

The Goal Post

July 16, 2007



Sunburst 2007: An Unqualified Success!

The WWPSA hosted the 13th Annual Sunburst Travel Soccer Tournament this past June 2-3, 2007 at Mercer County Park and Conover Park. Teams came from Connecticut, Delaware, New York, Pennsylvania and all over New Jersey to compete in age divisions from U-09 through U-16 and, based on the feedback we received from coaches and parents, it was a great year to be at Sunburst!

PUMA, our strategic alliance partner, helped create a festive atmosphere by bringing banners, tents, merchandise and the PUMA Tunnel and Mister (shown above), which saw solid use throughout the day on Saturday when temperatures neared 90° F. Our thanks go out to our new friends at PUMA and long-time friends at Ewing Sports Center who made it all happen.

All in all, 177 teams converged on West Windsor and put on a great show. Many of the teams who played were nationally ranked in our region, further cementing WWPSA's place among this region's top programs.

We would also like to extend our gratitude our main local sponsors, Cranbury Design and Al Jon's Pizza & Restaurant, as well as to all of our tournament volunteers, without whom we couldn't have a tournament. Special thanks also go out to Jacqueline Stein and Diane Kooker who performed fantastically in their first year as tournament Co-Directors. You folks were unbelievable!

Volunteers Needed in Rec and Travel for 2007-08; Please help!

WWPSA is looking to fill open positions on the Fall Rec Executive Committee and 2007-08 Travel Executive Committee, among other positions. We depend on our volunteers to run our highly successful programs and need parents with some time to help out, particularly women, whose presence is vastly underrepresented throughout WWPSA. Please e-mail our [Dir. of Rec Soccer](#), our [Dir. of Travel Soccer](#) or [Volunteer Coordinator](#) for more info.

There are no experience requirements to serve, only a willingness to help your community. Thanks for your contribution!

Have Questions about Travel Soccer? Try our Travel FAQ Page

For all those parents new to Travel soccer or for those Rec parents who are considering Travel soccer, we've created a Travel Soccer FAQ page to help you better understand the commitment, the cost and just what the differences are between Rec and Travel. [Click here](#) to access the Travel Soccer FAQ page.

WWPSA Executive Director: it's Robin Dean!

After a thorough search process, the WWPSA Board of Directors is proud to announce that Robin Dean will be WWPSA's first full-time employee in the role of Executive Director.



Robin is a long-time representative on various governing bodies throughout WWPSA and is highly respected throughout Rec, Travel, Adult and Soccer Development communities. Please join us in welcoming Robin to his new role as we begin the transition process to getting Robin more involved in the day-to-day operations of running the WWPSA. [Click here](#) to read more about Robin's many contributions to WWPSA. You can reach Robin at execdirector@wwpsa.org.



WWPSA Fanware is Here!

As part of our overall strategy for creating a single "Club" culture within WWPSA, we've listened to your requests and are offering WWPSA-logo merchandise that parents or siblings can wear to support your teams and your Club:

- PUMA Fleece Jacket
- PUMA Vencida Water-Resistant Jacket
- PUMA Sack Pack
- WWPSA Car Magnet

We've posted detailed descriptions of all items on the [WWPSA Merchandise page](#) and you can buy any item during registration. Already registered and want to buy something? Just login to your household within our secure online registration system and register your child for the "MERCHANDISE ONLY" program; you'll be able to purchase just the right size of any item you wish and will still be able to use your credit card! We'll deliver your items before the season starts, so make sure you place your orders before quantities run out! This stuff is **really** sharp, comfortable and functional, so sign up for yours today!

Travel Soccer Update

Many parents have asked us about the changes in Travel Soccer, particularly the increased fees and uniform changes.

We're working hard to consistently explain the changes, so [click here](#) to review a detailed breakdown of the fees and uniform descriptions and images. The fee increase appears to be more than it actually is because WWPSA is collecting more fees up-front than in prior years, including uniforms and a portion of team fees that are now being remitted during registration where in the past these fees were either paid directly to Ewing Sports or to each team. The logic is that by purchasing all uniforms at the Club level we increase our bargaining power with Ewing Sports and with PUMA, thereby increasing the overall value to the Club of our uniform and apparel purchases.

Fall Rec Registration is Open

[Click here](#) to learn more about and to register for our Fall Rec program, by far our largest annual program. We're planning many changes this year, so we can't wait to see how they turn out!

