



Spring 2023- 6/08

# The Piscataway Soccer Club Newsletter

## Important Dates

- June 15 - General Membership Meeting/Elections @ 6:00 @ YMCA
- June 15 - Board of Director's Meeting @ 7:30 @ Kerwin's
- June 19 - Coaches' Appreciation Night @ 6:30 @ Kerwin's
- July 20 - Board of Director's Meeting @ 7:30 @ Kerwin's
- August 17 - Board of Director's Meeting @ 7:30 @ Kerwin's
- Sept. 9-10 - Piscataway Fall Classic Tournament
- Sept 21 - General Membership Meeting @ 7:00 @ YMCA
- Sept 21 - Board of Director's Meeting @ 8:30 @ Kerwin's

## President's Message

Dear Membership,

Another season is about to be completed. I hope everyone had a fun and successful season. The board worked hard this past season on a few projects:

- Travel Tryouts for the Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 Travel Seasons.
- Our Membership Picnic held on 6/3
- Reviewing proposals from Training Companies to determine who we will move forward with. Our current contract with USA Sports ends on 6/30/23, and the board should have a decision next week on which company we will be moving forward with. An announcement will be forthcoming next week. Either way, USA Sports will still run their Summer Programs this Summer at Green Acres.
- The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Fall Classic Soccer Tournament is this September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. We once again expect over 200 travel teams, including all of ours, to participate. Each team will play 2 games each day. It is a great event with Travel Teams attending from all over Central NJ. It is our one and only club wide fundraiser. Planning has already begun.

Our next General Membership Meeting is this Thursday, 6/15, @ 600 pm in the Arts Studio of the YMCA of Piscataway in our very own Community Center. Please attend if you are available and interested. The purpose of this meeting is as follows:

- Meet your Board of Directors, hear about the status of the club and ask questions you may have with the Piscataway Soccer Club
- Vote in the Board of Directors Election. The only open position is one of the Rec Vice Presidents. Nominations will be taken from the floor. In the event of more than one nomination, a vote will be held after each candidate has been given an allotted 10 minutes to state why they want to be a board member. The balance of the voting members nominations closed on 5/15 and they are all running unopposed. In accordance with our by-laws, the club secretary will cast one ballot for each, thereby electing them to the board for a 2-year term. The Presidential Appointed Positions will be submitted to the board for approval at the Board of Directors meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors in an appointed position, please contact me asap.
- Vote on the proposed By-Law Changes, which were sent to the membership on 4/14 and again on 6/9. The Bylaws can only be changed at the June General Membership Meeting, provided the membership is advised of the changes by 4/15.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via email a

[mw.majorczak@gmail.com](mailto:mw.majorczak@gmail.com)

Have a great Summer.

Thanks, Mike Majorczak, President PSC

## Summer Membership Meeting

The Summer General Membership Meeting is being held on Thursday, **June 15 at 6:00** at **YMCA in the "Art Studio"**, so mark it on your calendar now. We will be electing club officers. Please come and provide input to your Board Members and come vote. Each Recreation, Rec-Travel and Travel team is responsible for supplying at least one person. Immediately following the meeting will be the Board of Directors' meeting to be held at Kerwin's in Middlesex at 8:30. Interested members are welcome to attend.

## Register Now for Fall 2023

While travel registration is complete, **registration for little kickers, recreational and TOPSoccer is ongoing.** Registration for recreational/little kickers closes August 15, 2023, @ 11:30 pm, at which times late fees kick in. The Recreational/little kickers season games starts September 16 with training starting September 11, so please register ASAP, which will give our Recreational Vice Presidents time to create the teams. TOPSoccer registration is open to September 1, but please register early so we can ensure we have our buddies ready.

## June Elections – PSC Needs your Vote

As per the bylaws, anyone wishing to run for an office on the Board of Directors had to register their intent with the Club Parliamentarian by May 15. **We do not have any contested positions, but we do have an opening that can be nominated from the floor.** However, we will also be voting on several by-law additions, which have been sent to the membership. Only those positions for which there is no one running can be nominated from the floor, which does not apply this year as there is at least one candidate for each position. For the uncontested positions, the secretary will cast one vote for each. **Elections will be held at the June General Membership Meeting on June 15, 2023.**

### Elected Officers - Candidates Running

President	Mike Majorczak
Executive VP	Tom Roberts
Travel Vice President	Jeff Sundelof
Travel Vice President	Chuck Myers
<b>Recreational Vice President</b>	<b>Nomination(s) Needed</b>
Recreational Vice President	Tad Powell
Registrar	Yasmeen Rasheed-Ash
Treasurer	Brian Hinds
Secretary	Kathleen Martineau
Public Information Officer	George Roussey

The following are Appointed Positions by the President. The president has selected the following candidates to start with the new 2-year term

Member at Large	Keith Koenig
Travel Head Coach	Dennis Espinosa
Club Web Master	Jim Opitz
Club Historian/Statistician	Zarah Opitz
Parliamentarian (non-voting)	Rey Villanueva

### Non-Voting Positions Appointed by the President

Grievance/M.C. of C. Chair	No candidate
BOE Liaison – Bldg. Usage	Mike Majorczak
By-Laws Chair	Mike Majorczak
PEC Chair	Jeff Salles
Picnic Chair	Yasmeen Rasheed-Ash

Tournament Director  
Nominating Committee Chair

Mike Majorczak  
Jeffrey Salles

## Instructional News

It was a very successful season, with the season extending into June to make up for rained out weekends. Recreational Soccer registration opens in early June. Register early as sometimes and programs sell out quickly.

