



NEW YORK STATE WEST YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC.

Affiliated with US Youth Soccer, United States Soccer Federation, Inc., and Federation Internationale de Football Association
41 Riverside Drive * Corning, NY * 14830
Phone: 607-962-9923 * Fax: 607-962-0525
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AGM Report November 2008

Glen Buckley State Director of Coaching.

Welcome to this year's AGM. I hope you had the chance to visit the workshop sessions and the chance to see our guest's Tom Goodman and Dave Clarke share their wealth of knowledge.

The past 12 months saw the first full year of the Associate Director of Coaching program. Chris Hershey, Maureen Dracup, Jim Hewlett and Mark Spacone set about their tasks of communicating and being available to all the members in the six districts that make up the New York State West Youth Soccer Association. I am very pleased with the progress they each made across the state in extending the services we offer to both players and coaches. In addition we worked with clubs, leagues and individuals in all aspects of the game. We were quite overwhelmed by the extent of the enquiries for our involvement in your organizations. We held clinics and workshops for both players and coaches specifically designed for the individuals at their request. We attended league and club board meetings to help with restructuring development programs, formatting tryouts and delivering coach education courses. The program is in place to help you. We are merely a phone call away. I encourage you to contact us with all of your Soccer needs, even if it is just a chat. We will come to you anytime and will help in any way that we can. We will also continue to offer our very well supported coach workshops/ special topics courses across the state. If you have a specific topic covered at one of these sessions please feel free to contact any of the ADOC's or I and we will do all we can to set up the session.

A very positive step in the states development was recently made when the presidents of the clubs within the Rochester District Soccer league voted to extend the small sided games [9v9) to the Under 12 divisions from the 2010 season. This now means that all the leagues in our state will be playing small sided games in the U12 divisions. I am extremely pleased about that and thank the RDYSL presidents for their decision that now moves us in line with the more progressive Soccer Playing States across the nation. The feedback from across the state in the leagues that have been implementing the small sided games with the U12 age brackets has been totally positive, with many declaring " I can't believe we have taken so long to put this in place. The children are enjoying the game more".

Our coach education courses continue to flourish. The E and D courses are our most popular. You will probably have seen by now that I have removed the waiver process of the E certification. In talks with my peers across the nation we feel that we should no longer offer waivers in an attempt to better prepare coaches for the D license course. A full explanation and rationale of the decision can be found on the coaching pages of the NYSWYSA.ORG website. I would like to see an increase in the requests that we get for our **Youth Module** and **Intermediate Courses**. They have continued at a steady pace but I believe with the growing numbers of Parent Coaches that enter your programs in the U10 and below age groups each year we really should be receiving more requests. These are excellent courses for the





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“beginner” coach. Soccer has reached a stage in our country where we should be expecting our “teachers” to have some underpinning knowledge of basic organization and coaching methodology relative to the game. The important characteristic’s of children sections in these courses is paramount to the coaches understanding of their charges. The organization and setting up of the correct learning environments is a huge help to the new coach. So I encourage you to call us to set up courses for your coaches.

Last spring we hosted and completed a National C license at the Chiropractic college in Seneca Falls. We had 40 candidates from states as far away as Arizona, Florida and Utah join us. I am very pleased to be able to announce that we will host another course in 2009. The dates are May 2nd through the 10th. This represents a great opportunity to coaches wishing to get their C license without travelling across the country to do so. We have set up very reasonable costs for the course along with payment plans to help people manage the process. I am extremely proud to be hosting these courses as it is a great honor. It is a reward for the time and effort we as a state association put into our coach education program. So let’s not let this opportunity pass by. It is non of my business but if I may be so bold as to suggest the following. If you have a good coach within your program who needs to get to the next level and by taking this course would add to the overall quality of your program then why not consider sponsoring him to take the course. Look at it as an investment in the future of the organization. As I say none of my business how clubs / organizations distribute their funds back to the children but coach education is probably one that may get overlooked.

Another first this year was the expansion of the Academy program. The program was offered to players born in 96 and 97, as well as the ODP players currently in the 95 and 94 pools. The response was fantastic with over 200 children taking part in the three venues across the state. The six sessions were conducted by the best and most qualified coaches I could lay my hands on and the response from parent and players was very positive. I will look to offer the program again in the fall of 2009. Actually many of the participants would like us to expand the program into the Winter months.....We will see.

Finally it has been my honor and privilege to represent you as the State Director of Coaching. As I begin my 10th year in the role I feel an enormous amount of pride in the progress we have made. More and more clubs are changing their philosophy. There is now a greater emphasis on player development and a concerted effort to put the children’s needs first and foremost in the thoughts of organizations. The push for coach education has grown at a steady pace this past 10 years, with clubs no longer accepting individuals who are not prepared to seek underpinning knowledge of the methodology of coaching and teaching. It is in this area that we must not rest on our laurels. You as officers of organizations are duty bound to provide your players with educated coaches who continually seek further knowledge and information. The creation of age appropriate environments that encourage practice to game ratio’s that enhance technical, tactical and psychological development is paramount to the continued growth of the game within our state. If I had to offer one piece of advice to you all I would suggest this.....Try to





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place your better qualified coaches with your younger players. The U10 through U12 age groups are the informative years. So much damage can be done through this period. Over coaching, playing too many competitive games without the preparation through practice are the ingredients that turn players away from the game at 13 and 14 before they have had chance to realize their potential. The well rounded, well educated coach will resist the push from parents to travel and compete in more than two tournaments a year and will try [though not easy because of the environment] to work to a 3 or 4 practices to 1 game ratio across the playing season. They will also include some rest and recovery periods into the schedule. Overuse injuries are still the number one cause of player dropout. Players playing injured is very common. . The coach that puts development before winning will find it easier to rest a player no matter the games importance.....trust me no games are that important [or at least the outcome isn't] in the U10 through U12 age groups.

As always I am available and encourage you to contact me to discuss anything you feel I may be able to help you with as long as it concerns Soccer or the virtues of my beloved Wigan Athletic I have half a chance of offering something useful!

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Glen



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