



OSA News

Spring 2006
A publication of the
Oconomowoc Soccer
Association

Mark Your Calendar

- May 6, 8, 9** Picture Day at Roosevelt Park
- May 11** Youth Soccer Night at OHS
- May 31** '06-'07 Registration Deadline
- June 3** OSA Spring Classic Tournament
- June 5, 6, 9 and July 5** Boys and Girls Competitive Soccer Try-outs

Look for more information on these events inside!

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OSA Members Key to Progress on Monterey Park

Many from the community have already stepped up to contribute funds and services to OSA's new Monterey Soccer Park, and now the OSA Board is looking to its membership to take the progress of the park to the next level.

"It's been amazing how many people want to help and want to bring in other people to help, too," said OSA Board Chair Bob Butendorf. "They really see this as a tangible way to invest in our community."

Service donations to date include engineering from Yaggy Colby, building design from Oliver Construction, two wells from D&D Well Drillers, irrigation system design from Chuck Stassi and Richard Reinders, use of a trencher from LF George, use of equipment from Dawes Crane, septic system design and installation from Jerry Hoefler. Excavating and plumbing work from Mommaerts Plumbing to name a few.

The Town of Oconomowoc has donated \$20,000 this year to the project and recently purchased a mower to handle cutting needs at the park. Other major financial contributors are Oconomowoc Area Foundation, Frontier Development, First Bank of Oconomowoc, Ixonia State Bank and Rotary Club.

"Now our challenge to go out to our membership for help," Butendorf said. Help from masons, electricians,

concrete finishers, carpenters, landscapers, sprinkling system installers, roofers and paving contractors is needed. Materials such as stone, block, brick, lumber, shingles, electrical and plumbing supplies, doors and windows are also needed.

"We could also use some help on the fundraising front to accelerate park development," Butendorf added.

If you or someone you know might be willing to donate services or materials to the park project, please contact Butendorf through the OSA office.

OSA to Fill New Coaching Positions

OSA is interviewing candidates to fill new coaching staff positions with the organization. Positions include Director of Coaching and two Technical Directors.

"When we look at some of the other successful youth sports organizations, coaching is an area that can improve the quality of our program," said OSA Board President Bob Butendorf.

"We're looking for candidates who are not only able to make better players, but who are able to make better players better people," Butendorf said.

OSA Volunteer Opportunities

You need to volunteer a minimum of 5 hours for the \$50 fee you paid at registration to be refunded. Please call the OSA Office at 262-567-9076 to find out what is available. Remember- you are responsible to find out where and when OSA needs help. Refund will be issued upon receipt of the volunteer registration form distributed by your child's team manager. Forms are also available on the OSA website or by calling the office.

The spring soccer season is here, and so are many volunteer opportunities. The most critical needs are for:

Fields and Maintenance – We need your help to build or maintain fields for the spring season. Many people who helped in fall have fulfilled their five hours, so we need new people to help this spring.

Equipment – We will need help at the OSA spring tournament sorting through, inventorying and cleaning out returned coach bags. The position requires you to be available at the end of tournament day (Saturday, June 3).

Spring Tournament – We will need help with field clean-up, concessions, raffle/auction, ad sales, and more.

Now is the time to also consider how you can help to fulfill your volunteer requirements for the 2006-'07 season. Some opportunities include:

Uniforms and Equipment – Once uniforms and equipment have been turned in at the end of this season, they must be sorted. The job includes making up and labeling coach bags. The bags also need to be distributed in August to prepare for the fall season.

U6 Coordinator – The U6 coordinator is the primary source of information for families just entering OSA and must be able to set expectations, communicate the association's mission and policies and be on-site for most (if not all) U6 sessions. The volunteer should also have solid technical skills and be able to introduce them to coaches.

It is equally important that the coordinator understand that the focus is on fun and creating a positive experience so that kids want to play more soccer in the future.

Administrative functions for the position (scheduling, rosters and ordering shirts) are handled by the office.

Coaches and Assistant Coaches – Becoming a coach or assistant coach is a great investment of your time – to kids and the community. Plus, it can be a lot of fun! Even if you have not played soccer or have little experience, coaching at the younger levels is possible. Our organization and our kids need your help, and OSA will provide you with support and assistance. Attend a practice or two, offer to help the coach out and you can learn at the same time.

OSA Odds and Ends

Pets

No pets are allowed on soccer fields. Please keep your pets at home and keep our children safe on the fields.

Lightning

If you see lightning, get off the field to a safe place. Even if it is not raining, lightning near an open field can be dangerous.

