

AYSO Region 49 Soccer News

Week 8

WWW.AYSO49.ORG

October 31st, 2009

WE ARE A KID ZONE AREA

Coaches and parents please help us keep your kids off the dirt pile and all machinery here at Stryker Soccer Complex.

***** UPCOMING EVENTS: *****

November 7th, Last game of the fall season.
November 14th, 3V3 Turkey Trot, hosted by Region 105

GREAT NEWS FOR REFEREES IN REGION 49 BEGINNING SPRING 2010!!!

The board has approved incentives for the youth referees as well as the adults.

Incentives include drink and snack for 1 game, meal for 2 on game day at concession stand for YOUTH referees. Also earn incentives points for uniform upgrades for ALL referees. By volunteering, get 5 points, after 20 points, get free stuff! Different color Referee shirts, shorts, socks, whistles, cards, etc. The more games you ref, the more points towards "stuff".

Be sure to sign up at the tent or on-line for your games. (Please stop by the tent to ensure that we have your on-line entries).

For more info, ask Ed Gormanson, Referee Administrator (RRA), refadmin@ayso49.org or any board member.

Enjoy the game

October 27, 2009 ASK THE COACH John Ouellette, AYSO National Coach

Question: "Should there be goalkeepers in U-8?"

- **Answer:** Soccer games without goalkeepers provide a better experience for young children for several reasons, which is why not only AYSO but U.S. Youth Soccer and the U.S. Soccer Federation discourage the use of goalkeepers at the U-8 level and below.

First of all, the goalkeeper is denied a chance to run around and chase the ball. The boy or girl who must guard the goal is being prevented from doing what he or she signed up for - play soccer!

Depending on the game, the young goalkeeper is in danger of being bored (if the action is on the other end) and getting discouraged if the ball keeps flying into the goal.

In the worst-case scenario, players who are forced to play goalkeeper at the early ages lose their enthusiasm for the sport.

Also, we want young players to shoot at goal as much as possible, because striking the ball is such an important skill for players to master. Young kids are more likely to shoot often when they're aiming a

goalkeeper-free net. With a goalkeeper there, they become apprehensive, looking for the perfect shot that they are not physically mature enough to pull off.

Nor are the very young kids physically prepared to make saves. They may get in front of a tough shot now and again, but they just don't have the tools for the position's requirements and are inclined to feel devastated when scored upon.

In fact, not using goalkeepers makes the coach's job much easier because the coach doesn't need to cajole players to take turns in goal.

And the use of goalkeepers at such young ages also creates a temptation for the coach to make his bigger and more advanced athletes play goalkeeper, because this will greatly increase his team's chances of winning. In other words, the use of goalkeepers encourages the results-driven approach to coaching that hinders long-term player development and can suck the fun out of soccer. The players who are more advanced athletically at the young ages shouldn't be kept from enjoying field play so that the coach can rack up some wins.

When goalkeepers are used, at the U-10 level for example, the goalkeepers should be rotated frequently. Even players who enjoy playing goalkeeper should not be restricted to the position and should get plenty of time playing in the field. Players shouldn't specialize at any one position until they are well into their teens.

Many of the nation's best goalkeepers - Hope Solo, Tim Howard, Brad Friedel and AYSO alum Brad Guzan - spent much of their youth as field players. This not only prevented them from burning out on the position, but honed the foot skills goalkeepers need and their ability to read the game, which is crucial to being good goalkeeper.

Weather:

It is starting to get cool outside, and up here at Stryker Soccer Complex (this only applies at this complex) it is **ALWAYS** colder. Please dress accordingly. Players can have long sleeved shirts and sweatshirts **UNDER** their jersey. Any pants should not be the "tear away" kind, as this can pose a safety hazard for all players. As always, shin guards must be worn. If you have any questions, please ask any board member.

Pet Free Zone

Just a reminder! You need to leave your dogs or any other pets at home. The City of Wichita has an ordinance against bringing pets to the Stryker Soccer Complex.

If you have any concerns, **PLEASE** contact a board member (usually in a red shirt) and let us know. We can not correct "problems" if we don't know what they are. You can also call, AYSO at 686-2976 or go to the web site and address your concerns there.

LET'S GET OUT THERE AND HAVE A FUN, FAIR AND SAFE SEASON.