



# The Piscataway Club Newsletter

Fall – 10/25

## TOPS Soccer Program

PSC's first Tops soccer program went off with a bang! We had 7 special needs children signed up, with many buddies signed up. The program started September 18 and the weather has been great every weekend. We have seen the kids grow in comfort and confidence. Thank you so much to the participants, parents, and the buddies for participating, and a special thanks to Yasmeen Rasheed Ash and Scott Marshal for coordinating this program. Well done everyone!



## Important Dates

- Nov. 1 – Early bird registration for instructional spring season begins
- Nov 18 - Board of Director's Meeting @ 8:00 @ Kerwin's
- Nov. 30 – Early bird registration for spring ends

## Recreation (Instructional) News

The instructional season went off with a bang, with great attendance. We encourage parents to get their children to the weekly training during the week. While playing games on Saturday morning is great, the foundation to what they do is the weekly training. We are starting registration for instructional early. See details below.

## Instructional Program Revamp

PSC has some exciting news to announce! While we are happy with the training and teaching our program has been doing, we have also been looking at changes in other clubs, as well as listening to the parents. The Board of Directors has voted to return the program to a team-based format of our previous Recreation Program. Teams will be formed for the season, with a USA trainer as the head coach. There will still be the one training session during the week. We are going to look for parents to help and hopefully be assistant coaches. You can make a difference in many children's lives by getting involved! We will have 3 groups, Kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade playing 5 v5, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades playing 7v7, and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades playing 9v9, with an additional 1/2 hour practice before games. To kick off the new program, we are offering a new early bird discount for registering between November 1 to the 30<sup>th</sup>. This discounted fee will be \$150 for the spring 2022 season, but will not be refundable. After November 30, the fee will be the regular \$170. After February 28, 2022, there will be a \$25 late fee.

## Travel News

The Travel Season has been going great. We have no incidents and no covid shutdowns. Great job everyone Coaches, please ensure that game fields are off limits to practice. With the change in weather, the fields will not dry out and are easier to abuse.

## PSC 2021 Fall Classic

After a 1 year hiatus, we hosted the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Piscataway Fall Classic on September 11-12. It was an incredible event with 189 teams attending and the weather cooperated, being at a perfect temperature for comfort, playing, and people wanting food. Considering that all clubs have less teams, likely due to Covid, we feel we did really well and some clubs needed to cancel their tournaments. As we have less teams, we were not able to do the food ourselves which allowed board members to get to see the events going on. We received many accolades from coaches and referees who attended saying how well it is run. Besides the crazy hardworking committee and some core volunteers, the success of the tournament was due to the volunteers from the parents of all Travel teams. The parking, field marshal, set-up and take down squads did a fantastic job so thank you to all! The garbage staff engaged by the committee did a fantastic job of keeping up with the incredible amount of garbage created. Thank you to the coaches and team coordinators for getting the parents into their slots. Thank you to the committee and crew who started working at the beginning of August building fields and repainting them regularly, fixing holes in the field, moving lights, etc., etc., etc. Jim Opitz was the task master organizing the field building, with Tad Powell moving lights, fixing grounds, etc. Chuck and Ilia Myers lived at the complex preparing over the last week or two. Enough can't be said about them.

There is always room for tweaking, so if you have any ideas please bring them to the General Membership meeting or email our tournament and club president extraordinaire Mike Majorczak. Go to our Facebook page and see the pictures of staff, volunteers, and players with big smiles.

**The Fall Classic Tournament, by the Numbers** (as compiled by Coach Chuck Myers)

2	Great Days
189	Teams
37	Clubs
374	Games
34	Divisions
20	Fields
62	Refs
2,457	Players
7,371	Spectators
1 ½	Tons of ice to cool...
2,459	Bottles of Pepsi/Gatorade sold
320	1 <sup>st</sup> Place medal awards
280	2 <sup>nd</sup> Place medal awards
43	3 <sup>rd</sup> Place medal awards
748	Sportsmanship awards
748	Participation awards (coincidence)
1,964	G O O O O O O O O O O A L S
95	PSC volunteers
1,600	Hours planning and working
3	PSC teams that medaled
Priceless!!!	