## Travel News

The travel season went very well with most games played. The weather made it challenging, that is for sure.

## TOPSoccer Program

The PSC completed its fourth season of the TOPSoccer program this spring. TOPSoccer is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with special needs. It was very successful with great players and great volunteer Coaches and Buddies. The program runs Saturday mornings, and we are already thinking about Fall of 2023.

**We are always looking for volunteers and players.** If you are interested in being a coach, buddy, or player, please contact Yasmeen Rasheed-Ash at [registerpwaysoccer@gmail.com](mailto:registerpwaysoccer@gmail.com). If you know any families that may benefit from this program, please let them know to contact Yasmeen. The program is also selling PSC car magnets as a fundraiser for the program, so you can contact Yasmeen if interested.

## PSC Family Picnic

The PSC picnic made a triumphant return to Green Acres on June 3, 2023, as our original date in May at Riverside Park was rained out. One hundred twenty-nine members signed up for the revised date, but it seems we had over 200 show up, so it was quite the turnout that required an emergency run to Shop-Rite by Tori Opitz, daughter of BOD members Jim and Zarah Opitz, to refill us. Thanks to the Board Members, student volunteers, and friends who helped organize activities and cook. Another wonderful job by Yasmeen Rasheed-Ash as the organizer! Besides the food, the highlights of the day were the **parents/kids soccer games**. It was noted that there was flagrant cheating and hard fouls on the part of the parents in an

effort to avoid losing to the kids. They will do anything to win!

The Picnic Crew



The Hungry Members



Playing Games



Former PSC Vipers John Torres and Alex Abreau now coaching the PSC Gotham, such as Adrianna Abreau





## PSC Marches in the Memorial Day Parade

The PSC marched as a club in the townships Memorial Day parade. Thanks to Jeffrey Salles for getting the ball rolling and for the coaches, board members, parents and kids who marched.



## Field Usage News

Witherspoon is closed for the season. Space at Conackamack and Green Acres has been set aside for practices in addition to assigned time for the turf field. As always, please do not practice on game fields.

## 2023 Piscataway Soccer Club Summer Camps

Our Soccer camp gives players the opportunity to receive soccer instruction at a level that will both challenge them and ensure they have a fantastic experience at camp. Every camp is coached by our professional staff that is trained to encourage maximum participation, good sportsmanship, and above all - FUN! For more details or to register, please [click here](#). If you have any questions, please call United Soccer Academy directly on (732) 563-2525.

## “Futures” Program

The PSC will launch a new Futures program this Fall for boys and girls ages U7-U8. These players will practice twice a week with a pro-trainer and participate in 4v4 Festivals on Saturdays. This Fall 2023-Spring 2024 program is perfect for the player who wants to transition out of Rec but is still too young to play Travel. If your son or daughter was born in 2017 or 2016, look for the announcement coming soon. If you have questions, ask coach Chuck at [PSC.soccer.coach@gmail.com](mailto:PSC.soccer.coach@gmail.com).

## NJYS & Piscataway 4v4 Festival

On June 3, the PSC, in conjunction with the USYS League, hosted a 4v4 festival for ages 7U-8U at the Piscataway HS turf field. Each participant played multiple 4v4 games. It was quite the turnout!



There is another 4x4 festival on June 17 from 1:00 to 3:30 at the PHS turf field, so talk to Coach Chuck if interested.

## Travel Sports Nutrition

On the travel page on the PSC website, there is now a link to a sports nutrition page, with current topics such as Nutrition on the Road, Allergies and Sports Nutrition, and even hydration tips. The direct link to the new page is:

<https://www.piscatawaysoccer.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1027893>. Click on the link and check it out. It applies to any athlete, and likely any child or parent. **IT'S AWESOME!**

## Travel Coach/Manager Appreciation Night

Travel Coach/Manager Appreciation Night will be held on **Monday June 19<sup>th</sup>**.

Coaches/Managers, look for an invitation from Jeff Sundelof this weekend.

Please attend, as the evenings have been a great way to build fellowship and share ideas. The Travel Board Members will also have a presentation that evening.

## See Gotham FC Live

The PSC is going to Red Bull stadium to watch a pro-women Gotham FC game. Tickets are \$35 a seat (Section 124). **To purchase tickets**, Venmo payment to @piscataway-soccer-club. You must include the following information: Family Name, Email Address, Cell Number, and # tickets being purchased. **Payment is due by July 3.** Contact Claudine Said via text at (732) 718-8980 for questions.



