

NJ Wildcats to Host Soccer Skills Program for WWPSA Girls



Free to WWPSA girls players in Rec and Travel, the Soccer Skills Program is meant to bring greater value and instruction to our female players. Soccer Skills will take place on Monday afternoons at Conover Park starting April 28 and continuing through June 16. NJ Wildcats players will conduct sessions and then, starting on May 12, practice afterwards so that program participants can observe the Wildcats in action!

There is no registration; simply show up in your WWPSA jersey and shin guards to participate. [Click here](#) for more details.

Travel Soccer Tryouts Announced

The WWPSA Travel Program conducts open tryouts each year for all our teams. Tryouts for teams playing from fall 2008 through spring 2009 will be held in May 2008 for both Boys and Girls from U-09 to U-14. Tryouts for our older teams (U-15 to U-18) are usually conducted over an extended period starting in May and finishing in early fall.

Our U-09 to U-13 team tryouts are conducted solely by professional soccer evaluators. No parents are permitted on the field during tryouts, nor are parents permitted to participate in the player evaluation process during tryouts. The team manager for the upcoming year is chosen after the players for a team are selected.

Note: New Jersey Youth Soccer rules state that Players born after July 31, 2000, the U7 and below ages, are not eligible to play travel league soccer.

The Travel Program has made every effort to schedule tryout times that comply with the calendars of the West Windsor Plainsboro school district. If you would like to learn more about the WWPSA Travel Soccer Tryout Process, please [click here](#) to visit our website.

WWPSA in the News

Hopefully you saw the article in the April 1, 2008 edition of The Princeton Packet, "WWPSA undergoes two-year makeover". The article summarized all of the hard work that our representatives have undertaken the past 24 months and demonstrates our commitment to improving the quality of services and value provided to our players, coaches, referees and parents. [Click here](#) to view a copy.

Spring Rec Season Kickoff

WWPSA's novel Spring Rec program is now underway with Pre-K and K-8 sessions taking our fields by storm!

What's different about Spring Rec? For starters, there are **no pre-assigned teams** with parent coaches, **no set game schedule** and **no referees**. This was deliberate on our part to foster an environment where the kids come to play and to enjoy the game of soccer in a lightly-structured setting similar to the pick-up games of our youth.

[Click here](#) to register or to learn more about this highly-successful program.

U.S. Women's National Team Players are Coming!



Christie Pearce Rampone



Shannon Boxx

WWPSA is excited to announce that U.S. National Team Captain Christie Pearce Rampone and Olympic Gold Medalist Shannon Boxx will participate in the WWPSA / New Jersey Wildcats Camp of Champions in West Windsor, July 7-11, 2008. Christie and Shannon will be in camp on July 7th and 8th only a few weeks before they travel to Beijing, China for the 2008 Olympic Games. In addition to soccer skills training, the camp will include individual Speed and Agility testing and an ACL injury prevention DVD from the G.O.A.L.S. (Girls Opting Against Ligament Surgery) Training Series.

The camp will be led by Socrates Nicolaidis, Head Coach of the New Jersey Wildcats, the youngest Australian player ever to play in a National League game at the age of 16 and former Australian National Youth Team player.

Christie is a native New Jerseyan, coming from Point Pleasant and attended Monmouth University. [Click here](#) for her U.S. National Team bio.

Shannon hails from Redondo Beach, California, and attended Notre Dame. [Click here](#) for her U.S. National Team bio.

[Click here](#) to view a short video describing the camp.

To register, download the [Camp Information and Registration](#) form from the WWPSA website.

New York Red Bulls Practice with U15 Galaxy

Two players from New York Red Bull joined the U15 Boys Galaxy for a training session at West Windsor Community Park on Friday, April 25th. Sinisa Ubiparipovic (#8) and Dane Richards (#19) joined Zizo Sherif, head coach of the Galaxy, for their regular training session. The Galaxy invited all WWPSA players to come and watch the training, meet the Red Bull players and to take pictures.

2008 Scholarship Applications Wanted

We are now accepting applications for a chance to receive one of four annual WWPSA Scholarships of \$500 - \$1,000 to a graduating senior and alumni of WWPSA activities. [Click here](#) to read how you can apply today.

Travel Parents Meeting Held

A meeting for current and future Travel Soccer parents was held on April 30 at the WW Library. Over 30 Parents turned out to learn about the Travel tryout process, the new Travel Development Academy and the program in general.

Feedback was strong and we plan to make this an annual event.

Sunburst is Coming!

The 14th Annual Sunburst Soccer Tournament is coming to West Windsor on May 31 – June 1, 2008. Sunburst has become one of our area's major events and is a significant fundraising opportunity to WWPSA. We expect to attract over 200 teams to Sunburst this year from all over the northeast U.S., bringing some terrific competition to our community.