Bad Weather

Parents- If the weather looks bad, please stay at practice in case it needs to end early.

Respect

Please respect coaches' time by dropping off and picking up children on time. Coaches should not be expected to wait for parents to pick up children.

Games

Parents are to sit opposite the coaches and players during games. Coaches should remember to talk to parents to help enforce this rule.

Your OSA Board Needs Your Help

Are you interested in raising money or soliciting services for Monterey Park? Do you have ideas on how to make our competitive soccer program better? Or improve our volunteer program? Contact us at osasoccer@sbcglobal.net or individually to make your views known and help us make OSA the best soccer program it can be.

The OSA Board includes:

Bob Butendorf	Al Haskell
Shae Pavlic	Karen Milford
Joel Falk	Fred Levenhagen
Heidi Orsted	Carl Wickman

Spring Classic Tourney Set for June 3

The annual OSA Spring Classic Tournament is set for Saturday, June 3 at Oconomowoc High School. All teams are welcome to participate at no charge.

Teams will be scheduled to play two games, usually one in the morning and one in the afternoon. Medals will be awarded to all children, and trophies will be awarded to U12 and U14 first place winners. Team managers will provide additional details.

This year's event includes a silent auction, as well as a raffle with merchandise prizes instead of cash prizes as in previous years. Raffle tickets will be distributed on picture days, May 6, 8 and 9, with additional tickets available at the OSA office.

New this year is a separate drawing for raffle ticket sellers.

The tournament is an ideal opportunity to start fulfilling volunteer requirements for the season. Positions available include field preparation and cleanup, raffle and auction solicitation, tournament ad sales, raffle ticket packing and distribution.

We need your support for the tournament!

- Donate merchandise and services to the raffle and silent auction.
- Promote your business with an ad in our tournament booklet.
- Underwrite tournament expenses.

-Take out a Team Ad (50% off until April 12).

-Secure field-naming rights for tournament day.

-Donate multiple smaller prizes for raffle ticket seller drawing.

Contact Shae Pavlic (567-5263 or rpavlic@wi.rr.com) or the OSA office for solicitation or donation information.

WHAT'S NEW AT OSA

Wave Tickets - Oconomowoc Soccer Association is now an official Milwaukee Wave ticket outlet. Conveniently located in downtown Oconomowoc at 24 S. Main St, the Oconomowoc Soccer Association makes it easier for you to get your hands on the excitement that is Professional Indoor Soccer. For information and to purchase tickets please call the OSA at 262-567-9076

Pick 'n Save We Care Program - This donation program is an opportunity for OSA to raise additional funds. When OSA members shop at Pick 'n Save food stores and use their Advantage Saver's Club cards, a percentage of the total We Care dollars spent will be donated back to OSA. When applying for your Advantage Saver's Club card please indicate OSA as the non-profit organization of choice. Present cards can be changed at the service desk. OSA's account number is 574775.

OSA Website - We are working to completely revamp the OSA website to provide "one stop shopping" for all membership needs. It will have a totally new look with lots of extras. It will also have information on coaching topics, such as practice plans and pointers, and more. On-line registration will also be available. Watch for our new website at www.oconomowocsoccer.com

Youth Soccer Night - Thursday, May 11 is Youth Soccer Night at Oconomowoc High School. All OSA children and their parents are invited to attend the 6:30 game against Watertown. Kids should come dressed in their uniforms (weather permitting). Two OSA girl's teams will be playing at half time too! See enclosed flyer for more information.

Give Competitive Soccer A Try!

OSA is working to improve its competitive soccer program without diminishing its community-based aspect. Some ideas to do so include paid coaches and more aggressively communicating the benefits of being involved:

- Travel requirements for competitive and recreational soccer are similar.
- Most select teams are able to find a sponsor(s), which means the entire season may cost no more than \$150

Try-Out Dates:

Boys and Girls U11 to U14 – June 5 & 6

High School Girls U15 to U19 – June 9

NEW – High School Boys U15 to U19 – July 5

Try-outs will be held at Oconomowoc High School from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Sign in starts at 5:00 p.m.

Registration Fees and Information Set for 2006-2007 Season

Registration fees will increase slightly, \$0 to \$10 for each registration, for the 2006-'07 season. The amount of the increase depends on your child's age and competition level.

While there will be no increase in the volunteer fee, we are changing the way your upfront volunteer fee is collected. The fee will now be incorporated into your oldest or only child's registration fee. Example:

Recreational

U6 \$115 oldest/only child, \$65 each additional child (no increase in fees)

U7-U14 \$160 oldest/only child, \$100 each additional child (\$10 increase for the 1st child)

Competitive

U11-U14 \$135 oldest/only, \$85 each additional child (\$10 increase)

U15-U19 \$120 oldest/only child, \$70 each additional child

We hope this cuts down on confusion for parents and improves OSA's ability to correctly track who has paid and on which child.

