



Summer 2023- 9/4

# The Piscataway Soccer Club Newsletter

## Important Dates

Sept. 9-10 – Piscataway Fall Classic Tournament  
September 21 - Board of Director's Meeting @ 7:30 @ Kerwin's  
September 29 – Elk's Shoot Out – Local PSC – HS Turf Field  
October 19 – Board of Director's Meeting @ 7:30 @ Kerwin's  
October 20 – Elk's Soccer Shoot Out – Districts – HS Turf Field  
November 16 - Board of Director's Meeting @ 7:30 @ Kerwin's

## President's Message

Dear Parents,

The season is upon us. MNJYSA Teams will start with our Tournament the weekend of 9/9-10. Including our teams, there will be 219 teams in attendance. SYSL teams will play their first games away on Saturday 9/9/23.

All MNYSA and SYSL Travel Teams are required to volunteer/work a 4-hour shift for the tournament. It is the one and only fundraiser club wide. We raised over \$52k last year and expect to match or surpass that this year.

We use the funds to maintain the light towers and fuel them we all use for training. The light towers were purchased from tournament funds. We purchase goals, nets and equipment. We purchase and donate seed and fertilizer for the grass fields. A few years ago, we spent over 80K for leveling and seeding a large portion of green acres that was unplayable and used by no groups.

Without the help of all parents, we could not host one of the largest and most successful tournaments in Central NJ. We are fielding, with a total of.

We have:

- 20 Travel Teams this Fall (253 kids) plus
- 2 Additional Teams this Spring
- 266 kids in our Pre K to 8th grade Rec Program.
- 16 Kids in our Future Travel Program.
- 7 Kids in our TOPSoccer Special Needs Program.

We have moved all our Training to Red Bulls Youth Programs.

Our Rec Program will start with K-8 training the week of 9/11 and games on 9/16.

Little Kickers sessions will begin on 9/16 and 9/17.

I am extremely excited about the future of our club.

If you have any questions feel free to email me at mw.majorczak@gmail.com

Mike Majorczak, Pres & Tournament Director PSC



## PSC Fall Classic

The PSC 42nd Annual Fall Classic is being held at Green Acres the weekend of 9/9-10

All of our MNJYSA Travel Teams will be participating. The Funds raised from the tournament will support the entire club.

Yes, we have been running the tournament for 42 years since the inception of the club. We have become the largest tournament in Central NJ and one of only 2 now being held that weekend. This year we have a total of 219 teams attending from all over Central NJ. That's roughly 3000 players and 6000-7000 spectators over the course of the weekend.

Our club will be running concessions once again, so if you have a child not playing, why not stop up one day that weekend and check out some great games and get some food and drink at our family friendly \$\$\$ concession stand.

Dick's Sporting Goods will be there on Saturday with some giveaways.

The **Red Bulls Freestyler Crew** will be there on Sunday at 11 am till noon showing off their skills and playing games with the kids.

As always, we couldn't hold this tournament without the help of all our parents. It is greatly appreciated.



## Red Bulls FreeStyle team at Tournament

The RB FreeStyle team will be making an appearance at this year's Piscataway Fall Classic Tournament on Sunday 9/10 at 11am near the Headquarters tent. Featuring some of the country's most prolific soccer freestylers, the New York Red Bulls Freestyler Crew has been wowing audiences for years. Comprised of members from across New York and New Jersey, the freestylers have been pushing the boundaries of what's possible with some skill and a ball while combining street style with the gracefulness of soccer.

## Result of June Elections

Elections were held at the June General Membership meeting. After the meeting, appointed positions were voted on by the board members, plus we also ended up with some succession planning at the last Board of Director's meeting. This is the Board as now constituted.