As of today, we have **over 210** teams registered with us, so we're expecting more than 4,000 players, parents and siblings to descend upon Mercer County Park and Conover Park for the festivities. While we have teams registered from NY, CT, PA, and, of course, NJ, 40% of the teams come from within a 20-mile radius, so please [contact us](#) if you are interested in a sponsorship opportunity. We will work with you to ensure your investment meets your specific needs.

We've also been working with PUMA to plan some terrific activities that weekend, and we expect this year to be the best tournament ever. [Click here](#) to learn more.

WWPSA State Cup Update

Here's the latest on WWPSA Travel teams and their quest to advance in NJYS National Championships action:

- U18G Breakaways – advanced to Quarterfinals
- U16B Patriots – advanced to Quarterfinals

2008 Summer Camp Schedule

- [Coerver® Coaching Summer Camp](#), June 23-27, suitable for current and future potential WWPSA Travel players
- [Summer Rec Camp](#), June 23-27, July 14-18 or August 11-15, conducted by our Rec Training partners at ProActive Sport
- [Camp of Champions](#), July 7-11, presented by NJ Wildcats

[Click here](#) to learn more about our Summer Camp programs.

WWPSA Remembers Margaret Wilby

Last weekend, the community lost a dear friend, Margaret Wilby. Her family has been involved in WWPSA for many years and our hearts and thoughts go out to them during this difficult time.

Community Events

Plainsboro Founders' Day is coming to the Plainsboro Municipal Complex on May 4th. Spanning several hours, WWPSA has traditionally set up a kicking demonstration for all kids to show their best stuff and walk away with a cool prize while their parents chat up WWPSA volunteers to learn what we're all about and hear what's coming.

Thanks in advance to our volunteers who help us put on a great show!

Website Tips

Please pay via credit card instead of check whenever possible. Our volunteers spend much less time processing registrations paid online than when paid by check, so thanks for helping cut down on the workload!

New Feature: You can now add your child's nickname during registration.

WWPSA Educational Seminar Series ^{New}

We've always provided training classes to our players, coaches and referees, but we felt we needed to go further and present seminars that would provide real value to our constituents, so we've organized a monthly series of seminars aimed at specific groups within our Club and believe that you'll find them informational and valuable. Plans for future Seminars include:

- "Parents' Introduction to the Rules of the Game": helps parents become better informed as to the rules, improve their enjoyment of the game and reduce on-field confrontations.
- "Intro to WWPSA Programs": intended for those parents new to our area or whose children might be ready for a different level of play, this seminar will be conducted by program directors and Board members to provide valuable insight into what programs are available, what to expect and how to get more involved.

Please [e-mail us](#) if you have a suggestion for a future seminar; we'll do our best to make it happen!

WWPSA Banner Contest

We need your pictures! WWPSA announced the [Website Banner Contest](#) last fall to update the photo banner that appears at the top of all WWPSA pages and while we have received some terrific pictures, **we need more close-up shots** of players to give us a true representative sample from which to choose. Each program's section of our website can have its own banner, so Rec, Travel, Adult, Referees, etc., can each have a banner that represents each unique program, but we need the pictures to do this!

How can you help? [E-mail us](#) your photos of close-up action on the field. You can either send us links to your online photo albums or attach the photos, but snap away and send us your best pics!

Donate Your Old Equipment During Sunburst

WWPSA is all about helping our community to provide value and help those around us. In that spirit, one of our own, Rachel Heyse, a member of our U-13 Terriers, will be collecting used soccer equipment during Sunburst to send to needy children in Nicaragua. Her goal is to collect 5 boxes by June, so please be sure to help her cause by remembering to bring old equipment and uniforms to her booth at HQ at Sunburst 2008:

[Click here](#) to read more about her efforts.

Useful Resources

[Spring Programs](#)
[Field Maps](#)
[Educational Seminars](#)
[Parents' Resources](#)

What's Next for Facilities

As always, we're working hard to ensure that our players have the best facilities available to meet the needs of each of our programs. Here's what we're working on this month:

- Continue to cultivate the new field at Conover Park. It is currently protected by our snow fence until the grass takes root and is playable.
- The new irrigation system installed at Conover is operational and helping to ensure our repairs take hold and the grass remains well cared-for.
- Add soil to the fields at Zaitz Park to repair poor areas of the field.
- Add soil to the "Great Lawn" fields at Conover Park to repair poor areas of the field.

