

WWPSA Goal Post

Sunburst 2010

The 2010 Sunburst tournament was a huge success with an astounding 240 teams attending. Despite a disturbing weather forecast for Sunday, the tournament went smoothly and all scheduled games were played. In addition to competitive, fun soccer games, participants got to meet two professional soccer players: Jenni Branam, a goalkeeper for the 2009 WPS Champion Sky Blue FC, was at tournament HQ on Saturday meeting players, signing autographs and taking photos with fans who lined up to meet a local pro. On Sunday, Dane Richards, a starting midfielder for the NY Red Bulls, also signed autographs and presented trophies to tournament winners.

The NY Red Bulls street team came by on Saturday afternoon to demonstrate their exciting freestyle soccer skills, including involving a few representatives from our next generation of soccer stars in some good-natured skills demonstrations. Our new uniform partner Nike also came out to support our tournament with their demo center, entertainment area and skills challenges.

Congratulations also go out to our teams who had successful runs through the tournament, including the Warriors (U-14 Boys Red), Comets (U-12 Girls White) and Xtreme (U-16 Girls White) who were flight champions, in addition to Barcelona (U-12 Boys Red) and Metro Stars (U-14 Boys White) who finished second in their respective flights.

Many thanks go out to all the hard-working volunteers who helped make this event a success, especially tournament co-directors Jacqueline Stein and Diane Kooker, without who we would never be able to host such a large and important tournament for our Club and which represents our single-largest annual fundraising event to finance facilities maintenance and improvement.



WWPSA Travel News

WWPSA Travel teams enjoyed a great deal of success in the spring season. Here are some highlights:

- WWPSA Wild U-17 Girls were crowned **NJ State Cup Champions** after a 2-0 win over a very tough South Jersey Elite team. The Wild represent our first NJ State Cup Champions in several years, so we're terribly proud of what they've accomplished.
- WWPSA Biancoverdi U17 Boys took 1st place in the Burlington Memorial Day tournament.
- WWPSA Kickers U14 Girls won the Blue Division at the JAGS tournament in June.
- WWPSA Celtics say "goodbye" to an unbelievable run. [Click here](#) for their story.



Refocusing on Player Development

The past few years have seen dramatic improvements in the breadth and quality of the facilities utilized by WWPSA. However, we recently realized that we have fallen short of the goals we set for player development, or more to the point, the skills our players show on the field.

To rectify this shortcoming, Andy Di Duca, our Executive Director, is working with various representatives of the Board of Directors, Travel Executive Committee, professional trainers and others to develop a comprehensive approach to define what our

players should be learning at what ages, how trainers plan their seasons / sessions, how players' progress can be measured and improved, how that progress and remaining skill gaps can be reported to players and parents, and how we can develop a plan to execute and achieve these goals.

While this initiative is more closely aligned with our Travel program, this will ultimately affect all programs from Pre-K through Adult.

Stay tuned for more specific information on our progress.

*"If you're attacking, you don't get as tired as when you're chasing."
-Unknown*

Congress Seeks to Reduce Head Injuries in Youth Sports

[Click here](#) to read more to learn what your government is doing to address this issue.

Also, [click here](#) to link to an MSNBC.com article covering the long-term risks of head injuries in youth players.

TDA Festival

Thanks to Dot Ellwood and Amy Gardner for handling operations and Lana Holder for managing the schedule for the TDA festival held on June 12th.

Adult 5v5 News

Registration is closed now that we have reached the maximum registrations for the Adult summer 5v5 league, which is designed for soccer parents of the club to play the beautiful game and for current adult players to keep playing out of the competitive season.

1st Annual Skills Challenge

The weekend after Sunburst brought WWPSA's first annual Skills Challenge where nearly 100 players tested their soccer skills in a day full of fun and soccer challenges. The event brought together WWPSA's volunteer coaches and professional trainers to provide players with an opportunity to compete in several skills stations. Players were able to compare their skills against other players in ball mastery, juggling, shooting and passing. In addition to providing our kids with a chance to show what they can do on the soccer field, the Skills Challenge will also give the club a chance to evaluate and improve our player development strategy by comparing results from one year to another.

