



**Open Board Positions:**  
Field Coordinator  
Equipment Coordinator



### Director of Soccer Programs Notes

Perhaps you have heard about our exciting new program called “Fusion”? I wanted to provide some background on why I think this program is an important addition to our club and also highlight some program details.

First, I want to be clear and upfront that we already have a year-round program for competitive play in Sherwood. That program is run by the Westside Timbers Soccer Club. I have zero interest in starting a year-round competitive program and want to end any rumors that this program is a build up to running year-round competitive teams. We already have a partnership in place for this.

There are a ton of different reasons why kids play soccer, but I think you can breakdown a lot of those into 3 categories. One category is those who live and breathe soccer. They want to play at the highest level their skill will allow. These players generally need to be in a full-year competitive program. That is the only way in my opinion that they will be able to excel in the sport if they want to play at the very highest levels. Next, there are players who enjoy the sport and either don't want to play year-round, aren't familiar with competitive play or simply can't afford the cost of playing at the competitive level. Last and most certainly not least are the kids who just want to have fun and play soccer in the fall. Maybe they enjoy playing sports and this keeps them active. They don't necessarily want to be the next Messi of soccer. This is by far and away the largest group of our youth if you look at the numbers. This group of kids is why I got involved on the SYSC Board. They were not receiving the attention they deserved with a program built for fun and development. I have made many changes and restructured a lot of the Rec program to improve things for this very important group of kids.

Having implemented a number of changes to the Rec program, my next focus is finding a way to build something to meet the demand of kids who want to play at a higher level, but can't commit to a full year. This is where Fusion comes into the equation. It is a hybrid of Rec and Competitive soccer. We give players the chance to compete at the competitive level in summer tournaments and fall league games, but now they can play other sports in the winter and spring. In addition, for those players who were afraid to commit to a full year, they can try playing competitive and see if playing year-round is for them. Ultimately, for me this is about the kids and their finding a love of the game, either in one season, multiple seasons or all year. We need to have options for all kids to find an enjoyment in playing soccer.

Tryouts for the Fusion program will be May 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and practices will begin in June. Registration for tryouts is now open. There is a \$25 tryout fee (\$40 on May 1<sup>st</sup>) and it will cost \$475 to join a team if invited by the coach. This includes the cost of two tournaments. Financial aid and payment plans are available. You can find additional details about the Fusion program on our website. We will also be holding an informational forum to provide details about the program and allow parents to ask questions. There will be two sessions April 5<sup>th</sup>. Please see the “Upcoming Dates” below for dates and locations regarding the Fusion program.

I am really looking forward to opening up this new program and hope it will provide another avenue for Sherwood kids to enjoy the game of soccer.

### Indoor Soccer Program

Our indoor soccer program starts April 7<sup>th</sup> for some middle school teams and April 8<sup>th</sup> for everyone else. We are having another year of near capacity with 394 players registered. Unfortunately we also have an extensive wait list, but with limited field time available we end up having to turn kids away.

Please be sure to arrive early to your first game. Parents will need to complete SYSC and OYSA release forms as well as the concussion awareness sheet. These forms can be found on our website if you wish to complete those in advance. Look under the “Info” menu and select “Information & Forms”.

Team shirts will be given to coaches as they arrive for their first game. Players should wear their team shirt, shin guards covered by socks (safety issue) and cleats, indoor shoes or tennis shoes. Please be sure to bring a soccer ball and water too.

We still need some volunteer help: <http://signup.com/go/7w25Af>

We are looking forward to another great season for our players.