Registration forms will be handed out by team managers. They are also available at the Oconomowoc Public Library, on-line at www.oconomowocsoccer.com and at the OSA office. **REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MAY 31.**

NEW GAME PLAN FOR U7 AND U8

Beginning in fall of 2006 all U7 and U8 games will be played on Saturday mornings at the new Monterey Soccer Park. Practices will still be held one day a week in a central Oconomowoc location. This will be a big change for many parents, coaches and our club.

On-line Registration Available Soon!

You will soon be able to register and pay on-line. By going to the OSA website, www.oconomowocsoccer.com, you will be able to register your child(ren) **and pay by credit card.** There is a \$3-8 *convenience fee* attached to the above fees when registering on-line. Paper registration forms will continue to be accepted.

REFEREES – NEEDED!!

**Were all your fall games covered by referees?
Was it frustrating to make calls and get no response?
How fair was the game when parents had to ref?
There is an extreme shortage of referees, especially at the competitive level, everywhere soccer is played.**

We are always in need of referees!

Anyone age 12 and over (moms, dads, brothers and sisters too!) is eligible to become a referee. Increase your soccer knowledge, make new friends and earn great money all at the same time. Check out www.wisref.org for upcoming classes. OSA will reimburse your registration fee. We will also provide you with a uniform shirt and other equipment at no cost. Please consider this opportunity to earn money and to help out your soccer organization.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Picture Day

Team and individual photos will be taken May 6, 8 and 9 at Roosevelt Park, rain or shine. **Team managers will let parents know when their team is scheduled.** No payment is required upfront. Proofs will be mailed to you and then you may decide whether to purchase them. Of course we encourage you to purchase your child's photos to enjoy for years to come. Please be sure to have your child present for at least the team photo!

COACHES' CORNER

Dear Coaches:

During practice sessions, watch for breakdowns in the player's technique and fundamentals.

For example, if you are running a practice that is focused on possession, it is common to look at movement and angles of support by players off the ball, and tactically this makes sense. However, the first thing to be evaluated should be whether the cause of the problem is poor passing technique and perhaps a bad first touch by the receiver of a pass.

While tactical problems are important, until we solve the technical problems (locking ankles, turning to receive, quality first touch, bad planting foot placement, etc...) the corrections of strategy and simple spacing concepts matter little.

Let's not complicate training sessions or jump ahead of what our kids are capable of performing. As coaches our first priority and our obligation is to make sure that the player's fundamentals (technique) are sound.

OSA Announces New Coach Risk Management and Registration Policy

All risk management and coaching education registration must be completed at www.wiyouthsoccer.com. OSA has recently adopted a policy where coaches will not be refunded their \$50 volunteer fee unless they are properly registered with Wisconsin Youth Soccer. Please be sure your coach pass card is up to date or register NOW for a new one at the above website. OSA will pay the fees associated with pass cards.

Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association Position / OSA Position on Risk Management

The Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association and its members will not knowingly allow any person convicted of a crime of violence, physical abuse, sale of illegal substances, or has any other convictions that would indicate a pattern of behavior that would have a detrimental effect on children to be placed in a position that would involve direct contact with children.

A Letter To Our Parents and Fans

There seems to be an increasing number of spectators that regularly yell and sometimes scream at players and referees. This simply has to stop – it is wrong in so many ways.

CHEER THEM – MOTIVATE THEM – SUPPORT THEM. Say something like “great try” or “nice run,” but **DO NOT DIRECT THEM** or try to tell them what you think they should be doing!

Let's all try to remember whose game is being played (it is not yours!). It is your son's or daughter's game to play. **Soccer is unlike most other sports where everything is controlled or often choreographed in advance by a coach or multiple coaches.**

A quick reminder: In most cases, by the time we see something from off the pitch and then comment upon it, that situation has changed. Further, if we continue to tell the player, the player never learns to think on their own.

Our young players experience many opportunities during a game to make their own decisions. As parents and coaches we need to let them make their own choices – right or wrong.

I believe that giving the kids control to make choices and decisions is really the best way for them to grow as players and as people. Yes, they will make mistakes, but from these errors they will learn some better ways to communicate, when to take chances, when to adjust, and how to fix their mistakes, etc...

Coach Al

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If we have forgotten to mention any sponsors, please accept our apologies,
and let us know.

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