

**Oregon Youth Soccer News Brief**  
**August, 2009**

Below are brief descriptions of activities at OYSA over the past few weeks. It is my hope that sharing what we are doing and what is happening in youth soccer like this will help us all appreciate the richness and positive energy of youth soccer in Oregon.

**New Website** – We launched a totally re-designed website last month. In addition to being better organized and more attractive, it has video and blogging capabilities, so it will be much better for coach and player training as well as keeping us in touch with our membership. Be sure to visit the Coaches Resource Section for lesson plans and tons of useful information for coaches at all levels. If you haven't seen it yet, log on and take a tour. Let us know what you think.

**New e-newsletter** – We also launched our new electronic newsletter last month. Similar to Goal Lines, but with the ability to make the news more current and relevant, since the lead production time is shorter than with a printed periodical, it is also less expensive to produce. If you didn't get it, let us know and we will add you to the distribution list.

**OYSA Night with the Timbers** – This annual event will be Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> this year. Tickets are \$10 – regularly \$16 - and \$2 from each ticket sold to an OYSA member will benefit OYSA. Call Kyle Veach with the Timbers @ 503-553-5427 to order tickets. There is a link at the bottom of our homepage if you would rather order them online. Come out and support OYSA while you support the Portland Timbers as they play the Miami FC Blues.

**Kohls Cup** – The registration deadline for this very popular recreational tournament is September 8<sup>th</sup>. The tournament is for U10 through U14 recreational boys and girls teams. It will be held October 18<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>; entry fee is \$150/team. You can register online at [OYSA.affinitysoccer.com](http://OYSA.affinitysoccer.com).

**biokleen Cup** – Our newest recreational tournament will be at the end of the season, on November 14 and 15. Open to U10 through U14 recreational teams, the biokleen Cup will offer a three-game minimum with a \$275 entry fee. We aren't accepting applications, yet, but registration will be available online soon. The entry deadline is October 13<sup>th</sup>.

**District Recreational League** – The registration deadline for our DRL has passed, but play begins on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Registration is down this year. This league is designed to give strong recreational teams a more competitive experience than traditional recreational offerings.

**Olympic Development Program** – The boys and girls regional camps concluded in July. This is where players from all 14 states in our region compete to be selected to the Regional Pool by ODP Regional Coaches. Oregon set a new record with 53 players selected for the Regional Pool. This is remarkable, in that last year was also a record for us at 36. Seven years ago we only had 8 players selected!

**ODP Tryouts** – Tryouts for the 93, 94, 95 and 96 age groups were held last weekend (August 15<sup>th</sup>). If you have a player that you think should be in ODP, let Mike Smith or Erik Lyslo in our office know. You can find a list of our current ODP staff coaches on our website.

**Fall Competitive League** – Our Fall League begins Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. We are trying something new this year – Premier Gold and Silver teams will play an extended season with only one game per weekend (except for special requests) through March, with a break in play between November 16<sup>th</sup> through January. We were motivated to apply principles identified in US Soccer’s “Best Practices” manual that states young players will develop better if there is a higher training to game ratio. This schedule also gives these players more family time as well as time to enjoy winter sports. The Division 1 and Classic level teams will play a more traditional September 13 through October schedule.

**WSM Internationals** – The Westside Metros U18 Boys team, the Internationals, were the first Oregon team in 12 years to advance from the US Youth Soccer Far West Regional Tournament to the National Championships, which were held in Lancaster, Massachusetts in late July. They played well, but sadly did not make it to the final round. If you are interested in a description of their games, you can read about them on our website in the tournament blog section.

**Clinics, Clinics and More Clinics** – ‘Tis the season for coaching and player clinics. Our new Technical Director, Mike Smith, has been busy with his cadre of hand-picked OYSA staff coaches providing training around the state. Our website has the complete list, so go to the coaching section and click on the education tab. We were particularly fortunate to have Dr. David Carr here last month to assist with the National Youth License that we brought to Oregon for the second year in a row.

**Referee Classes** – OYSA works closely with the Oregon Referee Committee to market and facilitate Grade 8 Referee Certification Classes. We actually host a dozen or so classes at our offices from early spring through the fall. The cost is \$35 for the 18 hour (usually 2-day) entry-level, Grade 8 class and registration with the US Soccer Federation is another \$45. Once certified, a referee is qualified to be a center official or assistant referee for US Soccer Federation member competitions. Certified Assignors work with referees to match their experience with the level of competition of each game. Referees earn between \$35 and \$40 per game for centers and about \$20 per game as assistant referees (lines). Go to our website to sign up for one of our classes – or contact the ORC directly (at [Oregonreferee.com](http://Oregonreferee.com) or 503-956-2691) to schedule a class in your community.

**Referee Assaults** – We have four referee assaults in the past 6 months - up from virtually none in the previous 10 years. Fortunately nobody’s been hurt, but this spike in this inexcusable behavior has caused us to look at causes and remedies.

**Club/Team Fundraising** – Several companies have approached us with fundraising ideas that I’d like to pass along.

- **My Personal Recipe Book** – This is a relatively traditional product sales fundraiser, but it involves a unique product with wide appeal. It is a high-quality blank recipe book with tab dividers and an index that accommodates 200 personal recipes. There are four attractive covers to choose from. The book sells for \$15 and the club/team keeps \$5 from each sale. There is no minimum and no upfront cost. Let me know if you want more information.
- **Cash for Clothes** – If you are like most people, you occasionally take a bag of old clothes to Goodwill, Value Village or some similar charity. You get a tax right-off, and your clothes are “recycled” and used by someone looking for a bargain. I’ve been approached by a company that collects used clothes from organizations and pays \$.18 per pound. They also pay \$.06 per pound for household goods, books, etc. It doesn’t sound like much, but it adds up – and besides being good for the environment, there is potential for an ongoing source of club/team revenue with virtually no organizational costs.

They will set up ongoing collections or one-time, day/weekend/week-long drive. They provide the drop-off bin and haul the stuff away. Their records suggest that the average family donates between 200 and 300 pounds of clothes each year, which could mean \$30 to \$50 for your team or club for every family that participates. One hundred families could translate into \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year. Again, let me know if you would like more information.