



THE NRASL NEWS



October 2013

Greetings to our NRASL Family!

It was a great fall season, thanks to all the kids and parents for making it so fun! For the fall season, I know we have had great successes at all age groups. I would also like to thank everyone who helped with our soccer tournament in August. The tournament was a great success and we look forward to growing and improving it for next year.

Public Relations
Derrick Cope

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.

TABLE OF CONTENTS
Section 1. News
Section 2. Our Sponsors
Section 3. Presidents Page
Section 4.. DOC

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I hope everyone enjoyed the fall season this year. Thankfully, we were blessed with mostly great weather so we were able to avoid too many re-scheduled events. Special thanks go out to all of our volunteer administration that makes our developmental program run smoothly. Of course, the developmental program can only operate with the help of our team of volunteer coaches – thanks for all you do!

Once again our competitive players have the opportunity to train indoors this winter at the Force in Rocky River. Our developmental players (in-house or recreational) will have the opportunity to train indoors at Soccer Sportsplex in North Olmsted (stay tuned for details).

This fall we'll be working with the NR Parks and Rec to expand the parking lot at Root Rd and address some of the bad spots in our field. Thanks to all who participated in the candy bar fundraiser this fall to help with these projects.

Our NRASL board elections occur each November. If you are interested in helping on the administrative side of our league, please let us know.

Sincerely,
Jeff Grau
President, NRASL



The DOC

Hello NRASL Members,

I hope this message finds everyone doing well!

I would like to say Thank You! to all the coaches in our program for their assistance working with all the players, both Recreational Coaches and Travel. This season I had the chance to work with the development program on a Thursday and enjoyed the experience. Moreover, I have enjoyed getting positive feedback from the Force trainers that have been brought in to oversee, evaluate, and facilitate the programs.

NRASL has taken many steps forward, in my humble opinion, to continue to improve the soccer landscape of NRASL. The organization has reached out to find resources to bring extra knowledge and expertise to all involved in the program. As we take a hard look at the resources being provided we want to make sure everyone is aware they are involved to help, assist, and dialog with to ensure we are providing the best information/environment possible for the children (i.e. consultants).

Having had the opportunity to study first hand the sideline behavior at youth games, it's safe to say that the vast majority of parents and youth coaches are reasonable, well meaning, well adjusted people. Most of us look forward to attending our children's soccer games, where we can spend a relaxing afternoon enjoying the outdoors in the company of like-minded adults who share a common interest. We know that parents and coaches don't actually step out of their cars into the soccer complex with a pre-meditated plan to cause trouble to anyone. And yet, the facts tell a disturbing story. The majority of soccer players quit playing soccer somewhere in their teen years. Why do so many players quit? Some quit because they develop other interests but many quit because playing soccer stops being fun.

What exactly are the parents doing on the sidelines? Many parents, without any malicious intent, unknowingly send inappropriate messages to the players or the referees on the field. Messages from the parent's side usually fall under one of the following categories:

Sideline Coaching: A big no-no, since the parent's instruction could contradict the team coach's instructions, not to mention that most parents are not qualified to coach.

Sarcasm: Parents and coaches often aim sarcastic remarks at the referee. We have heard them all before so no need to elaborate. These sarcastic remarks serve no useful purpose other than to sour the experience for the referee. If that's not bad enough, parents and coaches do not limit their sarcasm only for the referee. Players are also the target of sideline sarcasm. I heard a typical comment recently while watching a team struggle to get out of their half against better opponents, one of the struggling team's parents shouted "come on guys, the field has two halves!". These kinds of comments do not help the weak team solve the problem, but deflate and irritate the players.

Vocal Reaction and Body Language: Often, parents get emotionally involved in the game and are unable to suppress the (according to psychologists) sub-conscious desire to kick every ball and tackle every tackle. The "oooohs!", "aaaahs!" and "oooyys!" that emanate from the parents' side seem harmless enough but there is a fine line between disappointment and disapproval and young players often cannot tell the difference. When an open goal is missed, the cry of disappointment carries a certain level of 'culprit-player-let-parents-down' undertones. Young players are very sensitive to the feedback coming from the sidelines and they tend to pick up on the negative comments. If you don't believe me ask the players.

Incurable Behavior: Unfortunately, there are a few isolated individuals who are unable to control themselves in a competitive environment such as a sport event and become mad lunatics. These individuals must not be allowed

to coach young players or even attend games. The onus is on the Leagues to weed out such lunatics through a careful and methodical monitoring program using the club Director of Coaching or Coaching Coordinator and appointing field marshals for game days. There is no room for shouters and whiners on the sidelines. What, you ask, is an acceptable behavior by parents? This might sound revolutionary and unrealistic but I firmly believe that parents can best serve their children by sitting quietly, and remain seated, throughout the game. Parents can show their appreciation of good play.

As we move forward and continue to evaluate the league we will be looking to improve the coaching, parent behavior, and overall environment for the players. The consultants that have been evaluating and facilitating, also have been providing valuable feedback to the Director of Coaching so we can approach coaches within the organization that will fit the overall philosophy of NRASL. We look forward to continued success and opportunity within the program and look forward to seeing everyone working together to make this the best league in North East Ohio!

(excerpts from Georgia soccer)

*Thanks
Yours in Soccer
Coach Everett*

Men's

Nov. 15, 2013 U.S. Men vs. Scotland 3 p.m. ET Hampden Park
Glasgow, Scotland ESPN2,

Nov. 19, 2013 U.S. Men vs. Austria 2:45 p.m. ET Ernst-Happel-Stadion
Vienna, Austria NBC Sports Network

Womens

Oct. 20, 2013 U.S. Women vs. Australia Women 12:30 p.m. CT The Alamodome
San Antonio, Texas NBC –

Oct. 27, 2013 U.S. Women vs. New Zealand Women 3:30 p.m. PT Candlestick Park
San Francisco, Calif. ussoccer.com –

Oct. 30, 2013 U.S. Women vs. New Zealand Women 7:30 p.m. ET Columbus Crew Stadium
Columbus, Ohio ussoccer.com

Nov. 10, 2013 U.S. Women vs. Brazil Women 3:30 p.m. ET Citrus Bowl
Orlando, Fla. NBC -