



# THE NRASL NEWS



July 2013

Greetings to our NRASL Family!

It was a great spring season, the kids learned a lot about the sport of soccer, played hard and had a lot of fun. We now head into summer with some time off and look forward to the Corn Fest Kickoff tournament to start our fall season.

Fall signups for rec will be held at the North Ridgeville Public Library on Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm and August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 2pm, as well as at our booth at the Corn Fest all weekend long.

Public Relations  
Derrick Cope

P.S. If you or someone you know may be interested in sponsoring the North Ridgeville Amateur Soccer League, please contact our Public Relations Director, Derrick Cope at, [djcope23@windstream.net](mailto:djcope23@windstream.net). Below is the link to a sponsorship package for our league. Packages to sponsor the North Ridgeville Corn Fest Kickoff are available on the site or in person.

[http://www.nrasl.com/images/images/228/0/nrasl\\_sponsorship\\_letter\\_rev\\_20120301.pdf](http://www.nrasl.com/images/images/228/0/nrasl_sponsorship_letter_rev_20120301.pdf)

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## NRASL BOARD POSITIONS

- PRESIDENT  
Jeff Grau
- VICE PRESIDENT  
George Panagiotou
- TREASURER  
Jeff Jedlicka
- SECRETARY  
Judy Vanover
- REGISTRAR  
Cindy Jackson
- FUNDRAISING  
Holly Schnell
- FIELD MANAGER  
Pat Graham
- Public Relations  
Derrick Cope
- COMMISSIONER  
Wayne Fox
- DIRECTOR OF COACHING  
Everett Palache
- BOYS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
Chris Moore
- GIRLS TECHNICAL DIRECTOR  
Tara Bowen
- BOY'S TRAVEL DIRECTORS  
Greg Fry
- GIRL'S TRAVEL DIRECTOR  
Jeff Hassler
- IN HOUSE COACHING DIRECTOR  
Scott Pangrac
- TOT SOCCER  
Keith Krueger
- WEB MASTER  
Jeff Hassler
- AASL BOYS REP  
Debi Schuster
- AASL GIRLS REP  
Paula Fox



# NRASL AND CORNFEST KICKOFF SPONSORS

Force Sports  
North Coast Jaw and Implant Center  
Barrett Insurance & Financial Services  
The Hassler Group  
Carolyn Jedlicka CPA  
Forever Green Lawn Care  
MVP Trophy  
All American Sports Center  
North Ridgeville Corn Festival

Convenient Food Mart  
N. Ridgeville Public Library  
LCCC  
Dick's Sporting Goods  
Mayor David Gillock  
ALLSTATE- Anthony DePaolo  
Graham Custom Services-Electrical  
Solutions  
Copper Valley Construction

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer! It's not too soon to start thinking about fall soccer. Our on-line registration for the fall in-house season is now open. Just visit our website for details. The deadline for registration is August 11<sup>th</sup>. We'll also be taking registrations in-person at the Library on Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-8pm, and Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 10am-2pm. The last chance for in-person registration is at our Corn Festival booth August 10-11<sup>th</sup>. Hope to see you there!



Speaking of the Corn Fest.....August 10-11<sup>th</sup> we'll be hosting the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual North Ridgeville Corn Fest Kick-Off soccer tournament. Last year's tournament was a big success and we're hoping this year's event is even bigger! We're currently looking for volunteers to work in a wide variety of areas such as medical tents, team registration, parking, concessions, field marshals, etc. We're also soliciting teams for participation so please be sure to reach out to fellow soccer families from the area and invite them to compete against North Ridgeville's best. Lastly, we're looking for sponsorship from local businesses. If you are able to help us out in any of these areas, please contact our tournament chairman, George Panagiotou.

Sincerely,  
Jeff Grau  
President, NRASL

## LET'S TALK RECREATION

Fall signups for rec will be held at the North Ridgeville Public Library on Wednesday July 24<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 8pm and August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 2pm, as well as at our booth at the Corn Fest all weekend long. Online registration is open, so feel free to use our great site to sign up now!

