

AGM Report

Coach Education, Player Development and ODP

November 13, 2010

Dean Foti - NYSWYSA Technical Director

The 2009/2010 year has been one of transition. Until the hiring of a new technical director in July 2010, the entire board, Executive Director, Amy Gush, the state office staff and particularly, Associate Director of Coaching, Chris Hershey and his fellow ADOC's, did a terrific job in administering the myriad of NYSWYSA programs during an interim period which stretched back to the beginning of December 2009. More specifically, under the guidance and leadership of Chris Hershey, the coaching course enrollment matched the same levels achieved from the previous year and the ODP program again put forward healthy numbers as it relates to both player participation and players progressing through to regional and national pools. As the new technical director, I would like to express my gratitude to Chris Hershey, as well as the entire NYSWYSA organization, for their efforts over the past several months in helping me to get acclimated to the new position and making the transition a smooth one.

Moving forward, Chris Hershey has taken on the title of Director of Coaching Education and will oversee the administration of our coaching education program. I would urge all clubs to continue to encourage, if not require, your coaches to take part in the coaching education program at some level. Enhancing and/or refreshing a coach's knowledge, enriching each player's experience by providing them with qualified coaches and lessening liability issues (by having certified/licensed coaches) are but a few of the benefits derived from having well prepared coaches. In addition to our traditional course offerings (Youth Module, E, Intermediate, D, C, GK and special topics) we are now offering collegiate symposiums (the first of which drew 48 participants at the Princeton/Cornell Men's and Women's games in Ithaca, NY on 10/30/10) and college prep workshops to help guide youngsters and their parents through the college selection process.

Please don't hesitate to call upon any of our staff to ask questions about course offerings, hosting a course for your club or about the possibility of joining with other clubs in your area or league and letting us set up a state run course. We are only a phone call/email away and are eager to help match you with the proper resources to help your coaching staff. The courses we offer range from 4/5 hours (Youth Module), 6/7 hours (Intermediate), 18 hours (E-Certificate) and 36 hours (D-License). We are acutely aware of the time demands that are placed on today's coaches and will work with you to find a way to deliver the appropriate content to your coaching staffs given their respective time parameters. Please contact us so we can discuss ways to craft and/or shape a course that will be appropriate for your coaches.

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The Coaching Development Initiative (CDI) which is headed up by ADOC Jim Hewlett will see its first class of young coaches finish up the yearlong program that combines distance learning (on-line) with obtaining a Youth Module and a State E Certificate. The program is for aspiring young coaches (ages 17-25) looking to springboard into the coaching profession and gain the necessary foundation needed to start a successful coaching career. Candidates who have successfully completed the program become desirable candidates for coaching positions with club and school teams as well as summer camps, clinics and even some state run programs (i.e. current CDI candidates have been employed at our ODP Academies). Applications are being accepted until November 30th for the next class. This year's program will begin December 17-19, at the NY Chiropractic College where a residential E-Certificate and Youth Module Course will be conducted. If you are aware of any young and talented coaches in your own club who might benefit from this program, please encourage them to take part in this outstanding program or even sponsor them to get them involved. Sponsoring one of your own former players or young coaches, and helping him/her get started in the profession, is a great investment in the game as well as in the future of your own club.

The ODP Academy, which takes place each Fall, just concluded its six week program. The program was expanded from three sites in 2009 (Buffalo, Rochester and Cortland) to five sites in 2010 (Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Elmira and Olean) with enrollment continuing to climb. The popular program is aimed at any U-11, U-12 and U-13 boy or girl and stresses a curriculum based largely on age appropriate technical development and tactical awareness. Moving forward, we will be looking into the feasibility of expanding the academy into other locations within the NYSW footprint.

The ODP program enjoyed a productive year in 2009. NYSW sent 14 teams (7 boys and 7 girls) to the ODP Tournament in Trenton, NJ. The majority of the teams were competitive, though there were a few who struggled. Four in particular, did very well, entering the final day of group play with a trip to the Region I Final Four in Kirkwood, DE on the line. The Girls U-16 team won their group, advanced to the semi-finals where they beat EPA before falling to NJ (4-1) in the final. NYSW sent 176 players (84 boys and 92 girls) to ODP camp. At the conclusion of the various age group camps, 24 players (12 boys and 12 girls) were selected to their respective regional pools, call back camps and national development camps.

Moving forward in 2010/11 we will continue with our current blueprint for the program of having tryouts in the Fall ('97's and '98's in early Oct, '94s, 95's and 96's on Dec. 4/5), indoor pool training throughout the Winter and then narrowing the pools for the outdoor training in the Spring in

preparation for the ODP Tournament in early June. We will move away from having outdoor training spread out across several weekday evenings. We are consolidating the Spring outdoor training sessions for all age groups to take place Wednesday nights only, at various sites along the NYS Thruway. We are doing this in our ongoing effort to try to minimize conflicts with local clubs. We continue to work with clubs to insure that ODP is a valuable and viable supplement to the outstanding work that the clubs do in developing their players.

Finally, I applaud the many clubs, organizations and leagues that have gradually moved toward the model of small sided play for their youngest age groups. The de-emphasizing of winning and losing, combined with small sided games on scaled down fields/goals, and the maintaining a proper practice to game ratios will insure that positive player development occurs. The ball is the best motivator and it should come as no surprise that getting to play with it more (in small sided games) is what captivates youngsters. I would be happy to discuss the merits of small sided play and how to best implement it in your organization. Moving away from pre-existing models that have traditionally been in place is not always easy and in some cases may not always seem feasible. I and my staff welcome the opportunity to make a presentation and/or help you work through the process of implementing small sided play. Please don't hesitate to call on us.

I am excited to serve as your technical director and hope that you will always feel comfortable about approaching my staff and I. We are here to serve you and we will do so with an open mind. Your feedback and input are always welcome. We enjoy any conversation that has to do with soccer.

For The Good of the Game:

NYSW is home to the new WPS Buffalo Flash franchise that will start play in the Spring of 2011 and also the 2010 USSF Division 2 regular season champion Rochester Rhinos, who will compete in the USL PRO League in 2011. Support our pro soccer teams – they are the beacon for soccer in our region, they represent the highest level play and they are positive role models for our young players.

Yours in Soccer,

Dean Foti

Technical Director

NYSWYSA