The NY Red Bulls Street team returned to show off their freestyle soccer skills in a demonstration for the crowd of several hundred while Kevin Goldthwaite, starting defender for the Red Bulls, made an appearance and signed autographs for the crowd. Thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success and especially to the professional trainers who volunteered their time to our club for this event. Andy Di Duca, Executive Director, Glenn Gargan, Director of Travel Soccer, and Bill Gardner, Travel Tournament Coordinator and coach of the U10G Dynamite, were instrumental in bringing this event from the idea stage to a fun, exciting day of soccer. We look forward to next year's event!

[Click here](#) for more information and pictures of the event.

WWPSA Fundraising Planning Underway

We're looking to replace funds invested in improving / developing WWPSA facilities and are preparing some compelling offers to raise funds. If you're a local small business owner and looking for some strong returns on your investment dollars, please [e-mail](#) us to initiate a discussion, review our available options and see how we can work together.



WWPSA Institutes a Volunteer Bond

WWPSA has recognized a steady decline in the number of volunteers over the past few years and, as WWPSA has grown into one of New Jersey's largest soccer clubs, needs to rely on its families for volunteer support to maintain the quality of its programs. WWPSA's Board of Directors and Executive Director have tried numerous

approaches to address this shortage of volunteers, yet all have fallen short of our needs. A refundable Volunteer Bond was the only remaining viable option to improve the chances of finding the volunteers necessary to run WWPSA programs.

As a result, each player registering for WWPSA fall, winter or spring programs will have a \$75 Volunteer Bond added to their registration fees, up to a maximum of \$150 per household per year, running from the summer programs through the following spring. In order to earn the return of the Volunteer Bond, each family must complete three hours of volunteer duties during the year for each registered player, limited to 6 hours per household per year. Once a family's **entire** volunteer obligation is fulfilled, WWPSA will refund the volunteer bond.

There are thousands of opportunities each year where a family could fulfill its volunteer obligation, so please stay tuned to e-mails advertising upcoming opportunities. Note that the volunteer obligation will be **in addition to** Travel Soccer parents' existing requirement to volunteer during our annual Sunburst tournament.

The work of any association represents the efforts of its constituents, and WWPSA needs to return to its roots where everyone felt obligated to help, rather than relying on too few to do too many tasks. We urge all of our parents to step forward and help, and we hope that the Volunteer Bond initiative will help provide the incentive to achieve exactly that. [Click here](#) for more details on the program.



"The Vision of a Champion is someone who is bent over, drenched in sweat, and the point of exhaustion, when no one else is watching."

-Unknown

Fall Registration

Registration is open for Recreational, TDA and Travel players; visit the [online registration site](#) to sign up. Make sure you sign up early to reserve a spot in our most popular programs.

Summer Camps

It's our busiest summer ever in WWPSA as we are working with several summer camps in our area who are still taking registrations; [click here](#) to see dates and time and to register for camps with the following organizations:



Chairman's Corner

I've written many times in this section of [The Goal Post](#) about the need for more people to step up and help operate various tasks within WWPSA, and I'm disappointed to announce the rollout of our Volunteer Bond program that we on the Board hope will go a long way to addressing this issue. First and foremost, this program is **not an initiative to raise funds**; rather, we hope that it will incentivize more people to step forward and help so that those in higher-level administrative positions within the Club will not feel overburdened with too many responsibilities. With our single largest fundraising event coming up – Sunburst – I reached out to our Recreational Soccer families to step up and help fill just a 2 ½ hour shift, and only 25 out of 100 open positions were filled by families willing to help. Frankly, that's pathetic when we have over 1,000 families in Recreational Soccer. Travel Soccer parents are required to fill at least one shift during Sunburst, and many of those willingly offered to fill more than their expected contribution, and to all of you who helped make Sunburst 2010 an unqualified success, I thank you. For those who didn't, you should know that your lack of participation was the final supporting event that convinced the Board to institute the Volunteer Bond.

