



***Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they
just have the heart.
~Elizabeth Andrew***

Dear East Side Soccer Enthusiasts,

The spring session of our current 2009 – 2010 season is drawing to a close and as it does I must briefly draw your attention to a change that was made for the 2010 - 2011 season.

This year we are re-aligning the division age groups. There had been much discussion over the years of adopting the Under 6, Under 8, U10, U12, U14 system used most commonly throughout North America and the world to divide players by age. However as a board, East Side Soccer made the decision that reflected our mission as a developmental yet recreational league, geared for the enjoyment and success of the players. It was decided to keep our players (and parents) within the familiar school grade system we currently use...almost. We did decide to realign the divisions as follows Kindergarten, Grades 1/2, Grades 3/4, Grades 5/6 and finally, Grades 7/8. Kindergarten will be co-ed and our intention is to have boys and girls divisions for each of the other levels. A major way that you can help in this is by registering early so we can plan for the season by knowing how many teams in each age group we can field. With the shift, we will also need more coaches, especially at the younger ages.

Talking of teams in an age group, there has been much said about our decision to merge the boys and girls 6-8 grade divisions this past season. In August 2009, with three weeks to go before the season opened, there were not enough boys or girls registered to make

forming 2 different divisions realistic. So, the decision was made to combine the divisions and make the teams co-ed in order to better balance the teams. This meant that for the first time in many years we had co-ed teams in the higher age groups. Overall, the board does not believe that this has detracted from the players' enjoyment of the game or the development of any player and after all that is our goal. It has been generally successful and resulted in many more athletes being able to participate and play a larger number of teams as opposed to possibly not being able to have a division at all. Please be aware that if the numbers stay down in this age group, this will continue to be an option. Again with the change in our divisions, we strongly suggest that you register your child early, especially returning players, so we can be prepared well in advance of the start of the 2010/2011 season. We would love to field two separate divisions again this year!

Lastly, East Side Soccer is run by volunteers and recruitment is ongoing. We have around 700 children each year that play soccer with us. The biggest challenge we face is finding enough parents to step up to help fill various positions so the soccer league can run in the most efficient and effective way possible. If you had a great experience with ESS then thank us by helping out next season; if you felt things could have gone better, then it is time for you to step up and help create positive change. If we are short on volunteers, it puts a huge strain on those that do help out; and if we don't get enough there is a risk that the league will no longer exist.

Make a difference in your child's soccer experience, invest your time now! The impact of not having enough volunteers is huge and will have a direct effect on your child's soccer experience.

We currently need:

- Secretary
- Volunteer Recruiter
- Registrar
- Registrar Assistant
- Permits Coordinator
- Field Striping Personnel
- Division Coordinators
- Coaches

- Referees (your teens can help out with this)

This is a great soccer program that can be made even better if you get involved. Help your children by joining our board as an officer or committee member, or by becoming a coach. Do not wait, volunteer today!

Check out the job descriptions at www.eastsidesoccer.org.
The league is what you make of it so please get involved!

**Help us! Participate! Volunteer! It's for your kids!
And don't wait, we need you NOW!**

**Best Wishes
Peter D Clark
ESS Board President**

REGISTRATION FOR 2010-2011 IS NOW OPEN!

Register online at www.eastsidesoccer.org
Or by mail or in person at
Barry Park on June 19th.

Register before July 1 and get a discounted rate.

**Questions? Call Peter Clark at 446-8506 or e-mail
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