Future plans include:

- Replace obsolete goal frames with new portable frames to improve safety and maximize our field setup options. Previously purchased frames are in place at WWCP and Conover Park.
- Work with Plainsboro Township to install irrigation at PCP
- Upgrade the lighting at Conover FS # 1 along South Post Road to replace the portable lights with permanent light towers
- Begin construction of new facilities at Duck Pond Park, including three top-quality full-sized game fields with team seating and fan bleachers, comfort facilities, concessions, shelter and permanent office space to be used by WWPSA as a base of operations. We plan on working very closely with WWT to make this happen and be usable by Fall 2009.
- Repair and restore Zaitz Park fields, including a drainage system to improve our use of the facility; three fields were taken offline for the fall season to make necessary repairs and rest these highly utilized areas. Future considerations include installing irrigation and permanent lighting.
- Install a permanent fence at WWCP to protect our top fields
- Installation of synthetic turf practice fields
- Permanent restrooms, concessions and a dining pavilion at Zaitz Park, similar to that at West Windsor Community Park.

You can reach Howard Rabin, our Director of Facilities, via facilities@wwpsa.org or Robin at execdirector@wwpsa.org to discuss any facilities needs.

Spring Programs: What's Going On?

Our Spring Rec programs are preparing to launch on April 12th; special thanks to John Slater for volunteering to serve as the Dir. of Spring Rec Soccer; [click here](#) for info.

Our Travel Soccer teams have begun their spring seasons.

Our Adult Rec and Competitive programs are preparing for the start of their spring seasons.

Our Facilities leadership has outlined the improvements most needed for the spring season and beyond; the Board is forming a Facilities Committee who will prioritize the projects and recommend to the Board which projects should be addressed first.

The Board will leverage the fundraising feasibility study completed last year and define a road map to achieve our fundraising goals.

Don't Move the Goals!

Falling goals that weren't properly anchored are the # 1 cause of preventable injuries in soccer. If you want to move a goal for casual use, ***please don't!!!*** You may not 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. The next time you see children playing on a goal or hanging from the net, please be proactive and instruct them to get down for their own safety. [Click here](#) to read more about soccer goal safety.



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 Volunteers

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.



Volunteer Coordinator

We need someone to help coordinate volunteers needed for various duties and track when volunteers perform those duties. Basic knowledge of computers is needed, but no advanced degrees are necessary. ☺

Thanks to Fall Rec Team Sponsors!

We want to thank all of our Fall Rec Team Sponsors for their continued support of WWPSA's largest program. Please support our sponsors whenever you can and let them know that you saw their listing with WWPSA!

- [WWPEA](#)
- [Sarnoff Corporation](#)
- [Plainsboro Dental Care](#)
- [Allied Vision Services](#)
- [UPS Capital Corp.](#)
- [Pied Piper Kids](#)
- [Tradition Capital Mgmt.](#)
- [Sydney Albert Salon](#)
- [Access Self Storage](#)
- [Dick's Sporting Goods](#)
- [Ashley Furniture Homestore](#)



Useful Links

- [WWPSA Home Page](#)
- [Recreational home](#)
- [Travel home](#)
- [Adult home](#)
- [Sunburst Tournament](#)
- [Training / Education home](#)
- [Parents' Resources](#)
- [Referees home](#)
- [Directions and Facilities](#)
- [The Goal Post](#)
- [Club Policies](#)
- [WWPSA Trainers](#) **New**
- [Spring Programs](#) **New**
- [Summer Programs](#) **New**

Conover Park Construction Update

If you haven't noticed, Conover Park has seen a flurry of activity over the past several weeks: our volunteers removed the football goal posts from the former Wildcats Football field (SS # 1); our contractors regraded the field; installed irrigation at FS # 1 (along S. Post Road), SS # 1 and FS # 2 (by the S. Post Rd. parking lot) and laid the foundation for future expansion of the system to include the Great Lawn fields; and laid sod on SS # 1. WWT has installed a locking gate at the front end of the park and will soon be constructing a split-rail fence along the gravel road to protect these fields and improve the aesthetics of the Park.

This construction is part of our short- and long-term vision for upgrading the facilities our children enjoy in our community, and represents the next step of our investments to improve the facilities we utilize. SS # 1 should be ready-for-use as a fully-lit practice or game field by the middle or end of the spring.

Congratulations to everyone who helped make this a reality!

Upcoming Events

May 12: WWPSA Board meeting, 8 pm, WW Library
June 9: WWPSA Board meeting, 8 pm, WW Library

Travel Development Academy Registration

Registration is now open for 6-, 7- and 8-year olds interested in experiencing a higher level of training than what is available in Recreational soccer, but who are too young for the traditional Travel program. WWPSA Travel is introducing a Youth Travel Development Academy in 2008 to deliver high-quality technical training in a small-sided game environment for our youngest players. This plan will require a long-term player development philosophy that is player-centered and will consider game results as secondary to individual player development. The program will promote appreciation of the game of soccer and will consider long-term player retention as a primary goal.