<http://www.nrasl.com/index.php>

# **LET'S TALK TRAVEL**

## **Girls Travel**

Our season will be getting underway fairly quickly, with practices starting in a couple of weeks in preparation for the Corn Fest Kickoff tournament hosted here in North Ridgeville. Despite the OYSAN single carding rule going into effect, the Girls Travel Soccer program remained relatively consistent in participation versus last year. We do have one less team than last year due to one specific age group getting hit hard with girls participating only in club soccer. We will have 10 girls travel teams this year, in comparison to 11 teams in 2012 and 8 teams in 2011. This is great news as many smaller communities are looking to partner with one another in order to field travel soccer teams.

The girls will be moving from NOGSL to play in AASL this coming Fall. Both leagues are no longer exclusive to just boys or just girls, and are accepting both genders. Many of the larger West side communities are moving their girls programs to AASL as they are aligned with OYSAN, and this is where the boys have played for many years. NOGSL has changed their name, and is aligning with US Club Soccer starting this Fall. The NRASL Board made a decision earlier this year to stay aligned with OYSAN as long as there was enough competition for the girls teams, thus the move to AASL. This change though may create some chaos in the Fall with division alignment. I expect that there may be teams that are placed in the wrong division, not only from North Ridgeville, but also in the teams we play against. It will take a season to work itself out and align the divisions correctly.

Thank you for your continued support of the girls travel soccer program. I am excited for the future of our program and the results it will create at the high school level as the girls move up through the program. If you ever have any concerns about the girls travel soccer program, send me an email

Thank you,  
Jeff Hassler  
NRASL Girls Travel Director

# **LET'S TALK TRAVEL**

# Boys Travel

Boys travel teams are now set for the Fall 2013 season. Everyone who tried out should have been notified of their status either by me or by their coach. For those boys who either did not make a team or who didn't get an opportunity to try out, I highly encourage you to stay involved with the recreational program and any optional training it offers.

For example:

- League-wide training on Friday nights is an opportunity for all to get more touches on the ball using travel training drills.
- For boys on the cusp of travel (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders), the Recreational Development Academy being launched this Fall will bridge the gap towards the travel program.
- As always, free-play or individual practicing, like juggling, develops boys tremendously.

Lastly, feel free to contact me if you have questions or if you feel your son would like the challenge of moving to our travel program.

Thanks,  
Greg Fry, NRASL Boys Travel Director, [frygd@yahoo.com](mailto:frygd@yahoo.com)

Fall Calendar:

- July – start of team practices
- 8/10-8/11 – CornFest Kickoff Tournament
- 8/13 – likely start of Travel Training Night
- 8/18 – start of AASL regular season
- 10/13 – last weekend of regularly scheduled games
- 10/20 – last weekend for make-up games

## **COLUMBUS CREW UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

DATE	TIME	HOME		AWAY	VENUE
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8/3	9:00ET	Dynamo	vs	CLB	BBVA Compass Stadium
8/10	7:30ET	CLB	vs	New York	Crew Stadium

<http://www.thecrew.com/>



## **US SOCCER UPCOMING SCHEDULE**

DATE	TIME	HOME		AWAY	VENUE
8/14	2:30PM ET	Bosnia-Herzegovina	vs	US Men	Asim Ferhatovic Hase Stadium Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina
9/6	8:00PM ET	Costa Rica	vs	US Men	Estadio Nacional San Jose, Costa Rica
9/10	8:00PM ET	US Men	vs	Mexico	Columbus Crew Stadium Columbus, Ohio

<http://www.ussoccer.com/>

## Girls JV Soccer

Aug 20, 2013 Tue 5:00 PM Away @Independence Local  
Aug 28, 2013 Wed 4:30 PM Home Avon High School  
Sep 04, 2013 Wed 5:00 PM Away @Lakewood High School-Lakewood  
Sep 07, 2013 Sat 1:00 PM Away @North Olmsted High School  
Sep 09, 2013 Mon 5:00 PM Home Brookside High School  
Sep 11, 2013 Wed 5:00 PM Away @Elyria Catholic High School  
Sep 18, 2013 Wed 5:00 PM Home Rocky River High School  
Sep 21, 2013 Sat 1:00 PM Away @Marion L Steele High School  
Sep 23, 2013 Mon 5:00 PM Away @Avon Lake High School  
Sep 25, 2013 Wed 5:00 PM Away @Bay High School  
Sep 30, 2013 Mon 5:00 PM Home Normandy High School  
Oct 02, 2013 Wed 5:00 PM Home Vermilion High School  
Oct 05, 2013 Sat 1:00 PM Away @St. Joseph Academy  
Oct 07, 2013 Mon 5:00 PM Away @Solon High School  
Oct 09, 2013 Wed 5:00 PM Away @Midview High School