## By-Law Committee

The By-Laws can only be changed by a majority vote of the members present at the June General Membership meeting. Notice of proposed changes must be given by April 15 of each year. Additions to the by-laws can be motioned, second, and voted by a majority vote of the members present at any General Membership meeting. **The proposed by-law changes were emailed in April and will be voted on at the meeting, so please take a look.**

If you are interested in helping the by-law committee or have a proposed revision, please contact Mike Majorczak [mw.majorczak@gmail.com](mailto:mw.majorczak@gmail.com). Review of the By-Laws (which can be found on the website) will be required prior to the first meeting.

## Team of the Week

Did you know about team of the week? Every week coaches put in one of their players with their position who had a good week, and Coach Chuck puts them on a field map with their Name and team and located at the position they were nominated for. If you want to see the current week or even see some of the previous weeks, click in the link:

<https://dt5602vnjxv0c.cloudfront.net/portals/6535/docs/programs/travel/team%20of%20the%20week/totw%202023-04-30.jpeg>

## Misconduct Towards Players and Referees

There has been a serious rise in the misconduct of coaches throughout the league. NJ Youth soccer sent this out to all the clubs *"I regret to communicate that we are experiencing a significant spike in SafeSport allegations related to coach conduct. A significant number of these reports allege emotional misconduct and verbal abuse from coaches against players (on their own team) and referees under the age of 18.*

*We urge all Directors of Coaching and Club Leadership to take this opportunity to communicate with and urge coaches to remain mindful of their conduct towards minors (players and minor referees)."*

We as coaches and parents need to treat the players and referees as if they are our own child or our best friend's child, and not do anything that would be abusive. They are learning and will make mistakes. Let the PSC coaches (and parents) be a model for the league in respectfulness.

## Respect-the-Ref

Piscataway SC is proud to join New Jersey Youth Soccer, US Youth Soccer and 15 additional state associations to launch a 2023-2024 Respect-the-Ref Campaign, targeted at improving sideline etiquette from spectators and coaches. Led by Indiana Soccer, a video was created to provide education and improve awareness around this critical topic. [Click here to watch the 1-minute video.](#) This education opportunity comes at a time when NJ Youth Soccer, and others across the country, are witnessing an alarming trend of referee abuse and assault.



## Coach Classes

On June 2 and 3, the PSC hosted a State Certificate soccer coaching class. 41 future coaches attended and 4 were from Piscataway!



Interested in upgrading as your team ages up? If transitioning to 9v9 or 11v11, there are grass roots courses being hosted by PSC on June 23 (virtual) and June 24 (in person). To register go to the NJYS website <https://www.njyouthsoccer.com/> and select the "Coaching Education" tab, then select either "State Certificate" or the "US Soccer Grassroots License". Then select the class that is held in Piscataway.

## Elks Soccer Shootout

At the regional Elk's Soccer Shootout, PSC player Paul Odeyemi took 2nd place in age group and Nathaniel Odeyemi finished 4th in his age group. Paul plays for PSC Santos, and Nathaniel plays for PSC Dortmund. Well done boys!



## Ted DeWys Referee Scholarship



This year there was one recipient of the Ted DeWys Referee Scholarship. Referees must have been affiliated with the PSC when they started refereeing and must have been active as either an instructional or travel referee. **This year's winner is Justice Ash. Justice will be attending Hampton University in Hampton Virginia,** where he will be majoring in Computer Engineering. A referee, an athlete and a smart student. Quite the combination.

## NJYS ODP and Young Olympians Club



PSC is one of the inaugural partners of the NJYS Olympic Development Program. We had 5 girls from the U11 Girls Gotham participating. They have 4 practices and will have 4v4 and 9v9 tournaments in June. So far, the girls like it.



## Background Checks

As a requirement for coaching with the club, all coaches are required to have a background check as part of the coaching approval process. This will be done through the carding process and all coaches should have received instructions.

## Reffing Info

Any new prospective ref needs to sign up for a new referee class for one day and then attend an on the field class on another day. Grade 9,8, and 7 refs will all be known as Grassroots refs. New refs can now start this process at 13 now.

The Grassroots Referee Course is now available online for those who are interested in taking the first step to become a soccer referee. [Learn more.](#)

However, if you have done traveling soccer and know the rules, you can ref instructional games. Please contact Brian Hinds if you are interested. If you get your reffing license and ref instructional, there is a bonus pay.

## Team News

Want to have some fun information about your team's season put in the newsletter? Just send them to the public information officer at [groussey@erols.com](mailto:groussey@erols.com)

### U8 Newcastle

What could be better than Mother's day on the Pitch! A picture of the player's with their mom's. Let's hope to see that when they are U-16!



## Web Site

Please visit our website on a regular basis. There is a lot of great information and coaches can create their own team page. Also, you will notice the **coupons from Dick's Sporting Goods**. Put them to good use!

[www.PiscatawaySoccer.org](http://www.PiscatawaySoccer.org)