



President's View:

Top Ten Reasons Not to Miss GRASA Tryouts:

10. CAT fields are easy to find and centrally located.
9. You get to wear something other than a Uniform.
8. Your friends will be there.
7. Drinks and snacks will be sold in case you forget.
6. Try Outs will double as soccer clinics, so you'll learn as you Try Out.
5. Skilled soccer trainers, separate from evaluators, will be the ones training you.
4. Independent evaluators will be there to do, amazing conducting the tryouts.
3. Your current coach will give their feedback to the evaluators.
2. You'll come home with handouts about what the trainer worked on.
1. You'll be trying out for the best club around!

This has been a great year for GRASA with many good things happening. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at tryouts the week of June 17th. We have completely revamped tryouts this year with the main goal of having them as organized and unbiased as possible. We have also decided to use the tryouts as an opportunity to train the kids with skilled soccer trainers from the area. That way, all players will benefit from the training and can focus on what they are learning versus worrying about the tryout itself.

Please join us as we continue on our journey to make GRASA the select soccer club of choice.

Until next time,

Laurie Wilson, LWW920@attbi.com
GRASA President

GRASA Kicks Off New Look

As we wind down the spring season and look forward to tryouts, keep an eye out for a new look at GRASA.

After reviewing the old logo/design, we decided we could improve on it. We wanted a new, easy to identify, simplified and classy look for GRASA. You will begin to see this new look as we transition into the fall season. Watch for it. The new design will be showing up in slightly different forms in many different places! We are all excited to see this change implemented. We feel we have met our objectives and hope you like it too.

Mike Bart, PMSMBart@home.com
GRASA Equipment Coordinator

Try Outs:

Attention!!! This is our Official Try Out Newsletter

Well folks, here it is. Our Official Try Out Issue. In it you will find, besides *Award Winning Articles*, a Try Out Brochure that contains some pithy facts about GRASA, some Frequently Asked Questions, Location, Time, and Dates, and most importantly, a Registration Form to be filled out prior to coming. See you then!

Current Issues:

Paid Coaches

One of the issues which has been the subject of much discussion among our Board this past winter is the topic of paid coaches. In the early days of GRASA, all coaches were volunteer parents. Sometimes a team ended up with a good coach, and sometimes not. That's the way things were done back then.

Over the last few years, the growth of soccer in our area has made it difficult sometimes to find coaches. The solution to this problem was the hiring of coaches for these specific teams. This was done on a team-by-team basis, with the cost of the coach being paid directly by the members of the team.

This has resulted in a situation in which some of our coaches are paid while other coaches, equally qualified and often more so, are expected to serve as volunteers because they are parents. In addition to serving as volunteers, they pay the regular fees for their own children. They are in effect paying for the privilege of coaching their own children. It is an unfair situation.

We also have a few non-parent coaches who are volunteers. These are special individuals who enjoy soccer and kids, and are able and willing to dedicate the time and effort to coaching.

It would be wonderful if we could pay all of our coaches what they truly deserve. That is not currently possible, as the cost would be quite prohibitive. (If you have checked out the cost of playing premier soccer, you know what that means.) The board has been working on a plan to at least reduce the inequity. Details are still being worked out, but the intent is to have the club cover the fees for the child of a team's head coach. It is at least a step in the right direction, and should help attract and keep good parent coaches.

Ken Coviak, coviak_ken@si.com
GRASA Communications Coordinator

The Future of Michigan Soccer

An Open Letter from MSYSA DOC Don Gemmell

On May 21, 2002, the MSYSA board formally voted to **Adopt** the concept of standardized small-sided games for all levels of play below U-12. Beginning in season **2003-2004**, all U-9's will play no more than 6v6, with the U-10's following in seasonal year 2004-2005. Also in seasonal year 2004-2005, all U-11's will remain at 8v8. It should be noted that **no Travel or Premier level team would be forced to return to a smaller playing format**. For the 2004-2005 season, the U-12's will play 8v8. Beginning with the year 2003-2004, all MSYSA sanctioned tournaments and all teams playing in State Premier Program must comply with the guidelines on small sided games. We strongly urge voluntary compliance with these recommendations for all other individual leagues.

Why is it said that Small-Sided Games are good for development of players?

As we have all heard over the past twelve months the one obvious fact is players will touch the ball more. The importance of this fact is often over-looked and misunderstood. By touching the ball more, the player not only has more opportunities to improve his or her skill under the pressure of the game; he or she also has many more opportunities to make decisions as the game demands.