### Upcoming Dates



March 15<sup>th</sup> - Fusion Registration Open  
April 5<sup>th</sup> - Fusion Information Night  
SMS Portable #42  
Session 1 6:00 – 7:00 pm  
Session 2 7:00 – 8:00 pm  
April 7<sup>th</sup> - Indoor Games Begin

May 1<sup>st</sup> - Fall Recreation Registration Opens  
May 9<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> - Fusion Tryouts  
Edy Ridge Elementary  
Girls 5:00 – 6:30 pm / Boys 6:30 – 8:00 pm  
June 5<sup>th</sup> - Fusion Practices Begin  
June 20<sup>th</sup> – June 22<sup>nd</sup> - Bowmen Girls HS Soccer Camp  
Week of July 24<sup>th</sup> - Fall Recreational Placement Practices  
Edy Ridge Elementary (Days & Times To Be Determined)  
July 31<sup>st</sup> – Aug. 3<sup>rd</sup> - Bowmen Boys HS Soccer Camp  
Week of August 7<sup>th</sup> - Fall Recreational Practices Begin  
August 14 – 18<sup>th</sup> - UK Soccer Camp  
September 9<sup>th</sup> - SYSC Jamboree



### *New USSF Rules and Guidelines*



The United States Soccer Federation (USFF) has been working over the past few years to implement several changes to US soccer in an attempt to improve player development. These changes will directly affect our club and how we run our games. In case you are confused with how the rules get passed down and all of the organizations involved in soccer, please check out the March Oregon Youth Soccer Association (OYSA) newsletter which does a great job in explaining everything. You can find an electronic copy at [https://issuu.com/oryouthsoccer/docs/issue\\_13 - 2017 march final](https://issuu.com/oryouthsoccer/docs/issue_13_-_2017_march_final).

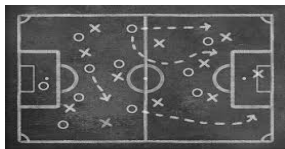
One of the major changes that went into effect last year was the move to a calendar birth year for formation of teams. This did not have an effect on our recreational program because our league registered players in their birth year with OYSA and then allowed clubs to form their own teams using grade levels.

The other major change is a move to short-sided play. In a nutshell, short-sided play is a way to help kids develop by giving them as many touches on the ball and opportunities to score as possible by reducing the size and number of players on the field. As part of this model, USSF is mandating a change to field sizes, team sizes, game length, players on the field and equipment.

These changes will have the biggest effect on our younger players. For instance, we are no longer allowed to have goalies for our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade games. The goals will be much smaller for the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade as well. The fields for our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade players will be significantly smaller and will include a "build-out" line on the field. This is a line that opposing players must return to once the goalie has control of the ball. Goalies at these ages will no longer be allowed to punt or drop kick the ball. There are several other changes too.

We will be updating our rules and creating documentation to help educate players, parents and referees on the changes being made.

### *Coach Education and Licensing*



One of the changes put in place two years ago was to focus on coach education. Having educated coaches generally leads to a better experience for our players.

Another change that we made was to add a "Coach Education Coordinator" to our Board of Directors. Alex Gonzalez holds that position and his objective is to give coaches as many opportunities as possible to become more knowledgeable in leading practices and games.

One of the easiest ways to further your education as a coach is to obtain your "F" license. This is an online course that takes roughly 2 hours to complete and costs \$25. The Board has approved registration discounts for all coaches who complete the "F" license and free registration for those who obtain an "E" license.

### *Sherwood Fields*



Our Ridges fields are in dire need of attention. Every year we battle field conditions with either holes, standing water, mud, etc. These fields were built on swamp land and adequate drainage was never put in

place when the fields were built. What ultimately needs to happen is the Edy Ridge field needs to be artificial turf along with the football field. However, without a strong voice from the public that is never going to happen.

As they stand right now the fields are both potentially dangerous to our children and a poor reflection on our City when we have visiting teams in town. If you share our same concerns, please take a moment and send an email to our Mayor or City Manager so that more funds could possibly be directed toward repairing and maintaining these soccer fields. Thank you.

### *Social Media*



Be sure to follow us on Facebook to get the very latest club updates. In addition, please be sure to send us pictures to post with our Sherwood soccer players.

<https://www.facebook.com/sherwoodsoccer.org>



**Go Team USA!**

### *Fun Soccer Facts*

**Running** - On average, professional soccer players run as far as 9.5 miles in a single match.

**World Cup** - The only World Cup that was held in two different countries was the 2002 World Cup, held in Seoul, South Korea and Tokyo, Japan.