

April

2008



# Sunflower Connection

A publication of Sunflower Soccer Association

## Welcome to Spring!

Welcome to the spring 2008 soccer season. We've had a rough start to the season with the weather but we're hoping that by the time you receive this newsletter that spring will truly be in the air.

The spring season brings our soccer year to an end. All current recreational players can look forward to receiving a participation medal at the end of the season. The medals have arrived and coaches can pick them up any time!

### Fall 2008 Recreational Registration Deadlines

Registration deadlines have been set for the Fall 2008 season. The final registration deadline for the Fall 2008 recreational season is July 10, 2008. The early registration deadline is June 5, 2008. Please make a note of these dates on your calendar. If your child plans to play recreational soccer in the fall it is very important that you get their registration form into our office in a timely manner.

We have made a change to our registration rules that will allow children who turn 4 during the month of August the opportunity to register to play soccer. This allows those children to play with kids they may be going to kindergarten with. It has long been a rule that we did not allow them to play but as more and more requests were received we reevaluated the rule and will now allow them to register. Please note that this only applies to those children with August birthdates. Anyone who turns four after August 31st is not eligible to play until the following fall season.

Each season approximately 20 percent of our recreational registrations come in AFTER the final registration deadline. We make every attempt to accommodate those players and give them the opportunity to play soccer with our organization. These late registrations slow down our ability to order uniforms, find coaches when necessary, create schedules and coordinate a coach's meeting. We are also not able to provide our coaches with a correct and complete roster which means it takes them longer to contact their team members and start practice.

It is our intent that every child who wishes to play soccer be given the opportunity to do so and we will do our very best to make sure that happens. Every child who is currently playing on a recreational team will be mailed a preprinted, fall 2008 registration form in the very near future. If your address has changed since you last registered your child, please contact us with updated information. If your child is happy with the team he/she is on, and would like to continue playing with that team, YOU MUST return the signed registration form with the appropriate fee BEFORE the registration deadline.

We will continue to allow players to stay with their team each season as long as the registration form is received by the final registration deadline. However, all registrations received AFTER the final registration deadline will be placed in a pool of players in their age division. Players from the pool will be used to create new teams or added to complete an existing team on a first come, first served basis.

It is not our intent to hurt anyone's feelings or keep someone from playing soccer. However, please understand that, as a member of U.S. Youth Soccer there are certain rules and guidelines, including roster limitations, that we agree to follow. If you find that you are unable to register your child by the deadline due to financial concerns, please call the office to discuss options for registering them. We are willing to work with you to make sure your child(ren) are able to play.

Every season we receive inquiries about team placement. Our number one goal is to keep teams together, but sometimes that is very difficult given several issues we must overcome.

If a coach does not return to the team and a new one cannot be located, it may be necessary to assign players to different teams. Another scenario that affects a team from season to season is the number of players on a team that register to play again. For example, if a team plays 8v8 and only seven players register, and we do not have enough new players to complete the team, we find ourselves in the unpopular position of having to split the team and move players.

Many times there are requests on registration forms. Please know that we do our best to honor your requests. We understand that your child likes to play with his/her friends and we truly want that to happen. We hope you understand that with roster limits, coaches changing and other similar unforeseen events it just isn't possible some times. You may NOT request that your child play with a specific coach nor may a coach request a child on his/her team.

Also, if your child plays in the U13/U14 division, please note that those teams are coed and, depending on the number of players registered, may play 8v8 as opposed to 11v11. Each season we have to reevaluate each team and, to keep the male/female ratio equal, we may have to move some players to other teams.

### Spring Fundraiser

Normally during the spring season we hold a fundraiser to raise money for our restroom project. This year we are doing things a little differently and are not holding a spring fundraiser. However, in the near future you will receive information about purchasing fireworks to benefit Sunflower Soccer Association.

We continue to move forward with the restroom project. Details can be found in a separate article in this newsletter. Thanks for your continued support of this very important complex development project.

### Premier Team Tryouts

A list of premier team tryouts will be posted on our website in late May. For specific information regarding a team, please contact the coach directly.

### Game Rescheduling

Coaches, if you find it necessary to reschedule a game, please use the rescheduling form that is available in the schedule section of our website. It is very important that you complete this form and turn it in PRIOR to the week-end that you are canceling the game. Referees are paid whether you show up or not.

The Spring 2008 Governor's Cup Soccer Tournament is rapidly approaching. This two week-end event will be held May 3 & 4 and May 10 & 11.

We also hold a tournament in the fall. These tournaments are our biggest fundraiser and take a lot of time and work to coordinate twice a year.

We have a dedicated group of workers and volunteers who spend countless hours putting this tournament together. New volunteers are always welcome. If you are interested, please call the SSA office and ask to speak to Carrie. It is our goal to consistently put on a quality tournament in hopes that teams will want to return to our facility. With your help we are confident we do just that!

If you are interested in refereeing for the Governor's Cup, please register on-line at [www.govcup.com](http://www.govcup.com)!

### Age & Team Assignments

We frequently receive phone calls from parents and coaches asking how we determine what age division a child is in. The simplest way to answer this question is to determine how old the child is on July 31st of any given year. Therefore, if a child is 4 years old on July 31st, he is on a U5 team for the Fall AND Spring seasons. If the child is 9 on July 31st, he is on a U10 team. Teams move up an age division each fall season.

We do NOT assign players based on what grade they are in school. However, by requesting what school your child attends, or in the younger players case "will attend", we attempt to place them with other players from the same school.

