



Dear Shepaug Soccer Club Members,

As many of you may be aware, an alternative program to Shepaug Soccer Club has arisen within our area. With that potential program, we ask you to consider that our region simply does not have the numbers to support two soccer programs, and that a second club would have a negative effect on our area's youth soccer offerings.

As a reminder, Shepaug Soccer Club:

- Maintains membership in the CJSA (Connecticut Junior Soccer Association) and competes in the Northwest Division which features some of the best teams in the area
- Hosts a large spectrum of teams each spring and fall with age groups ranging from U9 to U19 and also a beginner program for U4-U8
- Provides a professional coach for older age groups preparing for scholastic play
- Is working toward providing U.S. Soccer Grassroots training for coaches at all age levels
- Hosts summer clinics and a winter program in order to provide conditioning and the opportunity to further develop skills year around
- Seeks to accommodate players who are involved in activities beyond soccer
- Features a board of directors that welcomes newcomers and always strives to improve our club's mission and protocols
- Maintains strong relationships with the recreation departments of Roxbury, Bridgewater, and Washington which allows us access to the fields of each town

And yet, the real strength of our program goes well beyond soccer. The sense of community for kids and families is really what makes us special. All of us who started our children early with the program are aware of the opportunities that this activity allowed families to make lasting relationships. For many of us living in a rural area without many kids in the neighborhood this factor has been invaluable. Pizza parties, late Spring night practices are joyous memories. As our club draws largely from the three primary schools, many of our players have experienced the thrill of entering Shepaug Middle School and knowing a sizable portion of the students from the other towns through soccer. Beyond the core constituency of our three towns, Shepaug Soccer Club has had a lasting relationship with countless families from New York and our surrounding towns. We pride ourselves on an open door policy regardless of zip code. If you ask your child if he or she would rather see their teammates and friends participating in competing clubs, or all a part of a single club, what might they say? It may be worth asking.

What Can Parents Do to support Shepaug Soccer Club:

- Sign up for our spring season by the end of January and receive a \$20 discount
- Consider volunteering to be a team manager or receive training as a coach. In particular if your child is just starting soccer, it is tremendously rewarding to get involved early and grow with the program
- Make suggestions to better enrich our club

We thank you for your committed participation and welcome any questions or concerns.

Thank you,

Shepaug Soccer Club Board of Directors