### Elected Officers

President	Mike Majorczak
Executive VP	Tom Roberts
Travel Vice President	Jeff Sundelof
Travel Vice President	Jeffrey Salles
Recreational Vice President	Tad Powel
Recreational Vice President	Yasmeen Rasheed-Ash
Registrar	Ilia Myers
Treasurer	Brian Hinds
Secretary	Kathleen Martineau
Public Information Officer	George Roussey

The following are Appointed Positions by the President.

Member at Large - Equipment	Keith Koenig
Member at Large - Travel	Luis Raymondi
Director of Coaching	Chuck Myers
Member at Large – Travel HC	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	Mark Caputo
BOE Liaison – Bldg Usage	Mike Majorczak
By-Laws Chair	Mike Majorczak
PEC Chair	Jeffrey Salles
Picnic Chair	Yasmeen Rasheed-Ash
Tournament Director	Mike Majorczak
Nominating Committee Chair	Jeffrey Salles

**A big thank you to Mark Batulis, who served a term of 6 years as Instructional Vice President, Mark Caputo who served as secretary for 6 years, and Mark Lowden, who served as the Director of Coaching for 4 years. We really appreciate all their efforts.**

## Recreational News

We are over 250 players for the Fall Season for Recreation and Little Kickers. Training starts Monday, September 11, and the season starts September 16.

### We need assistant Game Day Coaches!

As an assistant Game Day Coach, you will be working with and supporting the Red Bulls trainer while you learn how to be a coach. It is very rewarding and fun.

You will need to complete the following online asap.

1. Do a Background Check, which is free
2. Get a Concussion Certificate, a free online class
3. Get a Safe Sport Certificate, also a free only class

You will have until the end of the year to get your coaching certification, which we will reimburse you for once completed.

Please contact Tad Powel or Yasmeen Rasheed-Ash if interested.

## Travel News

We have 20 teams in Travel and Suburban League this year. Training has started and the regular season begins September 16.

## TOPSoccer Program

The PSC is starting its fifth season of the TOPSoccer program this fall, which started in the Fall of 2021. TOPSoccer is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with special needs. It is an official US Youth Soccer program enriching the lives of young athletes with varying disabilities through the game of soccer.

TOPSoccer was formed to perpetuate the US Youth Soccer mission statement, which is “to foster physical, mental, and emotional growth and development through the sport of soccer at all levels of age and competition. “Our goal is to enable our young athletes with disabilities to develop their physical fitness, technical skills, courage and self-esteem, through the joy and excitement of playing soccer.

TOPSoccer is designed to give everyone a chance to play soccer, while providing the experience of working together as a team, achieving individual goals, and, most of all, **HAVING FUN!**

The sessions will run:

- 8:45 – 9:45am
- 9/16, 9/23, 9/30, 10/7, 10/14, 10/21, 10/28, and 11/4 (11/11 to serve as a rain date for any cancelled sessions)

### TOPSoccer Buddies

Each player will have a TOPSoccer Buddy assigned to provide 1:1 guidance and assistance with practice activities and games. TOPSoccer Buddies will consist primarily of high school-aged students who are willing to commit to the scheduled 8-week season. If you are interested in becoming a buddy, please register at [www.piscatawaysoccer.org](http://www.piscatawaysoccer.org). There will be a 2-hour virtual training program scheduled prior to the beginning of the season that all Buddies will have to attend in order to volunteer.

Registration is on the Piscataway website ([www.piscatawaysoccer.org](http://www.piscatawaysoccer.org)) under the TOPSoccer tab.

Please direct all general questions or comments to Yasmeen Rasheed-Ash at [registerpwaysoccer@gmail.com](mailto:registerpwaysoccer@gmail.com).

## **Piscataway Soccer Club & Elks Soccer Shoot Out!!!**

A Soccer Shoot Out event will be held on September 29, 2023, at the High School Turf Field. The event is open to all children up to U16 (ages 15 and under) as of January 1, 2023, whether or not currently in the Soccer Club.

