

Region 275 Gazette

American Youth Soccer Organization

Web Page www.kornet.org/ayso275/

Region 275 hotline 694-8368

Special Interest Articles:

- Referee Courses Changed.
- Season Begins March 13, 2004. Practice begins March 1, 2004
- Growing a Soccer Program
- Do not park along Hitching Post Lane. You might be towed if you do. Overflow parking is available in Nicholas Ball Park.
- Jerseys will be changing in the fall

Regional Commissioner Communiqué

Youth and volunteers are the most important words in Region 275.

Each spring, our region has between 900 and 950 registered youth players assigned to teams with TRAINED COACHES. There will be about 500 scheduled games officiated by TRAINED REFEREES on the 17-acre complex of TEN MAINTAINED FIELDS. This requires many hours of Volunteer effort in organizing, training, and working at the complex.

New Volunteers are always in demand; however, this spring several positions need to be filled. They include:

- Treasurer
- 2 Assistant Concession Stand Coordinators
- Tournament Director
- Regional Secretary
- Person Responsible for the Info

Line

- Person Responsible for making phone calls

The 275 Soccer Complex is one of the best in the area. To keep it that way, please follow the rules posted on the entrance gates and the information stands.

In keeping with AYSO Philosophy, we do not allow legacy teams to exist. We take great pains to keep the competition balanced. Please respect our attempts at balancing. In the fall all teams are "new" teams. Players are assigned with balancing in mind first. In the spring, teams formed in the fall "stay together" unless we have a severe problem with balancing. Therefore, unless you requested not to have the same coach, you should be assigned to the same team you played on in the fall.

Charles Snodgrass
Regional Commissioner

Growing a Soccer Program

Growing a soccer program takes resources. Region 275 is fortunate to have many parents and volunteers that provide the resources that we need to help us grow our region. Your dollars make it possible for all the kids to have safe fields to play on and support facilities to enjoy.

Where do your dollars go? Over 50% of your fees go back into field development for things like mowing, water, fertilizer and lighting. Another large chunk contributes to volunteer growth in the form of coach and referee training and development. Numerous training classes are offered to all coaches and referees

to give them the knowledge and the training to make playing soccer a great experience for the kids. Even when we pay our national dues, which comprise about 10% of our fees, we receive services back from AYSO National in the form of materials, seminars and training. All this and more combines to make Region 275 the best soccer region that it can be.

It takes a lot to grow a soccer program, thanks for all your support!

Roy Hawk, Treasurer

Words from our Field Director

Anchoring of Goals:

Unanchored goals should never be used for practice or for a game. Sandbags are stored in the new shed, and tie down clamps are also available. Note: there are water and electric lines at each end of Field Six, please let the Field Director dig in these areas.

First games of the season:

Each year it is assumed that the coaches who play the first game of the season are responsible for having the nets in place for the game that they are going to play. In the past some new coaches or coaches that have moved up to Under Eight have not been aware of this. The Region will have a "kit" of nets, Velcro straps, ladders, etc available where needed. It might be the case that the Division Coordinator or other volunteers already have the goals in a safe condition, but it should never be assumed that this is so. The first game of the season is always very hectic for coaches, and there should be Lots of other volunteers to help out if needed.

Our Thanks to Eagle Scouts:

The Region would again like to thank all of the volunteer work done by Eagle Scouts! Those Scouts that might be interested in doing a project here can get in touch with me through their coach or any Board member.

Our Thanks to Knox County Parks and Recreation:

The Region would again like to thank the Knox County Parks for their good advice and technical support.

Improvements and Safety:

Any issue of torn nets, missing corner flags, holes in the field, etc should be mentioned to the Field Director, to a coach, or to any Board Member.

Field Day:

Field Day is Saturday March 06. Show up when you can, leave when you need to.

Other Practice Areas:

The Region would like to remind all coaches that we have three "off site" practice fields.

- Bexhill Drive @ Ebenezer Rd.
- Blue Grass Elementary School track and playground (Bluegrass Rd at Ebenezer Rd)
- Churchill Downs subdivision, just west of where Bob Kirby Rd meets Middlebrook Pike (about a mile away from the fields). This practice field is the large open area on the East side of Secretariat Road. This is the street that first turns into the subdivision off of Bob Kirby Rd.

John Roberts
Field Director

Oh No!!! Regional Jerseys Will Be Changing in the Fall

Since 1998 we have used the same reversit jersey. However, the company that manufactured them is being sold and the new owner has no intent to continue carrying the jerseys. Therefore, I regret to say that this will be the last season that we will be able to use the reversit jerseys. I believe that I have managed to find sufficient quantities for this season. They will be on sale Tuesday March 9 from 6 to 7:30

PM and Saturday March 13th from 9 to 2 at the Volunteer Pavilion at a cost of \$15.00. I think that we will need YL and AS jerseys. If you have jerseys of this size and wish to sell them back to the region, we may purchase them. Time will tell.