### Uniform Information

A reversible uniform shirt is provided the first year a mini-kicker registers with our program. The uniform shirt is to be worn the entire time the player is a mini-kicker. We have many requests for either youth small or extra small shirts. We have purchased smaller reversible jersey's in the past but find that they are returned for a larger size because the players cannot get them over their heads. Mini-kickers are players who are 4 or 5 years old on July 31st.

For the U7-U14 players, uniforms are provided once per soccer year. A soccer year includes both the fall and spring season. The exception to this rule is if a player is assigned to a different team during the spring season.

### Summer Camp

Summer Camp dates have been set and we are currently accepting registrations. A registration form is included in this issue of the newsletter.


Once again Tim Collins, the Head Women's Soccer coach at Washburn University will direct our summer camps. He will be assisted by current and former Washburn University soccer players.

A station designed specifically for speed, agility and movement development will be available and staffed by Rebound Sports Performance.

## Complex Reminders

When you come to the complex, be it for a game or summer camp or maybe even for team tryouts this summer, we'd like to ask that you please keep the following things in mind:

- All alcohol & tobacco products are prohibited at the complex. We are a youth sports complex and we ask that you please refrain from using these products at our facility.
- Pets are NOT allowed at the complex. As much as we love animals we ask that you do not bring them to the fields with you. Anyone observed with a pet at the complex will be asked to take them to the car or home. This is a liability issue and we respectfully ask that you leave your pets at home.
- Please park only in designated parking spots. The police and sheriffs department periodically patrol the parking lot and will issue tickets if necessary.
- If you have problems with either a referee, parent, coach or player, PLEASE go the referee hut and ask for a field marshal to come to the field and monitor the situation. DO NOT take matters into your own hands.



### Team Photos Pick-Up

Coaches ...

Don't forget to pick up your  
team photo's at Zercher Photo!!

Soccer ... It's an outdoor sport!

We think it's safe to say that everyone is ready for spring to arrive. With the weather we experienced the first few week-ends of the season we have been forced to play in some weather that's not ideal. We also realize that putting games on Easter week-end was not a great option for all teams. With the spring season falling at the end of basketball season and the beginning of softball/baseball season, we have to make use of the week-ends that are available ... even if it means playing when it's a little chilly and wet. Please remember that your child can wear a turtleneck or even a sweatshirt under his uniform shirt and long pants are always an option.

If the weather is questionable, please call the weather hotline at 233-7099. This number can also be found on your schedule.

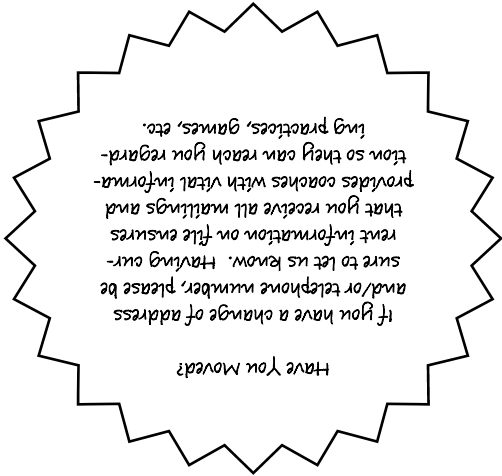
## RESTROOM UPDATE

### **Q. When will there be permanent restrooms at the soccer complex?**

A. The Sunflower Soccer Complex is located in the floodplain of the Kansas River. Currently, there are no sewer connections west of US Highway 75 on Lower Silver Lake Road/NW 17th Street. In order to build permanent restrooms, the sewer needs to be extended, or approval for a septic system must be received from the Shawnee County Commissioners and the City of Topeka. In May of 2007 we presented our proposal for a septic system to the county commissioners. At that time the commission requested additional information. We continue to gather that information.

The estimated cost by the City of Topeka to bring sewer to the complex is over \$160,000. The estimated cost for the septic system is \$40,000. Because of the floodplain a few other regulations exist. All buildings need to sit above the flood zone, or be flood proof. The proposed location of the restrooms on the east and west sides of the parking lot would force the buildings to be built approximately eight feet off the ground. Also the levee on the east side of the complex belongs to the Army Corp of Engineers. We have received verbal acknowledgement that they would not allow a bore through the levee for the sewer. We are currently waiting for written confirmation of this decision. Exceptions may be made, but the process is lengthy.

The sandy silt of the river bottom is great soil for soccer fields. Unfortunately, the floodplain is not an ideal location for permanent restrooms. We will update you as more information becomes available. Thank you for your patience as we work to improve the complex.



Sunflower Soccer Association  
 P.O. Box 750194  
 Topeka, KS 66675


**Kansas Showcase Tournament**

The Kansas Showcase Tournament will be held at the Sunflower Soccer Complex on June 28 – 29, 2008. This is a college showcase tournament for boys and girls teams, age U16 – U19. For additional information check out their website at [www.kansasshowcase.com](http://www.kansasshowcase.com).


**Calendar of Events**

- April**  
 27 Recreational League ends
- May**  
 3/4 Governor’s Cup Soccer Tournament  
 10/11 Governor’s Cup Soccer Tournament  
 18 SSA Board of Trustee meeting
- June**  
 3 Summer 3v3 League begins  
 8 SSA Annual Meeting  
 14 Premier team tryouts begin  
 26 Summer 3v3 League ends  
 28/29 Kansas Showcase Tournament
- July**  
 15 Premier team tryouts end

**SCHOOL/SPORT PHYSICAL**



**\$20.00**



**AMYOTTE CHIROPRACTIC**  
 Next to Walmart on 37<sup>th</sup> Street in Topeka  
**(785) 266-9064**

1