Congratulations to PSC 08 Liverpool (1<sup>st</sup> place), PSC 09 Dortmund (2<sup>nd</sup> place) and PSC 10 Eintracht (1<sup>st</sup> place).



**PSC 4v4 Festivals**



The PSC started hosting multi-club festivals on Saturday mornings this fall. A “festival” consists of a series of short games against different

opponents all played in the span of just 1 hour. There are NO refs, NO negative yelling, NO recorded scores, just a lot fun playing soccer. The PSC has 4 teams, 2 girls and 2 boys, which consist of 2014 and 2015 players. They have been very successfully competing against other teams from Franklin Township, Edison, and Perth Amboy, with a couple of other clubs anticipated later in the fall. Coach Chuck, the PSC 4v4 Grass Roots program director, said, “I’m really proud of all these players. We started with some extra training last spring, did some summer training, and now with the help of USA trainers, they have been working for months on passing, spacing and formation. They are really starting to embrace teamwork both on and off the field. A special thanks for all the “uber” parents for supporting their players.” Here are just a few of the action shots taken by Coach Chuck.





## TEAM of the WEEK

The PSC has just started the Team of the Week program, which is a Travel player recognition program. We are asking each PSC Travel Team Coach to nominate a player every week based on the player's performance in: Sunday/Saturday's game (not necessarily the goal scorer), and at last week's training sessions.

So, here is our very first Team of the Week.



## Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Team of the Week



## Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Team of the Week



Check out our online apps for ongoing teams of the week through the season

## Referee Shortage

US soccer has witnessed an alarming trend of referee abuse and referee assault allegations in the last 12 months. Coaches have been advised of severe discipline actions should they be charged with alleged conduct that (in the opinion of NJ Youth Soccer) qualifies as referee abuse or assault. We ask all parents assist by also showing respect to the refs. Connecticut says they are short 1000 refs. It is a difficult job and gleefully cheering on your children is the best way to support youth soccer and keep it fun for the kids.

We request that all coaches and parent watch the following video [The Sideline Project](#)

## Soccer Moms Walk to fight Autism

With support of the Piscataway Soccer Club Board, Executive Board member Yasmeeen Rasheed-Ash organized a group of like-minded soccer moms to join her in raising funds for autism. Team *P'way Soccer Mom Swag* (try to say that 10 times fast) participated in the Autism Speaks virtual walk. Autism Speaks Walk is the world's largest autism fundraising event dedicated to improving the lives of people with autism. *P'way Soccer Mom Swag* laced up and hit the path at Green Acres to complete the virtual walk on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. The team proudly pulled second place in fundraising collecting donations totaling \$2,274.00. Team members included top earner Tuere Marshall, Yasmeeen Rasheed-Ash, Judy Sundelof, Ginny Caputo, Nicole West, Monique Brown & Jennifer Donohue. The team was happy to participate, grateful for the support and are looking forward to expanding the team next Fall. Thank you all who participated, donated and supported *P'way Soccer Mom Swag* in this important cause!



## Rutgers Newark Scarlet Raider Profile

Congratulations to PSC alumni Juwan Ash for having his player profile in his college's online athletics website. Please visit the link to see the interview.

<https://rutgersnewarkathletics.com/news/2021/9/10/mens-soccer-scarlet-raider-profile-juwan-ash.aspx>



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

A Soccer Shoot Out event was held on October 1, 2021. The event was open to all children up to U16 (ages 15 and under) as of January 1, 2021, whether or not currently in the Soccer Club. It was a great success, as usual

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 running such a great 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 advanced onto the Elks District Level, which will be held on October 29 at the Witherspoon Fields.

## Reffing Info

Interested in reffing or having your child ref traveling games? Go to [www.mnjysa.org](http://www.mnjysa.org) or [www.njrefs.com](http://www.njrefs.com) and look for referee course information for entry level grade 9 referee classes. This is the class for instructional referees and can be done by those less than 16. Level 8 referees, which allow a person to referee travel games, require the applicant to be a minimum age of 16 to take the Grade 8 reffing class. Please keep checking the websites above to see if any classes are added to the current list and **look for information on the club website.** 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)

## 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)