



Sherwood Youth Soccer Club

May Recreational Newsletter

Mark Your Calendar:

6/15 – Fall Register Deadline
 July TBD – Coaches Meeting
 8/15 – Team Practices Start
 9/10 – Soccer Jamboree

Week of Aug. 1st
 G3, G4, G5 GIRLS Placement
 Week of Aug. 8th
 G3, G4, G5 BOYS Placement



Director of Soccer Programs Notes

In our last newsletter I outlined my goals for our program. I mentioned that our coaches are what make the program. I want to expand upon that and highlight where I would like to see our program go in regards to our coaches.

I believe there is a fine line when it comes to recreational coaches. Our coaches are not paid and not generally nationally licensed. They are volunteers and put a lot of time into helping teach our players. Between preparation, practices and games, their efforts are significant. At the same time, a coach has a huge influence on how our players view the game, how they develop and whether they are having fun. The fine line comes into play when I try to balance these two factors. I believe that if I consistently demand or require coaches to do something or make the program so structured that coaching becomes a chore, then I will lose all of our great coaches. At the same time if we have zero structure or support then I will lose players due to boredom and frustrated parents with the coaching.

My approach is going to center around finding a balance. I will establish requirements where I believe it is absolutely necessary for the success of our program or players, but my focus will be on supplying as many support tools as possible to develop the very best coaches for our program. For instance, our youngest players (Academy Kinder thru 2nd) are both the most challenging in my opinion to coach, while also being at a critical age for learning the key fundamentals. This is also where we have the highest number of new coaches and also a greater number of kids leaving the program. Our Academy program coaches will be “highly encouraged” to follow a set curriculum which will walk them thru practices and allow us to focus on what is appropriate for their age to develop. Will these coaches be required or forced into following the curriculum? No. Ultimately, coaches should be free to coach as they see fit, however, I am going to give them the tools thru the curriculum and an experienced head coach so that they can be successful and the players can have a great experience. Before last year, the coaches at this age have volunteered and had no guidance and help if they wanted or needed it. Now they have the support they need and we will continue to improve upon that as we watch the program grow.

I also created a coaches website last year that continues to be expanded upon. This will continue to be a huge resource for helping our coaches be successful. We will have a coaches manual, curriculum for 3rd and 4th grade coaches to refer to, links to great soccer websites and so forth. Basically, I want to have a one-stop place for everything a coach would need to have a great season.

This year my focus is on coach education and building our coaches up to make the experience positive for both themselves and their players. I want to make parents comfortable to volunteer and able to step up without fear of being lost or overwhelmed. Hopefully with time we can move away from the threats of dropping players because we can't find coaches. As I will repeat over and over... Our coaches are the lifeblood of this program and make it possible for our kids to have a great time and learn all about this great sport. By supporting and working with our coaches, I believe in turn this will allow our kids to have a great time and develop greater skills.

Fall Registration Is Open

* **New for 2016** * *Kinder – 2nd and HS* may request a friend, but the two players **MUST** request each other. If they don't then the request will not be fulfilled. We will do our best to fill any requests, but may not be able to accommodate everyone.

3rd – 8th may enter very special circumstances for coaches to note during the draft. For instance asking twins to be kept together. Coach and player requests will be disregarded. We will also be asking for player photos to help streamline the draft process. More information is available on our website.



Volunteers Needed!

We are looking to fill open positions for Marketing and Equipment Coordinators on the Sherwood Board. In addition, we are looking for a treasurer since Tandi would like to step down after 9 years as a director. Please contact Michelle Swanson for additional information. michelle.swanson@sherwoodsoccer.org

SYSC Board Members

We held our Annual General Meeting on April 11th. Our board consists of the following directors:

President	Michelle Swanson
Vice President	James Grothe
Treasurer	Tandi Thomas
Secretary	Stacy Holloway
Registrar	Karen Pratt
Director of Operations	Jamie Monahan
Director of Soccer Programs	James Grothe
Westside Timbers Liaison	Brandi Morton
Coach Education Coordinator	Alex Gonzalez
Equipment Coordinator	[Open]
Events Coordinator	Lindsey Moore
Fields Coordinator	Angie Lahart
Marketing Coordinator	[Open]
Referee Coordinator	Katie Kalpakis
Sponsorship Coordinator	Jamie Monahan
Uniform & Apparel Coordinator	Teresa Carleton
Volunteer Coordinator	Julia Leahy
Webmaster	Jimmy Godard



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Youth Development - What Should We Expect From Players?