The Grand Lodge Youth Activities Committee of the Elks intends to bring every Elks State Association on board and increase participation in soccer on every level. The Elks Program includes a Local, District and State Shoot Out. The Elks work with local Soccer Associations and Recreation Departments to increase Elk participation. **Thanks again to John and Maureen Chapman for organizing and running the event.** The Soccer Shoot Out program consists of two different contests that test different level skills at different ages:

The "Five Goal Contest" consists of a series of five goals, decreasing in size from 48 inches to 17 inches. The age groups that use these goals are divided into two categories; a U-8 group that contains all ages seven years old and younger and a U-10 group that contains ages eight and nine. The contest is open to boys and girls, who will shoot separately. The U-8 contestants kick from 15 feet from the face of the goal, while the U-10 contestants kick from 18 feet from the **goal**. The Winners at this Local Shoot Out advance onto the Elks District Level, which will be held on October 20 at the Turf field.

## **HS Soccer Schedule**

Interested in seeing some good soccer and want to see where our current PSC members well hopefully be in a couple years. Here are the schedules for the teams:

### **Girls Soccer**

Sep 7 vs Edison 4pm Green Acres  
Sep 12 vs JP Stevens 4pm Turf  
Sep 19 vs South Brunswick 4pm Turf  
Sep 26 vs East Brunswick 4pm Turf  
Oct 3 vs North Brunswick 6pm Turf \*Sr Night\*  
Oct 7 vs Monroe 9am TBD  
Oct 11 vs Old Bridge 4pm Turf

### **Boys Soccer**

Sep 14 vs Perth Amboy 4pm Green Acres  
Sep 16 vs Colonia 10am Turf  
Sep 18 vs South Brunswick 4pm Green Acres  
Sep 21 vs Woodbridge 4pm Green Acres  
Sep 23 vs Edison 10am Turf

Sep 27 vs Sayreville 4pm Turf  
Sep 28 vs JP Stevens 6pm Turf \*Sr Night\*

## **Volunteer Ball Kids Wanted**

The Piscataway HS Girls Soccer Team is looking for Volunteer Ball Kids to assist during the games.

The Ball Kids will be on the sidelines of the field during the games to assist by chasing wayward soccer balls that leave the pitch and toss the balls in, which enables the game to continue without a large delay.

If you are interested, please click on the link below and choose a game. Your child will receive a free ball kid T-shirt to wear at the game.

[Click Here for the Sign Up Sheet](#)

Many of the current PHS student-athletes started with us as youth players at PSC and are extremely excited to welcome the future generation of Piscataway Girls Soccer players to their games.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us or Girls Coach Dan Verdia at [dverd@pway.org](mailto:dverd@pway.org)

## **Preseason Coaches Meeting**

The Piscataway Soccer Club held a preseason coaches' meeting at the YMCA on 8/25. It was well attended and received.

Piscataway Soccer Club's Jeff Sundelof and Chuck Myers presented information on the upcoming season and the Red Bulls liaisons and trainers were in attendance. The Red Bulls provided information on their training philosophy.

The Red Bulls' trainers will train travel and Rec teams. They will also coach text teams with information.





## Respect the Ref

There has been a serious rise in the misconduct of coaches throughout the league.

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.

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.

Misconduct towards game officials (e.g., referees) is becoming more prevalent in our games. To draw attention to and help put a stop to this behavior, Youth Soccer Leagues in New Jersey, with the support of the New Jersey State Referee Committee, are introducing The Yellow Wristband Initiative for minor referees.

As a primary goal, The Yellow Wristband Initiative is aimed at increasing awareness about the presence of minor (e.g., under the age of 18) referees in our game. Through the initiative, minor referees can opt to receive yellow wristbands to wear on game day; therefore, a Referee wearing the yellow wristband (as shown below) is identified as a minor. We expect adults to show the encouragement and respect that the minor deserves as they learn their craft.