Of equal importance is the fact that each player is required to play a bigger role in each game. No player can be assigned a purely offensive or defensive role. All of the players must be involved in quickly transitioning from defense to offense when the ball is won, and from offense to defense, when the ball is lost. When a player's team has the ball, he or she must become much more involved as part of the group that is attacking than is required in the 11 v 11 game. Similarly, when his or her team loses the ball the player cannot expect others to carry the full responsibility of defending and winning the ball back. The game played on the world level often is won or lost by quick transition from offense to defense, or vice versa.

When players compete in age-appropriate small-sided games, they have greater involvement in the action. For players, this means doing more of what they love most about soccer – shooting, dribbling, passing, scoring goals, blocking shots, and simply running after the ball. And in terms of their development, this increased involvement results in improved technique, clearer decision making, active participation in both the attack and defense, and a greater appreciation for the game.

As always, we appreciate your thoughts on all soccer issues and would welcome any feedback you would like to provide at stateoffice@msysa.net.

Don Gemmell
MSYSA Director of Coaching

Special Feature:

By Shelia King

Good Sports:

Raising a Young Athlete – Part II

-Part I appeared in our last Issue

A) Parents, take a chill pill. Lose the attitude of winning at all costs. Many children don't enjoy organized sports because coaches and parents put too much pressure on winning. Moms and dads with Olympic dreams must not lose sight of the long-term reality. Fewer than 1% of the children participating in organized sports today will qualify for any type of athletic scholarship in college. An even smaller number of those will go on to professional sports or the Olympics according to the National Center for Educational Statistics. Coaches and parents who instill a lifelong love and fitness and sports are the real winners.

B) Choose the right coach. Providing good coaching can help children develop the skills and abilities they need to excel and succeed in sports. The best coaches are positive and offer lots of encouragement, emphasizing both skill development and good sportsmanship. They are organized and set their limits for both players and parents. They do not chastise or punish players for making mistakes. Instead, they praise the effort and emphasize fun, not winning at all costs.

Most youth league coaches are volunteers and have not had pro-fessional training; but that does not mean you have to put up with a verbally abusive coach or one who arrives late and doesn't organize practices. If you end up with one, try to move your child to another team as soon as possible. If you can't get a transfer, discuss your concerns with the coach in a private, non-threatening conversation.

C) Stress success. Be sure your children are playing at the appropriate age level for skill development. Nothing can be more discouraging to children than playing over their heads. Confidence is key—especially for girls, who more often express lower perceptions of physical competence than boys. Emphasize effort over result. By the same token, nothing can be more frustrating than playing below your potential. If your children are highly skilled, make sure they're challenged on the field or on the court. If they're playing above their peer level, find groups that meet their needs. Like the child who's always the last one picked when teams are being chosen a child with the potential to be an elite athlete deserves special attention and consideration; it's up to you to take full advantage of them.

D) Avoid instant replays. Don't rehash every detail of the game with your child. Over-analyzing play can take the fun out of it. And focusing only on mistakes can backfire: Some kids will do anything to avoid making another mistake, including not doing anything at all.

Children need to develop their instincts and learn to trust them. They don't need to dwell on every misstep. Let the coach provide feedback during practice when children can readily make changes.

E) Introduce competition at the optimal time. Some children are ready for competition at an early age. But from a developmental standpoint, competition is best introduced in adolescence when children are more comfortable testing themselves against each other. Most pre-adolescents do not enjoy the competitive nature of sports. The emphasis in this age group should be on fun, movement variety, social and skill development.

F) Whose sport is it anyway? Children have to have the desire within, to compete and excel at sports. Parents cannot force children to succeed as athletes. The best approach is to expose kids to a variety of sports, then let them choose. Examine your personal motives for wanting your child to compete. If you are trying to live vicariously through your child, reassess what your child wants and needs and put those desires ahead of your own.

G) Be a Good Sport on the sidelines. Remove all obscenities from your vocabulary. Never let your children hear you criticizing the coach or other players. Let your child know it's not the end of the world if they lose an important game. It could be the most important lesson they ever learn. Parents who shout obscenities and criticisms embarrass children and squelch their desires. Keep the sideline comments positive and encouraging. Refrain from blaming umpires and referees for "bad" calls. Teach your children that such judgements are part of the game and must be overcome. Realize that most of the referees and umpires are volunteers who provide a service for your children.

H) Keep sports in perspective. Help children learn to balance sports in their lives. Richard Williams, father and coach of tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams, says that he stresses school, religion, and then tennis. Keeping children well rounded will provide them with the confidence and skills to respond to the ups and downs in life.