US Youth Soccer published a Player Development Model to help coaches better understand what to expect from our players across the different ages. Coaches and parents can benefit from learning more about this topic. The ages are broken out below along with a very brief summary. We will be adding the full document to our website soon or you can Google “Soccer Player Development Model”.

Kindergarten / 1st (U6 – U7) “The Fundamental Stage”

Children of this age can only focus on a limited number of tasks at one time. Controlling the ball for instance takes all of their focus but they get distracted by adults (parents and coaches) yelling from the sidelines (i.e. let them play and praise them!). Players in this group are egocentric – a me, mine mentality. They play next to one another, meaning they do not necessarily interact as they play. Passing (sharing) occurs by chance and swarming occurs because the ball is the only “toy” on the field. Coaches should use games as an approach to learning, not drills. They only understand simple rules. Give positive reinforcement when they do something properly.

2nd / 3rd (U8 – U9) “Igniting the Passion”

This age predominately play as individuals and occasionally with a partner. Coaches should set up activities where players are together but still involved in individual play. Attention capacity is still limited to one task at a time, which is a focus on the ball. Players need encouragement to share (pass) and approval for trying. They do have an idea of the game with regard to scoring or preventing goals, but the emphasis still needs to be placed on the individual’s ability to control the ball. They are not ready for the tactical side of the game.

4th / 5th (U10 – U11) “The Learning to Train Stage”

Children gradually begin to change from being self-centered to self-critical and develop the need for group games. The motivation to learn basic skills is very high at this age. These players start to move from the how (technique) to when, where, with whom and against whom (tactical). This is the time to introduce basic combination play, wall passes and take-overs while concentrating on basic skills in cooperative play (passing, receiving, shooting). Players are being “coached” at this age, not just shown skills.

Middle School (U12 – U14) “For Love of the Game”

Many players at this age are deciding if they want to commit deeply to soccer, stay in the game with a part-time commitment or drop the sport altogether. Coaches must be sensitive to the many biological and psychological changes occurring. The effect of the role model is very important. Demonstration is very important and the players learn best by doing. Develop individual skills under the pressure of time, space and opponents and increase technical speed. Coaches should teach the principles of attack and defense.

Fall Season Evaluations

Last year a committee was created to discuss and implement an evaluation process for players. It was available as an option to coaches last year, but will be a requirement this year.

As the fall season concludes, coaches will complete an evaluation for each player. The evaluations will be easy and quick for coaches to fill out. Each player will be evaluated as either “Mastered”, “Advancing” or “Learning” on a variety of skills. Some characteristics will also be evaluated as “Exceeding”, “Meeting” or “Could Improve”. The evaluation format will be consistent from year to year.

The point of these evaluations is two-fold. First, parents (and players) generally want feedback on their progress. Perhaps they are looking to potentially play classic or areas where improvements can be made. Second, we are going to use this information to help make better choices in drafting and rostering players. This will allow us to create more competitive teams. Please be sure to ask your coach for a completed evaluation at the conclusion of the season.

Pictures and Contributions

Please submit any Sherwood soccer pictures you take. It could be kids playing outside with soccer shirts on, going to a Timbers game or an action shot from our indoor session. Submit any pictures to james.grothe@sherwoodsoccer.org

Summer Camps

Sherwood Girls Youth Soccer Camp

K – 8th
 June 21st – 23rd

UK International Soccer Camp

Ages 4 - 14
 July 11th – 15th

Bowmen 10th Annual Boys Youth Soccer Camp

K – 8th
 August 1st – 4th

Fun Soccer Facts

9.5 Miles – Average distance run by a professional player during a single match

FIFA has more member countries than the United Nations

\$30 Million – Improvement \$ by US in 1994 for world cup. Brazil will spend \$11 billion