



SOUTH JERSEY SOCCER LEAGUE NEWSLETTER

May/June 2019
Volume 6, Issue 5

www.sjssl.org

What Have You Done for Me Lately?



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The last several years have seen a concerted effort on the part of the league to respond to the concerns of our member clubs and to surpass their expectations. We have grown from a league using handwritten and color coded cardboard game day rosters, calling in game scores to division coordinators, paying state admin fees, and only receiving our game schedules after a four plus hour mandatory coaches' meeting. We have moved on from a "super rec" league to a borderline state association out of necessity.

Our coaches have asked for and received: set 10 game schedules, allowing for some flexibility; 3 man referee crews; lower registration fees; coaching education focusing on league rules and skills training; an expansion of game day rosters to include girls and guest players; written registration instructions and a user friendly and informative website.

The switch to US Club has allowed many of our smaller clubs and teams to card players that were previously ineligible to play in our league. The changes to the dual carding and secondary pass rules has opened up our rosters to allow more kids to play the game.

The switch to GotSoccer allowed coaches to centralize their event planning on one platform. Just about every team that played in a tournament was already familiar with GotSoccer, the point system and the scheduling format. The link between GotSoccer and Arbiter allowed for better coordination in referee assignments and the inclusion of referee names on the GDRs.

In the last year, the league has successfully changed carding and website platforms, rolled out a new instructive coaching education program, formed several committees and introduced the inaugural South Jersey Cup in conjunction with SJGSL. Behind the scenes, the league revised outdated rules, and worked with clubs and teams to roster new and transfer players and coaches.

In the next couple of pages, you will see what has been done lately and what is still out on the horizon. If you have other ideas to help us to improve, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of our board members or to one of our committees. We are here for you and to make it better for the children in our many communities.

Find us on the web at: www.sjssl.org

South Jersey Cup Champions!



The South Jersey Cup began its inaugural year with the Fall 2018 season. 128 boys teams signed up from U10 to U14. There were 13 groups of teams, divided up by age groups and flight ranking. The fall season featured group play with games scheduled by the teams. The rosters were frozen for the spring semi-finals and finals.

The new format allowed many teams to compete in a cup for the first time. With up to three champions per age group, many more teams were afforded the opportunity to be called "Champions". The finals, held on fields donated by Voorhees Soccer Association and Marlton Soccer Club, featured a pre-game team walkout to the center circle, top ranked referee crews from our league, medals for both the finalists and the champions, team shirts for the winners, and a team photo opportunity for all teams. In addition, the SJ Cup champions will be recognized on a special night (7/6) at a Philadelphia Union game.

Many of the games went into overtime, and several were decided by penalty kicks. By all accounts, a great time was had by all!



The 2018–2019 SJ Cup List of Champions!

U10 Altidore TBAA Wildcats
 U10 Dempsey Bordentown FC Galaxy
 U10 Bradley Mantua Strikers
 U11 Howard Voorhees Venom
 U11 Keller Pennsgrove Diablos
 U11 Friedel Winslow Cyclones
 U12 Pulisic UT Earthquakes
 U12 Wood Waterford Wings
 U12 Bedoya Voorhees Revolution
 U13 Harkes Vineland Raptors
 U13 Ramos Haddonfield Red
 U14 Lalas SWSA Rebels
 U14 McBride West Deptford Chaos

The SJ Cup Returns!

2nd Annual



By popular demand, the SJ Cup will return for the 2019–2020 seasonal year. The registration fee (\$50) will remain the same. Cup registration opened on May 20, 2019 and will close on July 19, 2019. All checks should be made out to SJGSL and mailed to Heather Talarico. The semi-finals are scheduled to be held on April 25/26 and the finals on May 30/31. More information is posted on the league website at www.sjsl.org.

Scholarships!



At the June 13, 2019 league General Membership meeting, SJSJL will award scholarship(s) to three finalists based on their academic achievement, school activities, participation in the South Jersey Soccer League, participation in sports, and community service.

SJSJL has set up a scholarship program where players and former players who participated in the league for at least four years and who will graduate high school in spring 2019 and continue their adult education can apply for a scholarship, subject to the approval of the SJSJL Executive Board. The league received 25 applications and three individuals were selected to each receive a \$1,500 scholarship payable to the school of their choice.

This year's winners were: Jeff Elliott, Anthony Razze and James Grimm.

Jeff attends Palmyra H.S. and is 4th in his class. He plans to attend Rutgers New Brunswick and studying business. He played for the Palmyra Riverton Soccer Club.

Anthony attends Pitman H.S. and is 7th in his class. He plans to attend McDaniel College majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Sports Management. He played for the Pitman and Mantua soccer clubs.

James attends the Atlantic County Institute of Technology and is 9th in his class. He has been accepted the University of Purdue and plans to study finance. He played for Atlantic United.

SJ Coaching Classes!