Along with this campaign, NJ Youth Soccer and Member Leagues pledge to implement the following sanctions to support minor referees:

- Immediately suspend a person for allegations of referee abuse and assault towards a minor,

pending a hearing (similar to the US Soccer Referee Assault policy), and

- Doubling the minimum sanctions for a person found guilty of referee abuse/assault towards a minor.

**ABUSE OF ANY OFFICIAL IS NOT TOLERATED**

**ESPECIALLY OUR MINOR-AGED OFFICIALS!**

For our young referees to continue to grow, just as our players do, they must be able to officiate games without intimidation, fear, and/or abuse. It is EVERYONE'S responsibility – the Club, the coaches, other parents, etc., – to hold each other accountable and set the standard for acceptable behavior.

**“Yelling is banned, when you see a yellow band.”**

## Respect the Coach

New Jersey Youth Soccer has joined US Youth Soccer and 24 additional state associations to launch a **Don't Coach from the Sidelines Campaign**, targeted at improving sideline etiquette from spectators and coaches. Help improve sideline behavior and prioritize fun.

[Click here for the Video](#)

## NJYS ODP and Young Olympians Club



PSC is one of the inaugural partners of the NJYS Olympic Development Program. This summer, 3 girls from the PSC

12-13 Gotham tried out. Tryouts were the weekend of the 29<sup>th</sup> of July on a scorching hot weekend, but the girls were prepared by the workouts all summer in the heat. While they didn't make the squad, they know what to work on, and for now will concentrate on Gotham and the middle school team. Those participating were Adrianna Abreu, Genasse Gerena and Giana Martinez.







## NJYS Skills Challenge

Joey Salles (from U9 Team Newcastle) attended the NJYS Skills Challenge on July 22nd along with youth soccer players from many other clubs. He completed all challenges including shooting, dribbling, passing, chipping and juggling. It was a fun morning where he had the opportunity to meet other players and put his skills to the test. He was proud to represent PSC while doing it!



## USYS National Championship Refeing

Current PSC Board member Keith Koenig, who was also coach of the PSC Wolverines until they all graduated high school, has a daughter Catherine (Catie), who was one of three New Jersey United States Soccer Federation (USSF) referees invited to officiate at the United States Youth Soccer (USYS) National Championships in Orlando, FL in July. This is quite an honor.

"Officiating the National Championships at ESPN Wide World of Sports was truly an amazing opportunity and experience. To be surrounded, coached, and mentored by some of the best National, PRO, and FIFA referees in the world was truly an honor and an experience I will never forget" according to Catie.

Her journey to Nationals began when she was selected along with 11 other New Jersey referees to officiate the USYS Eastern Region Presidents Cup in Valley Forge, PA in June. The days were very long and strenuous with at least two games a day, debriefings with the National Referee Coaches and Mentors, and a daily educational meeting each night. After four days of hard work and perseverance and based on recommendations from the National Referee Coaches and Mentors, Catie was selected to referee the East Region's U16-F Final and was invited to officiate in the USYS National Presidents Cup in Wichita, KS. Due to a scheduling conflict, she was unable to accept the invitation to Wichita, but was told that next year she should come back and earn her spot to go to Nationals. Upon returning home from the Eastern Region Presidents Cup, Catie received a call from the East Region President with an offer to attend the USYS National Championships after a returning referee was unable to attend. "I was so grateful for the offer because it was such a rare opportunity, and one I couldn't pass up" Catie said. The chance to go to Florida opened the door for her to meet new referees, to learn, to grow, and to improve to become the best referee she can be!

Catie, who is now 23, has been a referee since she was 12 years old. She began her career by volunteering to referee Edison United recreational soccer games, with her dad as a mentor, and eventually became a USSF referee at the age of 14. She never imagined how far her passion for the game of soccer would take

her and strives for perfection in everything she does. Realizing and knowing that perfection is a moving target, Catie is always grateful to receive feedback and to use everything she learns to further improve herself on and off the soccer field. She is a licensed USSF referee, a NCAA Collegiate soccer referee through NISOA, and a certified high school soccer referee through NFHS.