## Girls Varsity Soccer

Aug 17, 2013 Sat 3:00 PM Home Lake Ridge Academy  
Aug 20, 2013 Tue 7:00 PM Away @Independence Local  
Aug 28, 2013 Wed 6:30 PM Home Avon High School  
Sep 04, 2013 Wed 7:00 PM Away @Lakewood High School-Lakewood  
Sep 07, 2013 Sat 3:00 PM Away @North Olmsted High School  
Sep 09, 2013 Mon 7:00 PM Home Brookside High School  
Sep 11, 2013 Wed 7:00 PM Away @Elyria Catholic High School  
Sep 18, 2013 Wed 7:00 PM Home Rocky River High School  
Sep 21, 2013 Sat 3:00 PM Away @Marion L Steele High School  
Sep 23, 2013 Mon 7:00 PM Away @Avon Lake High School  
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Oct 09, 2013 Wed 7:00 PM Away @Midview High School

## BOYS NRHS 2013 JV Soccer Schedule

8/21/13	@ Olmsted Falls	5:00
8/24/13	@ North Royalton	5:00
8/28/13	@ Avon	5:00
9/4/2013	Lakewood	5:00
9/7/13	Highland	1:00
9/11/13	Elyria Catholic	5:00
9/14/13	@ Normandy	5:00
9/18/13	@ Rocky River	5:00
9/21/13	Medina	11:00 AM
9/25/13	Bay Village	5:00
9/28/13	Amherst	1:00
9/30/13	@ Cleveland Heights	5:00
10/2/13	@ Vermillion	5:00
10/12/13	Riverside	1:00

## BOYS NRHS 2013 Varsity Soccer Schedule

8/17/13	Lake Ridge Academy	1:00
8/21/13	@ Olmsted Falls	7:00
8/24/13	@ North Royalton	7:00
8/28/13	@ Avon	7:00
9/4/2013	Lakewood	7:00
9/7/13	Highland	3:00
9/11/13	Elyria Catholic	7:00
9/14/13	@ Normandy	7:00
9/18/13	@ Rocky River	7:00
9/21/13	Medina	1:00
9/25/13	Bay Village	7:00
9/28/13	Amherst	3:00
9/30/13	@ Cleveland Heights	7:00
10/2/13	@ Vermillion	7:00
10/9/13	Midview	7:00
10/12/13	Riverside	3:00

# Want to be a referee?

Interested in becoming a referee or are you already a referee (NRASL or USSF)? Anyone 10 years-old and above is welcome to take steps toward being a North Ridgeville Recreation League referee. These referees work the NRASL recreation games held on Saturdays and various weekdays. To be added to the email contact list for clinic date (not yet determined) and other information as it becomes available, email [wcfpjf@gmail.com](mailto:wcfpjf@gmail.com) the following information:

Name of Referee:

Guardian of Referee (if under 18):

Contact phone #:

Contact email address (to be used for assigning games as well):

Have you been a referee before?

If so, where and when (include whether you hold USSF certification)?

Are you currently a soccer player?

If so, what age group and coach do you play for?

## **Being a referee: The Difference Between NRASL Recreation Referees and USSF Certified Referees:**

Suppose you are watching a baseball game: Its the Indians vs. the Dodgers. Dodgers at bat. Pitcher winds up, delivers the ball and it hits the dirt before reaching the plate.... "STRIKE!!!" yells the umpire.

Take a moment. Block out all the other comments around you the moment that word resonates in your ear. What do you do? Do you jump up and yell at the umpire? Do you make comments such as, "What are you blind?"