As advertised, the new Level 2 South Jersey Coaching Education class was rolled out in April/May. Seventeen coaches comprised the inaugural Level 2 class. Congratulations to:

Joe Creighton, Delran FC
 Tomer Levy, Winslow
 Adam Nicely, Collingswood
 Cal O'Neal, Burlington Twp
 Marc Plevinsky, Cherry Hill FC
 Mark Roxberry, Cherry Hill SC
 David Sansevero, TBAA
 Ely Sebastian, Voorhees
 Christopher Wade, Bordentown FC
 Caryn Zweben, Cherry Hill FC
 Ezequiel Castro, Florence
 Rueben Cuevas, Logan SC
 Jonathan Dryden, Highland
 Michael Habingreither, Florence
 Greg Rempkowski, Burlington Twp
 Renee Schmalbach, Maple Shade
 Martin Geisser, Vineland

The summer Level 1 classes are now posted and open for registration:

Classroom sessions: June 19th (Deptford); July 19th (Wash. Twp.); Aug 7th (Cape Express)

Field sessions: June 22nd (Winslow); July 21st (Wash. Twp.); Aug 10th (Cape Express).

For more information, go to www.sjsjl.org, under Coach Resources and then Coaching Education.

New Referee Comment Form!



At the May SJSL General Membership meeting, an alternative was presented to the current referee eval form. A review of the submissions revealed that the league had approximately a 91% compliance rate (thanks to the tireless efforts of Tom DiValerio!) and an average ref score of 8.62. The current referee eval program was designed to give a voice to our coaches and to also help identify those referees who were the best of the best and those that needed further mentoring. Following a discussion of an alternative approach, the member clubs voted overwhelmingly to switch to a new program.

As a pilot program for the Fall 2019 season, the league will no longer require mandatory referee evaluations to be filed. Instead, the league will test a voluntary reporting system utilizing a Google form that has been designed based on the questions in last year's program. Those coaches who would like to submit a comment may click on the Google link and complete the form. It is completely voluntary. At the end of the form is an open area for comments. We ask that the comments be informative so that we can investigate further if necessary.

It is anticipated that the number of entries will drop off dramatically, leaving only those entries identifying problems or seeking to acknowledge excellence. Ultimately, the league is seeking to use a system that best serves our membership, without making it a burden on our coaches. We recognize that the voluntary nature of the system may limit its usefulness, and limit our ability to adequately identify problem areas. As such, it will begin as a pilot program for the Fall.

National Registration System?



A national registration system has been discussed for some time at the US Soccer level. Last year, it was anticipated that everyone would transition over to a national player identification system. The concept was that the player would be given a unique identifying pass number that would follow them throughout each year in the youth program. This change is being driven by the national organization, and is not optional for us.

Recently emails have gone out to the member clubs from US Club Soccer announcing the transition to a national registration system. US Club is in the process of migrating all of our coach and player information over to this new system that will be powered by SportsEngine. As video demonstrations and training material become available, they will be posted on the league website to help our member clubs. The SJSL Executive Board has requested registration materials ahead of time so that they can be reviewed and modified as necessary to address our needs. As more information becomes available, we will share it with everyone.

It is anticipated that the majority of our information will simply migrate over to the new system without any action on our part. The only necessary training will be handling new players and coaches. The league is attempting to schedule training from US Club for our member clubs.

SJSJL Executive BoardPresident: [Larry Young](#)Vice President: [Bob Cooper](#)General Secretary: [Jim Miller](#)Treasurer: [Tom DiValerio](#)Registrar: [Chuck Snyder](#)Fall Games Commissioner: [Mike Trojak](#)Spring Games Commissioner: [Helmut
Lackermayer](#)Rules Compliance Officer: [Tom Olbrich](#)First Trustee: [Scott Hartman](#)Second Trustee: [Ed Eichen](#)Third Trustee: [Gary Rambo](#)Recording Secretary: [Heather Talarico](#)Information Officer: [Keith Rambo](#)Webmaster: [Keith Rambo](#)

Board Elections!



At the June 13th General Membership meeting, SJSJL will hold its annual Executive Board elections. As an odd numbered year (see SJSJL Const., Art. VI, Sect. XIV), the following board positions are up for re-election/election: the President, the Recording Secretary, the Treasurer, the Rules Compliance Officer, the Fall Games Commissioner, the First Trustee, and the Third Trustee. As discussed at the May GM meeting, all of the incumbent officers, except for one, has indicated that they will be seeking re-election. The Rules Compliance Officer, Tom Olbrich, has indicated that he will not be returning and that he will step down from his position.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Tom for his tireless service on behalf of this league. Tom was responsible for reviewing all of the cards and poor conduct ratings given by the referees, and any improper conduct cited on the game reports. He was tasked with the initial administration of all complaints in a manner that was consistent with the playing rules and regulations of the league. He chaired the 3 man team responsible for tracking the receipt of all GDRs, and he formed and chaired, as necessary all of the grievance committees. His dedication and leadership in this area was unparalleled. His contributions will be sorely missed and difficult to replace.

Committees!



Just a reminder – SJSJL continues to look for members to join our various committees. Contact the following if you are interested in participating:

5 Year Committee – Scott Hartman
(scott.hartman3@comcast.net)

Rules Committee – Tom DiValerio or Gary Rambo
(tomdivalerio@gmail.com or
the3ds3@comcast.net)

SJ Cup Committee – Heather Talarico
(htalarico115@gmail.com)