In other areas, I'm excited to report substantial progress on the rehabilitation of the rear fields at Zaitz Park, and the newly-installed irrigation system – in addition to the drainage system installed last year – should help maintain the substantial progress that our Director of Facilities, Howard Rabin, has made there and help us better utilize that facility. In addition, Duck Pond Park has been progressing under Howard and his team's watchful eyes and we're really looking forward to watching the grass continue to take hold and develop into what we believe will be one of our finest facilities.

To close this issue's Chairman's Corner, I hereby am giving notice that, as of the end of this year, I will be stepping down as Chairman / President of WWPSA and turning over the reins to another qualified individual who wishes to submit their name for consideration. As the WWPSA Board of Directors is an elected group, that person cannot be hand-picked, so who that person will be is up to you. Among you are our next crop of leaders, those who will shape policy for the next few years as your kids grow throughout our fantastic breadth of programs, from Pre-K to Rec to TDA to Travel to Adult, and I look back on my time fondly. It's not quite time to begin reminiscing, since I intend to fill out the remainder of my term, but I just wanted to let you know that turnover at the Board level is something we need the next generation of leaders to step forward and offer to help. We also anticipate turnover at the Dir. of Rec Soccer, Dir. of Travel Soccer, Dir. of Facilities, Sunburst Tournament Directors and Goal Fest Tournament Director within two years, so the time to step up and offer help would be now, while the existing roles are still filled with experienced volunteers.

All of us on the Board started as many of you – parents of young soccer players just hoping that our kids were looking forward to running onto the field every Saturday and having fun with this great game – and all it takes for you to become more involved is just offer to help. We on the Board will still be around to help with any transition and to offer advice on how to navigate the varying and substantial needs of our Club, so you won't be alone. However, without capable volunteers to staff these positions, the Board will be faced with only two alternatives, neither of which is attractive: cancel the program, or raise registration fees to pay someone to run them. Please consider running once the elections are announced towards the end of the summer and continue to take this Club in the positive direction I've tried to steer during my five years in this position.

Regards,

Justin Stein, WWPSA Chairman



Help Bring US the World Cup

[Click here](#) to visit the U.S. World Cup Bid Site where you can sign an online petition to bring the 2018 or 2022 FIFA World Cup back to the United States. You can also share your story to tell the world why the U.S. is crazy about soccer!

New Nike Kits

[Click here](#) to view the new Travel uniforms, or [click here](#) to view the new Rec uniforms. Rec uniforms will be released with Spring Rec, while Travel will be released in the fall.

Please support our sponsors:



West Windsor-Plainsboro Soccer Association

P.O. Box 757
West Windsor, NJ 08550
(888) 267-8988 phone / fax

Find us on the Web:

www.wwpsa.org (website)
<https://ssl.demosphere.com/WWPSA>
(registration)



Volunteers Needed

As we launch a new year of great soccer programs in WWPSA, we desperately need volunteers to step up in various capacities. Some of the more visible include:

- Fall Rec Director – responsible for Fall Rec program
- Goal Fest Tournament Director – organize and run our Fall Rec-only 3v3 tourney
- Sunburst Tournament Director(s) – our current Directors will step down after the 2011 tournament, their fifth, and we'll need fresh replacements for 2012
- Goal Post Editor – responsible for organizing and drafting our monthly publication
- Dir. Youth Protection – similar to WWLL's Player Agent, responsible for background checks and acting in best interests of the players

[Click here](#) to view the job descriptions or [click here](#) to express interest.

Technology Tip of the Month



Each month, we'll share with you tips for getting the most out of the technology used by WWPSA.

We'd like to introduce you to a great new service, RainedOut, which allows us to broadcast text or e-mail messages to all who sign up to receive them. Our initial trial of this service is to notify you – before you leave for the field – whenever events or activities are canceled due to inclement weather. No more checking your e-mail or calling to find out whether practice is canceled! It's free and will only be used for this purpose; your information will be kept confidential.

We're excited about it, so [click here](#) for more info and to sign up!

New Feature: We are introducing a new feature where you can submit questions to be answered in the next issue. [Click here](#) to submit your question; maybe we'll pick yours!

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