14. Games are on Saturdays and start after 2:00 PM, though teams can request Sundays or weeknights. Players may be from any club, but single club teams are recommended. The season is from September 19th through November 21.

Pay- as-You-Go: During the focus groups surrounding our strategic planning process and at the AGM this year there was discussion about potentially lowering the cost of dues and billing clubs on an ala-cart basis for services and support. The model was called pay-as-you-go and the principle was if you don't use it, you don't have to pay for it. The model has appeal, but as in any ala-cart type system, the cost of individual service and support would increase. Staff researched the service and revenue implications of this approach and concluded, as did the board, that without the contribution of all members toward basic support and infrastructure of our current service model, individual services would be prohibitively expensive and therefore most members would not have access. As a service organization this was viewed as counter-productive to developing soccer in the State.

It was interesting to note that almost 90% of our programs, services and activities are already pay-as-you-go. In FY 09/10 leagues and tournaments will be entirely supported by those who use them, 85% of ODP will be paid for by the participants and many coaching clinics, while subsidized by dues revenue, have entry fees. Further, the majority of our basic \$13/player dues revenue provides direct support to clubs and players in the form of insurance, registration, National dues and background checks. The balance is used to support coaching services, provide club support, TOPSoccer and a modest (15%) subsidy for ODP.