What's Next for Facilities

Our Director of Facilities, Earl Deamond, has resigned his position and is moving on to focus on his family and other priorities. We thank Earl for the leadership and detail-oriented approach he brought to our facilities needs over the past years. Here are some of the highlights of Earl's accomplishments:

- Repair and restoration of WWCP # 1 to a high-demand, low-use game-only field with portable goals
- Repair and restoration of WWCP # 2 to a high-quality practice field with portable goals
- Repair and restoration of Conover # 1 to a high-quality practice field with portable goals
- Frequent interaction with West Windsor and Plainsboro Townships to develop draft Memorandums of Understanding that lay the foundation for future facilities roles and responsibilities of the townships and WWPSA
- Served as the primary liaison between WWPSA, PUMA and Ewing Sports to coordinate the selection and delivery of all Fall Rec, Travel and Adult uniforms for the 2007-08 year.

Please join us in thanking Earl for his dedication to WWPSA and wishing him well in his new endeavors! Replacing Earl will be Howard Rabin who was elected to the WWPSA Board and to the Director of Facilities position during the June 14th Board meeting. Howard has served on the Travel Executive Committee in the Facilities Coordinator role and has volunteered with Sunburst facilities setup for several years. Welcome aboard, Howard! You can reach Howard via facilities@wwpsa.org for any facilities needs.

Safety Update: Don't Move the Goals

What's the most preventable injury in soccer? Falling soccer goals that weren't properly anchored are the # 1 cause of preventable injuries. If you want to move a goal, **please don't!!!** Most casual users of the fields and equipment used by WWPSA don't realize that large goals are **extremely heavy** and can cause serious injury or death if the goal isn't properly anchored and falls on a player. Before you think that you can simply replace anchors by hand, please be aware that our Facilities personnel use sledgehammers to keep the anchors firmly in the ground. [Click here](#) to read more about soccer goal safety.

Coaches' Corner

With the summer months, you may take this opportunity to relax and enjoy much-needed time with your family. However, keep in mind that the fall season is rapidly approaching and that you should consider obtaining your Coaching F-license. The cost is low and WWPSA reimburses all active coaches for the fee. July 20-21 is the date; [click here](#) for more info. If you missed signing up, [click here](#) to see the other courses offered in our area.

New Travel Coaches

We have developed a Travel Coach Manual that will help new Travel Soccer coaches better understand their options, responsibilities and deadlines. Many of the forms you'll need your players to fill out are already online under [Travel Forms](#), but stay tuned for the guidance you need.

What's Coming?

We're furiously working to prepare for the upcoming summer and fall programs; here's a summary of what's happening:

- We're ready to launch our second year of summer programs for players ages 3 – 14. We're working with Puma to properly outfit the players and ensure a fun and productive time for all.
- We're again offering an F-license coaching course here in West Windsor on July 20-21. An F license is the minimum requirement for all Travel soccer coaches but is also extremely helpful to Rec coaches to help them better plan practices, run practices that are geared to particular young age groups and better understand how drills and movement can translate into better skills in your players. WWPSA reimburses the fee for all WWPSA coaches who attend, so why not sign up? Stay tuned for a broadcast e-mail containing the details.
- Based on a survey sent to all 2006-07 Rec program participants we are moving forward with plans to sponsor a WWPSA-only Rec soccer tournament in the fall. We've received lots of guidance from other clubs who have successfully run similar tournaments and they recommend a 3-versus-3 format with 3 players on each team. This will be our first attempt at a Rec tournament, so we could use lots of help to make it successful. Please [e-mail us](#) if you're interested.
- As part of our Club-wide strategy of better aligning all programs together, all Fall Rec players will receive **2** jerseys this year, one home and one away in the Club colors of green and white. Players will need to bring both jerseys to each game to ensure that all players on each team will have the correct jersey.
- We've launched our Fanware page to offer you the WWPSA-logo merchandise you've requested, including a fleece, water-resistant jacket, sling bag and car magnet.
- We've started our annual Summer Pick-Up Program and coordinated the schedules for both Adult and Youth pick-up games so that they are located at the same facility to allow both parents and kids to participate.

Upcoming Events

July 18: MNJYSA team registrations due

July 25: Travel player registrations due

August 9: WWPSA Board meeting, 8 pm, WW Library

Confused by Offsides?

You're not alone! FIFA reports that Law 11 is the most confused rule in the Rules of the Game. Did you know that a player can be in an offsides position but the referee shouldn't stop play? [Click here](#) to access FIFA's easy, graphical demonstration of the offsides rules and become your team's in-house offsides resource!

www.wwpsa.org

WWPSA Launches RSS Feed

In conjunction with our technology provider Demosphere International, Inc., WWPSA is launching the availability of an RSS feed of news from the WWPSA home page. RSS, or Really Simple Syndication, is a way to read headlines and articles from websites without navigating through your browser. [Click here](#) to read more and find out how you can get WWPSA news whenever you want!

Useful Resources

Weather / Game Info:

<http://www.wwpsa.org/home/127907.html>

Field Maps:

www.wwpsa.org/facilities/index_e.htm

WWPSA Around the World: Kenya!



