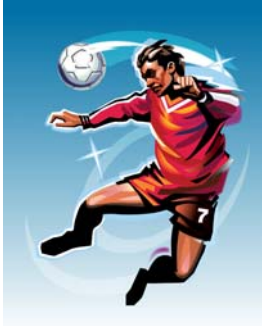


Smithtown Kickers Soccer Club

October 21, 2011
Fall 2011

Pasquale LaManna - President
Paul Friedrichs - Intramural Director



President Message

Smithtown Kicker Soccer Community,

Our Fall Season is off and running! Welcome to the 2011 Fall newsletter. The Smithtown Kickers Soccer Club board would like to welcome back existing members for the 2011 Season, as well as new members to the club. We encourage existing members to welcome all of new players and families into the club.

The Intramural division We have had a large turnout with over 1,000 players joining. This season, the challenge we faced was that players signed up later than previous seasons. Our policy has always been no child is left behind when participating in our program. With these many teams, we have had to work extra hard to find coaches. As a result, the season started 1 week later. It is critical that we all work together so that every team gets the time on the field that they need.

Special Soccer Program Special thanks go out Loretta Crawford and Delia Neitzel, they are planning to move on. We are looking for new volunteers to run this wonderful program. The Special Soccer Program is for those children with mental and/or physical handicap conditions. This program was initiated to accommodate those children who are not able to participate in a regular or mainstream soccer activity. For more information, check out our website. If you are interested please contact me.

Teaching our Kids Kids are just getting to know the game; they're exploring, checking things out, feeling their way into the game. They may wave to you in the middle of the game or spin around, with their arms out, at midfield because of some sudden, mysterious inspiration. They want to run, to chase, to kick, to be with their friends - and to follow the ball wherever it goes (and who can blame them!) During these years, the kids should touch the ball as much as possible, learn physical balance, learn to guide the ball with both feet, and start kicking with some accuracy. When they play games, they should absolutely be left alone: the field should be their world, on the child's terms. These years should be about FREE PLAY with the world's favorite toy (the ball) and about falling in love with the game - United States Soccer Federation Player development Guidelines.

Thank you for your involvement and for supporting youth soccer and the Smithtown Kickers Soccer Club. It is a privilege to be a part of this Club and to serve you as its President. I hope to see many of you on the soccer field. Have a great season and have fun! - Building Character thru Soccer.

Pasquale La Manna
President

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving. "

Oliver Wendell Holmes

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Upcoming Events

- ◆ Intramural Enrichment
October 3 -
November 14
- ◆ Coaches Training
October 17
- ◆ Coaches Meeting
- ◆ General Club Meeting Open to all Kicker Members
November 17 8pm
American Legion Hall
- ◆ Trophy Pickup Day
November 19

Intramural News



*"Sports can do so much. They've given me a framework: meeting new people, confidence, self-esteem, discipline, motivation. All these things I learned, whether I knew I was learning them or not, through sports."
---Mia Hamm*

The highlight of the spring season was Festival Weekend, the one weekend during the entire year when all intramural teams from ages 3 through 12 play tournament style all at the same location at Smithtown East High School. While the weather was not ideal the games went on, the concession stand was busy all weekend and the annual coaches game took place once again, this year playing on the turf football field.

Also in attendance were several vendors including a booth for Sports Authority, one of our sponsors who handed out valuable coupons. NOGA soccer training organization was also on hand to discuss their various programs and continued their long term relationship with the Smithtown Kickers.

There was another great turnout for the Smithtown Kickers NOGA camp from July 18-July 22, covering the hottest days of the summer. Specializing in making soccer fun and entertaining the NOGA organization continues to provide a special week of soccer for our intramural program each summer.

Much of August and early September was spent organizing and registering almost 1,000 boys and girls from ages 3-12 years old. With over 80 teams playing the numerous volunteers and coordinators are critical to keeping the program running smoothly. The fields are now filled for practices during the week and games on the weekends. The coaches and assistants are working hard to teach the beautiful game to the children and ensure a good time is enjoyed by all.

Introducing Our New Intramural Director

Continuing a long tradition of strong and dedicated intramural directors, Paul Friedrichs has now assumed leadership for the entire intramural program. Paul's participation with the club goes back many years as he played in the program as a youth player on both intramural and travel teams. Paul's father, John Friedrichs, was a founding member of the club and was

recently inducted into the Long Island Junior Soccer League Hall of Fame. Paul is also a current board member and intramural coach. We're thankful for his dedication to the club and look forward to continuing to provide a strong program to players of all ages and abilities to play soccer in a fun and supportive environment.

"The problem with referees is that they just don't care which side wins."

---Tom
Canterbury high school coach

"All of us get knocked down, but it's resiliency that really matters. All of us do well when things are going well, but the thing that distinguishes athletes is the ability to do well in times of great stress, urgency and pressure."
---Roger
Staubach

Referee Program

Guy Fornuto is back again this year to oversee the intramural referee program. The group consists of over 50 boys and girls ages 13 and older who learn the game and serve as referees for all the intramural games. With more than a dozen first time participants this fall Guy held several training session prior to opening day to set their expectations for game day. He also helps to provide support and confidence for the new candidates to ensure a productive experience for the

referees, coaches and players. Many of these boys and girls will go on to serve as Assistant Referees in the LIJSL travel divisions when they get older.