## Red Bulls Camps

Our new training partner, Red Bulls Youth Program, is running a couple camps on 9/25 and 11/9 and 11/10, with half-day and full day options.

[Click Here to Register and for information](#)

## Futures Program

The Piscataway Soccer Club is starting a new Futures program specifically for players born in 2017 and 2016. Here is a quick overview:

Players will be placed on an all-boys team or an all-girls team

- Teams will practice twice a week with a professional trainer on Tuesdays and Thursdays 5:45-6:30 pm.
- Teams will participate in "Festivals" on Saturday afternoons with the same professional trainer as their coach.

- Each Festival is three (3) 15-minutes games, against three (3) different opponents from different nearby clubs, with a 5-minute break in between games.
- Registration will include BOTH the Fall and Spring seasons.
- Uniform kit is extra.
- There are NO tryouts, but the program is limited to 24 total players (12 boys and 12 girls).

You can register for this new PSC Futures program today. Just log into your account and select the "Programs Available" option next to your child's name to start the registration process. On the next screen, select View Divisions under the Futures - Fall 2023/Spring 2024 program



## PSC Red Bulls Game

A few PSC players and their families attended Red Bull Arena on August 26th to see Messi play for the MLS for the first time in NY. The players not only made it to the online news, but also got interviewed about the atmosphere outside the stadium and the experience that night.







## 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

The Piscataway Soccer Club is looking for youth players who are 12 years old or older, to become Referees and work PSC Recreation games on Saturday mornings.

- Get a greater understanding of the laws of the game. This will help make you to be a better/smarter player.
- Get paid \$30 per game as Center Ref (\$15 for Assistant Refs)
- Free Referee Uniform and Whistle,
- Youth Referees will be mentored by Brian Hinds, a current referee with lots experience.

If you are interested, please contact Brian Hinds at [BeHindCPA@aol.com](mailto:BeHindCPA@aol.com)

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 age 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.

## PSC Fanwear

We have teamed up with an online vendor to provide a Fanwear Store.

Please click below and check out the cool PSC Fanwear items available for purchase.

<http://www.5kount.com/psc>

## Summer Boot Camp





## PSC Player Spotlight

### Matthais Rivera – Santos Team Captain

Matthais has worked very hard over the past 4 seasons as Santos made their climb from Flight 9 to Flight 2. Always reliable, Matthais is a true leader. He leads by example with a stoic and respectful demeanor.



We caught up with him before the season and asked him 3 questions:

1. What does PSC mean to you?

Matthais: It means family and friendship.

2. How do you feel about how you've grown through the years?

Matthais: I feel good about it. I feel like I have improved a lot. Even seeing David and Paul improving. Good to see.

3. How do you feel about being team captain?

Matthais: I feel good about it. I am glad to lead the team.

## 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)

### PSC 10 Wolves

The PSC Wolves, who are in the Suburban League, attended the Rutgers Women's team game against Holy Cross. The girls all had a great time watching and learning. They also received some free ice cream and were invited to perform a pre-game walkout with the Rutgers team during play introductions on October 22, 2023.





### **PSC 12-13 Gotham City**

On July 9, many of our Piscataway soccer families came to our soccer outing fundraiser to a professional women's soccer game watching Gotham FC VS. Portland Thorns at the Red Bull Arena. This outing supported Piscataway's Girls Gotham Team and we were able to raise \$240. Thank you to everyone that participated. We had a great experience and an even better time watching Gotham FC win the game!



### **PSC U9 Leeds**

The PSC Leeds had their first practice with the Ref Bulls. The players, and their parents, are very excited for the upcoming season.



### **PSC U9 Newcastle**

The PSC Newcastle has been hard at work since mid-July and has gotten at least 10 practices in before the regular season starts. With 6 returning players and 3 new, they are excited for an awesome season!



### **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)