Burt English
Uniform Coordinator

Report from the Regional Referee Administrator

I would like to start off the Spring 2004 season by thanking Pat Berry and Larry Webb. Pat has agreed to become the region's Director of Referee Instruction and Larry has agreed to become the Assistant Regional Referee Administrator. This will make my job easier and benefit everyone in the region by improving the retention and quality of our referees .

Everyone should read Pat's article on the referee course offerings in this newsletter. He, with the help of Joan Jackson, will be simplifying the course structure and bringing it more in line with the way the region currently instructs our coaches. As part of this restructuring, the region will be offering an Assistant Referee course for the first time in quite a few years.

Remember, the region cannot operate efficiently without volunteers. If you do not step up to referee, it impacts directly on the quality of the experience your child has in our region. Just as

every team needs to have a coach, every team needs to have a referee to guarantee a full crew of referees for every one of your child's matches.

For all of our current referees I would like to announce a couple of items.

- I will once again be placing a signup sheet in the referee shed so that those without Internet access can more easily sign up for the next week's games.
- Every Saturday after the last games at Ball Camp fields I will hold a referee meeting in the Pavilion. This is not required, just an opportunity for any referees to meet with me, ask questions, voice concerns or simply to vent about the days assignments.

Ray Flanery

Regional Referee Administrator.

"New-to-Soccer" Parents can now "Learn As Their Children Grow"

Region 275 now offers some new U6/U8 and Assistant Referee courses that will allow "new-to-soccer" parents a chance to learn the basic rules of soccer even as their kids learn on the practice fields.

Designed to educate anyone age twelve or older on the few simple rules that govern the younger age groups, the U6/U8 Referee course will also qualify you to step in and referee your child's game if we run into a shortage of referees and no one volunteers to cover the game. Given the fact that the rules for the younger ages are much simpler than those of the older ages (no "offside," for example), the course will only require one morning or afternoon of class time.

If your child, or one of your other children, is moving to the U10/U12 level, you may also want to take the short one-hour **AR (Assistant Referee) Course** that will be offered immediately following the U6/U8 course. (OR if you took the U6/U8 course at a previous date, you can take the AR course by itself!) In this course, you can become qualified to assist the Center Referee at ages U10 and above. Instead of being asked to step in and "run a line" to just tell the referee whether or not the ball went out of bounds, you can become more involved in making sure that the right calls are made and the game stays **safe, fun, and fair**.

Pat Berry

Important Dates to Remember

Jan. 24	Volunteer Dinner	March 6	Field Day
Jan. 30-31	Registration (Ball Camp Ele. School)	March 6	Referee Clinics
Feb. 7	Late Registration	March 12	Beginner Goal Keeper Clinics
Feb. 17	Division Coordinators Meeting	March 13	Season Begins
Feb. 23	Coaches Meeting Peace Lutheran Church (7 PM)	March 14	U6/U8 and Asst. Referee Clinic
Feb. 28	Coaches Clinics (U8, Youth)	April 23-25	U10 and above Area 5B Games
Feb. 28	Coaches SafeHaven	May 15	Last Scheduled Games U6/U8
March 1	Practice Begins	May 22	Last Games U10-U19 and U8 Region 275 Soccerfest
March 5-7	Intermediate Coaching Clinics	June 4-6	Region 337 Tournament (U08-U12)

Attention All Youth Volunteers

The youth volunteer party we normally have at the beginning of each season is going to be delayed until the end of the season this time. Keep an eye on the bulletin boards (near the referee shed and next to the pavilion) for the date and time. We are considering going to LaserQuest once more since everyone seems

to enjoy that. If you have a suggestion for something different this season, drop a note in the game card slot at the information shed and we will consider it. Have a great season!

Ray Flanery

Regional Referee Administrator

Coaches Corner

We begin the spring 2004 season with much enthusiasm. AYSO has five fundamental principles that provide the foundation from which our program exists. These principles are

- Everyone plays
- Balanced teams
- Open registration
- Positive coaching
- Good Sportsmanship

It is expected that all who participate -- parents, coaches, referees, and players follow them.

All participants are volunteers.

Coaches, players, and yes-even referees are volunteers. They volunteer for many

reasons; however, unless they are having fun, they will not volunteer again. Let us all make sure all participants are having fun.