Gail Ashley, a professor at Rutgers University, makes an annual trek to Kenya on the eastern coast of Africa to deliver books and other supplies to needy children. This year WWPSA was able to also provide Gail with over 50 soccer balls to share with the children of the Sandai Primary School near Lake Bogoria, Kenya. The children live with poverty, drought and poor facilities and any small gesture of hope that we can bring to their lives is worthwhile; who knows from where the next great soccer player will come? Picking used balls from our inventory is a small gesture that can show how we care. We're planning to make this an annual program, so please e-mail execdirector@wwpsa.org if you're interested in helping gather items to send to Africa next year.

Big Brothers / Sisters Wanted!

Fall 2007 saw the launch of our first-ever Big Brother / Big Sister program where experienced players from the WWP High School teams were assigned to help our youngest teams in Kindergarten and 1st grade learn to play the game. While we received very positive feedback from program participants and from the parents of the kids assigned to their teams, we've been busy working on other ways to improve the program:

- Issue coaches' shirts to each Big Brother and Big Sister to help them look like part of the team
- Include training for coaches to help them make better use of their team's assigned Big Brother or Big Sister.

Program participants earn valuable experience to include on their college applications while helping give back to WWPSA programs that helped them get their start. Are you interested in becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister? Sign up now via our [secure online registration system!](#)

Fall Programs Continue: What's Going On?

Registration for our Fall Rec Soccer programs are open and ready to sign up your kids for another season of fun! We're planning LOTS of changes to the programs this year, including better balancing of leagues by grade and new uniforms, so sign up today! Also, our Summer Pick-Up Program was announced; [click here](#) for info.

Our Travel Soccer program has launched the registration process and wants to remind all players who were offered spots to [register](#) by July 25.

Our Adult Rec and Competitive programs have opened registration and are looking for participants. Also, Summer pick-up games are organized; [click here](#) for more info.

Our Facilities leadership has broken down fields for the summer and is planning the improvements for the fall season.

The Fundraising Committee is waiting for the report to determine our fundraising potential and document a road map to achieve our fundraising goals.

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WW Heat Advisory

The summer heat affects us all, especially the young and elderly. It's critical that you know the warning signs of all heat-related illnesses and problems, such as Heat Cramps, Heat Rash, Heat Syncope, Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke.

[Click here](#) to read the 2007 WW Head Advisory Guide to make sure you're educated and prepared to keep everyone close to you safe and healthy this summer season.

WWPSA Summer Program Update

The first session of the WWPSA Summer program has ended, with strong reviews received from the participants. The next session begins on Monday, July 16, through Friday, July 20, with the final session running from August 6 - 10. Spots are still available, so [click here](#) to sign up today!

Interested in Becoming a WWPSA Sponsor? We Want to Hear from You!

For as little as \$250 you can sponsor a Recreational Soccer team in the fall! Benefits include having your company's or family's name associated with a team at every game they play, generating awareness for your company and providing a valuable tax-deductible contribution to a growing and deserving organization.

You can sponsor a team in two ways: donate at least \$250 while registering your child for a Fall Rec program via our secure online [registration system](#); or visit our secure online [Donation Site](#) and donate at least \$250. Either way, we both win!

The Director of Merchandise has posted our new merchandise for sale via our website and is working to organize our fall uniform needs.

We're looking for a Director of Equipment to take charge of our equipment needs. [Click here](#) if you're interested.

Our Webmasters have set up Travel Team Pages for 2007-08, including Player Profiles to help our graduating players showcase their skills and bios to college coaches.

www.wwpsa.org

WWPSA is Growing and Needs Your Help!

By offering year-round programs and activities that meet the diverse needs of our families, WWPSA is growing quickly and needs to fill several volunteer positions so that we can continue our mission of providing safe, fun soccer activities for our area residents. Won't you please help? The time commitment is less than you think, but the results can make all the difference in the world! Please e-mail volunteer@wwpsa.org with the position that interests you.

Calling All Women

We'd like to reach out to the countless women in our Club who are underrepresented in numerous volunteer positions to step forward and help out. We on the Board are concerned that our daughters are lacking visible examples of women leaders in our Club, particularly in the numerous available coaching positions, so won't you please consider stepping forward to be that example? We offer coaching courses and lots of guidance to help you feel more comfortable, so we urge you to please help out.



Director of Equipment

We're looking for a Director of Equipment to take charge of organizing our balls, cones, nets, uniforms, flags and other items stored in various locations. The job is cyclical in that it requires more time at the beginning and end of each season, more so in the fall than the spring, but can be done by anyone willing to help.

Insurance Coordinator

The Insurance Coordinator will proactively work with the various program directors to ensure that our current insurance coverage meets our needs and will help develop consistent guidance for our association to follow regarding permitted programs and activities. Insurance industry experience preferred.