[Click here](#) to read more about this terrific new program!

Contact Information

Use the links below 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

Chairman's Corner

I write to you this month hoping that you are as excited as I am about the state of our Club. Our Rec players are frolicking during Spring Rec and playing just for the sake of play with minimal structure; our Travel players are in mid-season form and many of our teams have reported successful tournament performances; Sunburst preparation is reaching its zenith as we prepare to close registration, set the schedule and welcome **over 210 Travel Soccer teams** to West Windsor; Adult Rec and Travel teams have been playing and are providing our community's adults with a regular outlet to get some exercise and meet some new friends; our Travel players are preparing to attend tryouts to set the rosters of our teams for the 2008-09 Travel season; and, as of today, we have opened registration for a new program, the Travel Development Academy for our budding Travel soccer stars. It's a lot to organize, and our volunteers are doing a great job helping everything run as smoothly as it has.

I feel that we've reached a turning point and are heading in a direction that will continue to show the greater soccer community that WWPSA is a strong Club with enormous potential. We continue to share our vision with our community by helping promote a healthy lifestyle among our participants and provide our players with several options to play this terrific sport.

Knowing this, I have strong concerns as to how we can sustain our current rate of growth and success. While our Executive Director, Robin Dean, has performed admirably during his first year, he is only one man and has been serving our Club in an unsustainable capacity. We need to find Robin help from among our community so that he can focus on the more strategic needs of our Club and not on every task – both large and small – that requires attention. During the summer months I plan to formulate a strategy with the Board and with Robin to help him focus on the areas where he can be most effective and offload the tasks that could be done by volunteers. That's where you come in!

We're planning to roll out more specific tasks that have caused willing volunteers who, thus far, have been reluctant to come forward out of concern that they would be taking on too much responsibility. By narrowing the scope of tasks, I hope that we will be able to better balance the voluminous needs of the WWPSA among our many resources.

(continued on next page)

WWPSA Board

Chairman – Justin Stein
 Secretary – Mary Painter
 Finance – Pat Trombetta
 Facilities – Howard Rabin

Rec – vacant

Travel – Pedro Portilla
 Adult – David Boate

Equipment – vacant

Merchandise – Ramit Luthra
 Community – Esdras Vera
 Development – Paul St. Amour
 Fundraising – Hong Shen
 Webmaster – Brent Nielsen
 At-large – Ken Matthews,
 Scotty Borsack
 and Gabriel
 Ramirez

Coordinators

Sunburst – Jacqueline Stein /
 Diane Kooker

Pictures – Cindy Alvarez

Volunteers – vacant

KidSafe – Lisa Schmid
 Registrar – Brent Nielsen
 Insurance – Hemant Sarma
 Sponsors – Maryann Lewis

Referees – vacant

You can clearly see the vacant positions that need a reliable volunteer to help fill our numerous needs. Interested in helping? Please [e-mail us](mailto:wwpsa@wwpsa.org) and we'll give you more information about what's expected and how you can help. Thanks for stepping up!

("Chairman's Corner", continued from previous page)

Another change I'd like to see is new blood among the Board members, League Coordinators, Travel Executive Committee, etc., so that more of you can become involved and bring your fresh perspectives on how we can best run the WWPSA. It has been several months since a non-Board member – other than Robin – has attended a Board meeting. They're publicized on the website and public meetings, and the best way to become more involved is to attend the Board meetings, see what it's about, and determine how you can best contribute your time to help the kids, because that's what it's all ultimately about. You can always reach out to me, Robin or any Board member or Coordinator via e-mail and we'll be happy to respond to your questions or concerns and help you find the best way for you to become involved.

Moving onto another topic, I'm **really** excited for Sunburst 2008, coming to West Windsor on May 31 and June 1, where teams from CT, NY, NJ and PA are coming to our community to compete in a weekend of fun and action. PUMA and our Tournament Directors are planning lots of fun and activities for players and families, so it should be a great experience. We welcome anyone who would like to help out to contact us and let us know that you're interested in being part of a great tournament that benefits the entire Club, as all profits from Sunburst are invested in our Capital Projects Fund for facilities improvements for all players. If Sunburst succeeds, our kids have better fields to use, so we'd highly encourage everyone to become more involved. You don't have to have a child playing Travel Soccer to volunteer; you just need to reach out to us and be willing to devote at least 2 hours of your time. Not a lot considering the impact you could have!

Our next edition of The Goal Post will bring you a summary of the weekend's events, and I'm looking forward to seeing you there and to sharing the experiences with you. Have a memorable, safe and fun Memorial Day weekend, and I'll be back next month.

Regards,

Justin D. Stein
 Chairman, WWPSA Board of Directors