

Welcome Soccer Players and Parents!!!

Wow, hard to believe that the 2010 outdoor soccer season is rapidly approaching, and we are all excited for the spring. I would like to welcome everyone back to Rutland Youth Soccer again this year, even if you did not play with us last year, you may be interested in coming back this year.

First off, you will notice that our fees for this upcoming season have increased. Let me explain our reason behind this. As some of you may already know, in the past years we have always received Gaming Grant money from the Bingo Association / Government to the tune of about \$30,000.00 per year. This was a major cash injection into our small club, which more than helped us pay for the equipment (uniforms, equipment, coaching clinics etc). Well in June 2009 the government put a freeze on all Gaming Grant money. We are unsure if this freeze is permanent or only temporary, which is frustrating to all concerned. So, because our major funding is not available to us this upcoming season, and with the increase in costs to the registration fees that we pay to BC Soccer for registering the players as well as paying for the insurance for all our players and coaches, we have had no option but to also increase our fees. We have tried to minimize the increase as much as possible and we realize that this may be a financial hardship on some families – however, this is still one of the cheapest organized team sports to play. We do not want financial difficulties to hold back any child from playing.

So for the 2010 outdoor season, our U6 program (for those born in 2004) has increased to \$95.00, our U7 to U18 programs (those born in 1992 – 2003) the fee has increased to \$130.00, if you have 3 children from the same family registering – the third child is only \$75.00 and if you have 4 or more from the same family the 4th child is \$50.00. As time is of the essence – we really need to get all the registrations back by **Friday February 5, 2010** – to avoid any disappointment in placement on a team. Also, please note that while you can make requests on your form, however, there is **no guarantee** that they will be granted. Coach requests are not accepted, as we do not know which coaches are returning as this time. This deadline allows me just enough time to calculate how many players we have in each age level and how many teams I will need – with any registrations that come in after the deadline, there is no guarantee of a placement onto a team. Payment can be made in installments or post dated cheques to February 28, 2010.

As in every year, there is also some financial assistance available to those families that qualify through organizations such as KidSport and Canadian Tire Kick Start program. If you feel you need to access these programs, you can contact the registrar confidentially rysamail@shaw.ca and I can get you the forms to fill out.

At this time I would also like to put a general call out to all those parents that want to become more involved in their child's soccer experience – hopefully by coaching or assisting a coach, or become a team manager or “soccer / snack parent”. Ideally we would love to see each and every team with a coach and at least one assistant. The time is minimal and the rewards are plenty 😊

Have a great season!!
Shirley Guenette – Registrar