Parents do have an important role to play in helping support and encourage star athletes. Tiger Woods, the Williams sisters, and Cal Ripken Jr, are all examples of athletes whose parents helped them develop a love of their sport and maintained healthy relationships. While your kids may never become pro athletes or Olympic stars, you can guide them to a lifelong enjoyment of sports and physical activity. Then no matter what the score of their games, they'll be winners!

About the Author: Shelia King is an exercise physiologist at UCLA with more than 15 years of experience. She is a certified Program Director of the American College of Sports Medicine, and a trainer of personal trainers at UCLA Extension.

Registrar's Read:

Co-Registrars Announced:

Laura and I would like to introduce ourselves to all of the GRASA families. We each have a daughter on the U11 White and U9 White teams. Our husbands are assistant coaches for the U9 team. Being involved with GRASA has been a great experience for us, and we are happy to volunteer for this board position.

Our thanks to Patti Masotta for the organized format she has handed down to us. By sharing the responsibilities, we hope to provide extended coverage thru out the registration process. We look forward to meeting you in July. Good luck at Try Outs!

Linda Sellman, sellmansix@attbi.com
Laura Bowman, Cbls03@aol.com
GRASA Registrars

Free Money:

Fund Raiser Having Mixed Success

First of all, I want to thank each of you that responded to the Fund Raiser so far. I can't tell you how much I appreciate each letter that has showed up. I feel like a Birthday Boy eagerly expecting that special card in the mail. For a while, I felt like the whole thing was going to flop. I hadn't explained things well. There was very little response. But then the letters started coming and now I realize I was just being impatient. Thank You!!!

When I took this position last fall, I did so primarily to help our Club bring in more money. I knew if I could do so, it would help keep our Registration Fees down. Our family has always struggled financially, so I know first hand what it's like to cut that check for registration. So I came up with a plan of attack that focused on 3 main areas for raising money, Newsletter, Sponsorship, and Fund Raising.

My initial focus has been the Newsletter. We needed to establish stability and credibility. I wanted to be able to go to companies, show them our Newsletters, and get Advertisements from them. I knew this would take time, but I think we have established that now. By the way, do you work for, or own a company, that would like to advertise in our Newsletter? It reaches a pretty wide and diverse group of people!

This Fall, my hope is that most of our Teams will have a Sponsor for *both* the Fall and Spring Seasons. We're asking for \$500 a season, which will allow us to start paying our Head Coaches. To date, we only have one company slated for Team Sponsorship, but that's one more than we had this year. I urge you to start looking for yours now!

And what about our Fund Raiser for next year you ask? *Next year?* We haven't even finished this one yet!!! Again, Thanks for all your help. See you at Try Outs.

John Hall, jhall@rbc.org
Fundraising/Sponsorship Coordinator



PO Box 232
Ada, MI 49301

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To Our Friends:

Current GRASA Board:

| Member: | Position: | Age Representative: |
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| Paul Clemens | Treasurer | |
| Laura Bowman/ Linda Sellman | Co-Registrars | U9 |
| Ken Coviak | Communications | U15 |
| Dan McAllister | Director of Coaching | |
| Mike Bart | Equipment Coordinator | U13 |
| Mary Boettcher | Field Coordinator | U12 |
| John Hall | Fundraising Coordinator | U14 |
| Claudia Judson | Manager Coordinator | U17&U19 |
| John Corbett | Referee Coordinator | U10 |
| Mary Brandon | Tournament Coordinator | |
| Open | Try Out Coordinator | |

Your Board Members are here to serve you! Feel free to email us with any Questions or Comments.

World Cup Trivia:

Are you watching the World's greatest Sporting Event? There's nothing Trivial about that. Who do you think will win the World Cup? Many are picking Argentina, Brazil, France, and Italy for the Final Four. Stay Tuned!

Answers from last Issue:

What 2 Countries don't *qualify* to be in the World Cup?

The Host Country and the Previous Winner

Which Final Game saw the most goals scored?

Brazil vs Sweden in 1954, Brazil 5-Sweden 2

Who was America's GK in '90 and '94 and still plays?

Tony Meola for the MLS Kansas City Wizards

Who scored the most goals in a World Cup game, what country did he play for, and when did he do it?

Just Fontaine, France, 1958, 13

When and where did the United States last play Brazil in a World Cup game and who won?

July 4th 1994, Stanford California, Brazil

What controversial Goal is known as "the hand of God" Goal, why is it called that, and who scored it?

Argentina's winning goal scored against England in the 1986 Semi Final World Cup in Mexico. The goal was an impossible header scored by Diego Maradona who had actually used his hand to deflect the ball over the English Keeper Peter Shilton. Though vigorous protests ensued, the Tunisian Referee refused to change his decision.