Fundraising Volunteers

WWPSA is launching an unprecedented fundraising campaign and needs to gather volunteers to help make calls, draft marketing materials, gather information, conduct research, etc.

Useful Links

[WWPSA Home Page](#)
[Recreational home](#)
[Travel home](#)
[Adult home](#)
[Sunburst Tournament](#)
[Training home](#)
[Referees home](#)
[Directions and Facilities](#)
[The Goal Post](#)
[Club Policies](#)
[Rec Lost and Found](#)

Contact Information

Please use the appropriate method to contact us for the fastest response:

Executive Director:

execdirector@wwpsa.org

Rec: rec@wwpsa.org

Travel: travel@wwpsa.org

Adult:

adultsoccer@wwpsa.org

Sunburst:

sunburst@wwpsa.org

Training:

training@wwpsa.org

Registration:

registrar@wwpsa.org

Photos:

photos@wwpsa.org

Merchandise:

merchandise@wwpsa.org

Equipment:

equipment@wwpsa.org

Facilities:

facilities@wwpsa.org

Fundraising:

fundraising@wwpsa.org

General:

soccer@wwpsa.org

Phone: (888) 267-8988

Mail: P.O. Box 757

Princeton Junction,
NJ 08550

Website Tips

When you register for WWPSA programs, please choose to pay via credit card instead of check whenever possible. Our volunteers have to spend much less time processing registrations where the payment was made online than when they are made by check, so thanks for helping cut down on the workload!

Chairman's Corner

This year has been unbelievably busy at WWPSA and I am quickly learning why many volunteers in leadership positions choose to have short tenures. The amount of work to keep WWPSA running is staggering, even taking into account the hundreds of volunteers we have who contribute their time and energy each week. That's why the concept of hiring a full-time Executive Director was so appealing to those of us on the Board or on the Travel or Rec Executive Committees – there just isn't enough time in the day for what boils down to volunteer activities.

I'm very pleased with how Robin Dean has embraced his duties and already suggested several ways to improve many of our most difficult and controversial activities, including Travel Tryouts. We have already begun implementing some of those changes, including a new-coach orientation and printed manual that has helped new Travel coaches (including myself) hit the ground running. We've also begun planning for how next year's tryout process will more closely follow our desired state for how they should be run, so I have high hopes for Robin and WWPSA.

I want to extend my personal congratulations to the Sunburst Tournament Committee – particularly to our Tournament Co-Directors Jacqueline Stein and Diane Kooker – and to the hundreds of volunteers who made this year's tournament so successful. The atmosphere was festive, exciting and filled with great soccer. Thanks to everyone involved and I hope to see you next year, building on this year's success.

Our budding relationship with Puma and expanded relationship with Ewing Sports is also proving to be quite beneficial to our Club. With their help, we've been launching our new brand throughout our programs, from new Rec uniforms to our expanded Fanware offering, I'm pleased with what I see. I'm sure you will like the new look come the fall, with a sea of white and green players everywhere!

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WWPSA Board

Chairman – Justin Stein
Secretary – Randie Brazel
Finance – Pat Trombetta
Facilities – Howard Rabin
Rec – Bill Kramer
Travel – Michael Dunham
Adult – David Boate
Equipment – vacant
Merchandise – Steve Per
Development – Paul St. Amour
Fundraising – Marc Herold
Webmaster – Brent Nielsen
At-large – Ken Matthews

Coordinators

Sunburst – Jacqueline Stein /
Diane Kooker
Pictures – Cindy Alvarez
Volunteers – Steve Per
Referees – Chris Hazen
KidSafe – vacant
Community – Dan Bartell
Registrar – Brent Nielsen
Insurance – vacant
Sponsors – Maryann Lewis

(“Chairman’s Corner”, continued from previous page)

I’d also like to urge those of you who haven’t served in a leadership role to do so during the coming fall season and as we begin planning our leadership for 2008. The work can be extremely rewarding when you hear how many kids were influenced by a project on which you worked, so I urge you to come forward to put forth your name for an activity in which you’re interested. You can always e-mail me, our Volunteer Coordinator or Executive Director if you would like to help out in a specific capacity. We do rely on your volunteer selections when you register for a WWPSA program, so we may also contact you by searching for volunteers who signed up for a specific role. For those of you with available time during the day, you are our most valuable untapped resource that can make a HUGE difference on what we can accomplish. Please step forward to sign up to help. We have particularly critical needs in the Fall Rec program that need to be filled in order to make possible this great program, so please sign up.

Thanks to all of you who make WWPSA so much fun and such a wonderful organization, and especially to you, the parents without whose support we would cease to exist.

Enjoy your summer and I look forward to hearing any suggestions you have any time to help WWPSA run better and I will be sure to share them with the rest of the Board at our next meeting.

Regards,

Justin D. Stein
Chairman, WWPSA Board of Directors