Guy and his assistants are always available throughout the day during games and any issues should be brought to their attention. Please remember that many of these referees are as young as 13 years old, so please be sure to treat them as you would want your children treated. In fact, someday these referees may be your own children!

Travel News

The boys U14 Smithtown Arsenal, coached by Dan McConnell and trained by Tom Lips, completed a historic spring season with a trip to the 2011 US Youth Soccer National Championships held July 26-31 in Phoenix AZ. Falling short of their ultimate dream they were eliminated with a 3-1 loss to the strong Dallas Texans. Still a 4th place finish at the National Championships is an impressive accomplishment for a town based team where most of the players grew up playing in Smithtown getting their start in the Kickers own intramural program. To top off the experience two members of the team, Thomas Butzke and Steven Dovi were named to the tournament Best 11, which recognized the best eleven players in each gender age group as voted by the coaches of the participating teams.

The team is a product of the Kickers travel program and their elite training organization, Long Island Professional Soccer. All of the trainers under director Tom Lips have extensive soccer backgrounds including collegiate and professional experiences, and many are teachers and educators by profession.

Other outstanding accomplishments by our travel teams include the following from last spring season:

Division titles - BU9 Hurricanes, GU10 Dynamite, GU13 Fire, and GU14 Lightning
LI Cup Finalists - BU15 Bulls, GU13 Fire
Sportsmanship Awards - BU9 Hurricanes, BU11 Roma, GU19 Alliance

Coaches Corner

To kick a soccer ball correctly sounds easy, but unfortunately this is often handled superficially or even skipped. Some coaches believe that if they push their players straight into more advanced training methods, they'll automatically learn the basic techniques in the process. This has a double downside: first of all, skipping the basic technique exercises will allow the player to form an incorrect kicking technique that he is stuck with for the rest of his soccer

playing career, since it's extremely hard to correct something that you've already learned as a kid. Secondly, without the proper basic soccer kicking skills, your players won't be able to perform the advanced exercises correctly, so you're basically achieving very little with plunging them straight into them. So take the time to teach them correctly on how to kick a ball. For more information, use the following URL, <http://www.mysuperkick.com/kiickingtechnique.htm>

*"I'm not a yeller. My theory is that no one goes out there trying to screw up."
---Amy Ruley, head woman's basketball coach, North Dakota State (5-time NCAA D2 champs)*

Sample Training Session - Jail Bird

Objective: To practice passing and receiving skills.

Set-up: Players spread out on the edge of a circle - they are the guards. There should be a couple of feet between each player.

Pick one player to go in the middle. She is the jail bird.

Pick another player to be the receiver. She goes outside the circle.

How to play: Pass a ball to the jail bird. She needs to control the ball and try to pass to the receiver outside the circle.

The guards have to stay on the line but can move around the edge of the circle to try to stop the pass.

When she makes a successful pass, the jail bird is set free and becomes the new receiver. The receiver joins the guards and you choose a new Jail Bird.

Comments: This game shows both passer and receiver how to work around a swarm and keep their head up.

As they get better at it, they start to "trick" the guards by looking in one direction but passing to another.

A few even start to learn how to pass into space. I.e., "Even though my team mate is not at that spot, I can tell she can run to it as I pass it".



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*"When you are out there on the soccer field playing, nothing else matters at the time. It's like the whole world has disappeared, and you and your teammates are all that matters."
---Amber Massey*

Ask The Referee

Question: What happens if the ball hits the referee or the assistant referee?

Answer: When the ball is in play, it touches the referee or an assistant referee who is temporarily on the field of play, play continues because the referee and assistant referees are part of the match.

Dear Parents

The parent's role is one of support to the players and coaches. Parents should not engage in "coaching" from the sidelines; criticizing players, coaches or game officials; or trying to influence the makeup of the team at any time. Every parent and spectator is expected to:

- Show respect and courtesy to the game officials, coaches, and players at all times.
- Respect the game officials and refrain from questioning their decisions or from addressing them in a loud, disrespectful, or abusive manner.
- Cheer for your child's team in a positive manner, refraining at all times from making negative or abusive remarks about the opposing team. Maintain control of your emotions and avoid actions, language, and or gestures that may be interpreted as hostile and humiliating.
- Ensure that your child is at all games and practices at the required time or provide the coach with an appropriate excuse beforehand.
- Teach and practice good sportsmanship and fair play by personally demonstrating at the conclusion of a game, win or lose.
- Soccer is more than just a game. It is one of the best ways, we as parents, can develop the character of our children by having them work with other team members in a concerted effort to be their best. Our contribution in supporting them - and others on their team and the opposing team - provides a positive role model that will benefit all of our children many years from now.