



# COACHES CORNER

## September 2008

Welcome to the monthly newsletter from the desk of John Curtis, MYSA State Director of Coaching.

### MINNESOTA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION HOME PAGE

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

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#### September is Youth Soccer Month!

MYSA will again celebrate Youth Soccer Month throughout September of 2008. Activities will include participation in Mexican Independence Day on Sunday, September 14, 2008. The all-day festivities begin at 11:30 a.m. with a parade and include informational and vendor booths located at Fourth Avenue South and East Lake Street in south Minneapolis. For additional information regarding Mexican Independence Day, visit [www.golatino.org](http://www.golatino.org). Be sure to stop by the MYSA booth or plan to participate in a free soccer clinic for youth ages 5–15 at the Kicks Field from 12:30–1:30 p.m.

The University of Minnesota and MYSA have again partnered to encourage soccer players and their families to participate in MYSA weekend at the Gophers, September 19 and 21, 2008. Youth wearing their soccer jersey are admitted free of charge and may bring an adult for just \$1 admission. MYSA will again conduct a food drive for *Second Harvest*. Please encourage all of your members to attend and bring a non-perishable food item. Each donation entitles the bearer to a chance for prizes at half-time. The Grand Prize at each game is a \$100 in Soccer Cash for redemption at Soccer USA, the official Soccer Store of MYSA.

For more details regarding the free soccer clinic or MYSA Weekend at the Gophers, visit the MYSA website at [www.mnyouthsoccer.org/whatsnew/ysmonth.cfm](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org/whatsnew/ysmonth.cfm).

#### Training Session: Possession / Ball Circulation *By Reid Ayers, Region 2 ODP Staff Coach*

Below is a session that was done in Rockford, Illinois during the ODP regional camp with the 1994 boys.

- [www.mnyouthsoccer.org/coaches/articles/possess\\_circulate.pdf](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org/coaches/articles/possess_circulate.pdf)

#### U9/U10 Fall Jamboree: Saturday October 4

##### Location: Cambridge-Isanti Soccer Complex

This one-day festival is open to all MYSA Competitive and Rec Plus teams and is designed to give players an opportunity to demonstrate their skills in a fun and festive atmosphere. Each team will be guaranteed three 30-minute games scheduled within a three-hour block. Participation gifts will be given to every participant of the Jamboree. Cost for this event is \$90.00 and checks can be made payable to MYSA. Deadline to register is Friday, September 19, 2008 at 5:00 pm.

- [www.mnyouthsoccer.org/events/jamboree.cfm](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org/events/jamboree.cfm)

### **MYSA Annual Awards**

Now is a great time to thank and recognize volunteers within your club. One way to recognize these individuals is by nominating them for one of eight awards presented by MYSA each year. All nominees receive two complimentary tickets to attend the MYSA Annual Recognition Banquet the first weekend in November where each person will be honored for their contributions. In addition to the recognition, the chosen recipient for each award will receive complimentary adidas gear, courtesy of MYSA.

The eight award categories are: Administrator of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Competitive Coach of the Year (Boys and Girls), Recreational Coach of the Year (Boys and Girls) and Young Referee of the Year (Male and Female). Please visit our website at [www.mnyouthsoccer.org/programs/awards.cfm](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org/programs/awards.cfm) for complete details and application forms. Nominations close on Monday, September 15, 2008.

### **US Youth Soccer Blog: Small-sided games for Under-12 *By Sam Snow***

Surveys of young players over the last few years have shown that the primary reason for players under 12 dropping out of soccer is that they were not having fun. The secondary reason is that they do not like their coaches. Both reasons would indicate that those players were not exposed to an appropriate playing environment for their age and/or ability levels. Too much at too young of an age would cause players to become disenchanted with the sport. Too little activity in practice sessions (drills) and games (too many players on the field) would cause players to become bored.

- [www.usyouthsoccer.org/Blog.asp?post\\_id=605](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org/Blog.asp?post_id=605)

### **Twin Cities Nets: Local Grassroots Effort to Combat Malaria**

In an effort to reach our soccer families around the world, MYSA asks that you pass along the following information and consider participating in these efforts to combat malaria. On Sunday, September 14 at 5 p.m., Twin Cities' Soccer fans will be hosting a benefit for Nothing But Nets, a nonprofit organization that provides insecticide-treated bed nets to areas of the world impacted by malaria. Every year more than one million people, primarily children from sub-Saharan Africa, needlessly die from this disease. For more information regarding the Nothing But Nets organization and what they do, visit [www.nothingbutnets.net](http://www.nothingbutnets.net).

The fundraiser is being held at the Nomad World Pub located at 501 Cedar Ave. in Minneapolis. Family and friends are encouraged to attend the festivities which include food, drinks, music and a silent auction. Admission is \$10 with the goal to raise \$10,000 to purchase 1,000 nets. For more information about this event visit: [www.myspace.com/twincitiesnets](http://www.myspace.com/twincitiesnets).