As coaches, we need to make sure we are adequately prepared to fulfill our job description. This means that we have taken the Safe Haven Course and also taken the age appropriate coaching clinic (See page 6). While on the subject of training, please make sure that you have taken the appropriate coaching clinics. If you have taken the youth coaching clinic and feel that you are ready for an additional clinic, what about taking the Intermediate Coaching Clinic. Call me for additional details.

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Coaches Corner (Continued)

I often ask myself why do I coach? What is it that keeps bringing me back to the field? Well the following are several good reasons why I put in the time. These are some of the reasons that I coach:

1. make sure the youth have fun playing soccer,
2. teach the game of soccer to our youth, and
3. hopefully, develop character in our region's youth.

However, first and foremost, I do it so that I can have fun.

What are your reasons?

It is the development of character that I would like to spend a few inches of this newsletter on. We as coaches are looked at by the youth as models. We also are perceived as role models by the youths' parents. While sometimes it is a tall order, our actions send many messages out to the children, parents, and other spectators that happen to be observing. There are two areas of concern that I continue to have.

- First is connected to referee abuse. We have had several coaches blowing off steam at our referees. Last season went remarkably well in this area. Coaches need to remember that we are role models. What we do will be picked up by our team, the opposing team, and any spectators.

- The thinking that winning is the only measure of success. Remember why you are here. You have a team of children. Their goal is to have fun first and foremost. If you have a must win attitude, it is likely that the pressure you place on your team will result in the children not having fun.

For those that are new to the region, the coaching staff is organized in the following fashion. Burt English is the Regional Coach Administrator. Ken Noggle and Kurt Sichelstiel are Regional Assistant Coach Administrators. We have Division Coordinators for each age division and gender. Each team should have a coach and an assistant coach. The division coordinators provide me with assistance in solving problems within their divisions, assigning players to teams, and in communications that go from the board, Ken, Kurt, or myself to the teams. They will contact the coaches in the region several times during the season. The division coordinators are essential for this region to operate as smoothly as it does.

Burt English
Regional Coach Administrator

Region 275 Sponsors

About three years ago, Region 275 set forth to develop a program that recognizes our sponsors. The region's Ladder to Success is located at the Volunteer Pavilion truly constructed through volunteer hours and donations. If you know of an individual or a company that might sponsor an activity at the Ball Camp Soccer Complex, please

let Charles Snodgrass know. We have identified many needs. Soon,

- We may be in position to expand the complex,
- We would like to put lights up on several of the fields, and
- We have need for sponsorship of the region's coaching and referee clinics.

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Region 275

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.kornet.org/ayso275

Thank you Sponsors



Region 275 sponsor's include: Calhoun's, Chesapeake Bay, and Copper Cellar, Pilot Oil, Charles Drain Masonry, Knoxville Parks and Recreation, Wystwynd Design, Inc., along with Kington Sewer Septic, R. L. Kirby, Russell Painting, and Wallingford Sports Section. When you visit these businesses say thank you for Region 275.

What is Safe Haven??

Safe Haven is a child and volunteer protection program that was the first of its kind in youth sports. The child protection aspect is intended to stop child abuse, educate or remove its perpetrators, and screen out predators before they get into the program. Volunteer protection comes in to play as a result of volunteer training, certification and continuing education. The Volunteer Protection Act of 1997 provides certain legal protections for volunteers who have been trained and certified, and act in accordance with a written job description. Safe Haven has these three elements, giving volunteers the highest degree of protection available under the law. All coaches, referees, and Board members are required to have safehaven training.

Our Volunteers

Charles Snodgrass – Regional Commissioner
Burt English – Regional Coach Administrator
Ray Flanery – Regional Referee Administrator
Joanne Filchock, M.D. – Safety Director
Roy Hawk – Treasurer
John Roberts – Field Director
Dayna Tampas – Registrar
Jeannine Grebe – Child & Volunteer Protection Advocate
Lynn Davis – Concessions Director
Amanda Sanders -- Asst. U6 Commissioner
Susan Gunn – Asst. U8 Commissioner
Julius Agh – British Soccer Camp Coordinator

Burt English – Jersey Coordinator
Tom Grebe – Web Master
Ken Noggle – Assistant to RCA
Kurt Sichelstiel – Assistant to RCA
William Hahn – Regional Ref. Instructor
Larry Webb – Assistant to RRA
Pat Barry – Assistant to RRA
Susan Gunn – Regional Scheduler
Burt English – Tournament Director
Courtney Manrod – Volunteer Coordinator
Lynn Davis – Photo Day Coordinator
_____ -- Secretary
_____ -- Message Coordinator
Please fill in the blank with your name