In soccer things can be a bit different. Every foul as described by the book, is not always a foul. Huh? Well, if I kick at a ball that you are kicking, what do you think the chances are that our feet connect oddly and one of us are "tripped"? A referee must decide if this "trip" was intentional or trifling, and then must also assess whether the foul should have "advantage" applied - If by chance you own a foam brick for Sunday Browns games and you do not know what trifling and advantage means, I would ask you keep the foam brick at home until you understand soccer. Also, not all "hand balls" are hand balls: A referee must quickly decide if the "foul" was an intentional, play effecting action - for example if a girl covers her chest to protect herself from the ball, that can be okay unless she holds her hands in a position that feeds the ball to her desired position. Oh... And what angle did the referee have to these fouls? Did you see the foul because the players were between you and the referee, facing you? I bet the referee has a different line of sight than you do on that foul.

What if the game you are at is the North Ridgeville Parks and Rec Baseball, Indians vs Dodgers and that game happens to be the very first time your child is on the field... as an umpire? Would you yell at your kid that way, or would you instead be upset when someone else is yelling at your kid that way?

During the Spring 2013 recreation league season something became very apparent to me. We have a decent group of kids who exhibit a tremendous amount of courage! Also, there does not seem to be a place where someone is welcome to take the first steps toward becoming a skillful referee. There is nowhere for them to learn; no matter their age!

Before anyone gets confused, let me explain my thoughts. In order to be a referee, there is technically no minimum age (based on USSF) and the training is very different than it is for a player. The problems with this are huge:

#1 USSF provides no on field training. Basically you pay \$100, attend 16 hours of class time (8 online and 8 in person), buy a uniform and you can now work ANY youth soccer game in the United States. The only two exceptions to this is: A referee must have permission to leave their home "district" and any rules set by local leagues - for example, AASL (the travel league NRASL is a part of) prefers a referee must be at least two years older than the game level they are working. With AASL having as young as a U8 division, this means a 10 year-old referee could be working.

#2 Is it worth spending the money to become a referee, only to learn you (or your child) does not like it or cannot handle the pressures of coaches, players and spectators? Just to "try it out" for 1 game, there would be a minimum \$150 investment with a maximum pay amount of \$28 that a 10 year-old would be eligible to earn. State league also has U8 divisions, and some assignors are willing to place a 10 year-old on these games. Some State League coaches and parents rival professional grade belligerents - it takes a very thick skin to handle these matches. Responsible assignors of course should have an idea of the referee's ability first - but where does this awareness come from (Rhetorical question here folks)?

Keeping these two things in mind, one may suggest a city league offer the ability to "try it out" at levels of play that are not always appealing or available to USSF referees. A place that can teach a prospective referee the "Laws of the Game", explain procedures, and offer guidance and support to these inexperienced referees with little to no investment. Maybe even an environment where camaraderie is promoted and belligerence is not tolerated.

Doesn't this sound like a decent idea? This is exactly what NRASL does. At the recreation level, the league allows any interested person (adult or child 10 and over) to "give it a try". Some of the first timers realize after the first game that it isn't what they thought, and they do not return - that is fine, they spent enough money to buy a whistle and stop watch, earned a few dollars, and they lived and they learned. Regardless, NRASL maintains a presence (usually me personally) at these matches to ensure a referee is learning and that the players are safe.

Others enjoy the experience so much they decide to return year after year or even pursue certification. Which is excellent for those of us USSF referee assignors that need capable referees.

How can we as a league and as a community help these Referee Rookies succeed? Easily! We can encourage them. We can understand that no one is perfect. Every level of referee misses calls (think NFL here people). And EVERY referee out there, certified or not, adult or child... Is somebody's kid!

Sure we all want to go out and watch our kids enjoy the game of soccer. We laugh, we yell, we cringe (when the ball goes through our own kid's feet untouched) and we all get frustrated. But, should we take this frustration out on a referee who is obviously learning?



Perhaps the referee should be coached?! You are absolutely correct! But when can a referee be coached in a game where the clock does not stop and the referee gets no break? This time comes for me (or my lead referee) no more than 3 times per recreation level game - between quarters.

If we as a community do not realize that we have the opportunity to step ahead of the National curve by offering the chance for someone to "try it out", we will have to resort to assigning USSF Referees to these games. I would be happy to do that. But, In order to do so, the referee costs would more than double. How do you propose we cover this increase? Keep in mind though, even USSF Referees can miss calls... And even if a call is not missed, NO ONE EVER AGREES WITH A REFEREE.

Wayne Fox  
COMMISSIONER