



WWPSA Annual Report

2007 WWPSA Quick Facts

Program participation	
Adult Competitive League	36
Adult Fall Recreational Soccer	109
Adult Spring Recreational Soccer	91
Big Brothers / Big Sisters	48
Camp – Recreational Soccer	123
Coaching F License Course	58
Rutgers Safety Course	22
Travel Tactical & Positional Training	60
Youth Fall Recreational Soccer	1,494
Youth Spring Recreational Soccer	491
Youth Travel Soccer	537
	<u>2,955</u>

WWPSA primarily serves West Windsor and Plainsboro, New Jersey, but also claims program participants in nearby Princeton, Cranbury, East Windsor, Lawrenceville, Hamilton, Robbinsville and over 55 other townships in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

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Chairman's Report (Chairman – Justin D. Stein)

We continued to see positive changes during 2007, including some of the spirit that lives within our volunteers during times of difficult transition. We saw continuing strides towards improving the culture of the Club by aligning ourselves with PUMA as the official supplier of apparel and merchandise to WWPSA, as well as hiring our first full-time employee, Robin Dean, as Executive Director. I believe we are on the right track to making the most of the wonderful opportunities our area provides.

- Sunburst 2007 ushered in new tournament directors and kicked-off our relationship with PUMA as we welcomed 177 teams to our area. Competition was strong and we set a positive tone to host a terrific tournament in 2008.
- We hired Robin Dean, a seasoned veteran of WWPSA programs and leadership, as our first Executive Director, to oversee day-to-day operations and implement strategic initiatives as directed by the Board. Robin has fulfilled numerous roles since he began in July and his help has been invaluable in delivering our fall programs.
- We eagerly welcomed the restoration of WWCP # 2 and Conover # 1 to serve as high-quality practice fields
- We launched our first-ever Rec-only tournament, Goal Fest 3v3, to glowing reviews and a wonderful, fun day of play. We're really looking forward to making it even better next year.
- Seven of our older Travel teams have configured their teams' page to support Player Profile Booklets that can be presented to college coaches at tournaments to help the kids increase their recognition and their chances of being admitted to their preferred college
- We formally documented our Mission and a Vision Statement to clearly convey who we are, what our Club stands for and why
- We introduced upgraded fanware to help coaches and parents get real value and use out of their great-looking WWPSA-logo merchandise on the sidelines
- We introduced "Club colors" to the uniforms of our Rec and Adult soccer programs to better align all programs under the Club's singular set of values
- We donated 50 balls to a school in Kenya
- We helped dozens of young coaches obtain their F-License, a minimum requirement to coach in Travel soccer and a key asset to coach Rec players
- We fielded 41 Travel teams, a new WWPSA record
- We introduced two new leagues for Fall Rec, at your request to better balance players of equal size and skill.



It is with great admiration that I say goodbye to two truly dedicated volunteers who have given tremendously over the past few years as Bill Kramer and Steve Per step down from the Board in their posts as Dir. of Rec Soccer and Dir. of Merchandise, respectively. Randie Brazel and Marc Herold have also decided that they would like to step aside to allow new Board members to take their places, and I would like to thank all outgoing Board members for their dedication and contributions to the Club. Also, for the first time, more than one person expressed an interest in a Board-level position, necessitating an actual election and not just a rubber-stamp approval on those who step forward to serve on the Board. To those new volunteers without previous WWPSA Board experience, I welcome you and wish you the very best of luck.

Our continued partnership with the Townships of West Windsor and Plainsboro, the West Windsor Plainsboro Board of Education and the Sarnoff Corporation, warrants our sincere and continuous gratitude for their efforts at providing WWPSA with fields suitable for our needs.

As we head into our next growth phase and partner with West Windsor Township to plan and develop significant facilities improvements to the Zaitz and Conover Parks complexes, I'm excited to focus the direction our Club will take over the next year.

What will be next for us? Believe it or not, it's up to you to guide the Club by providing honest, constructive feedback and volunteering your time to help run various aspects of the Club. We need your continued involvement as coaches, league managers, coordinators and directors, as well as one-time volunteers to make this entire operation hum. I look forward to working with you to make it happen.

Executive Director's Report (Robin Dean)

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As a club with almost 2,400 youth and adult soccer players, WWPSA's challenge is to deliver a consistently high-quality product to all our members. While our current size reflects past success, we recognize the need for significant improvements in many areas, including: our fields and facilities; the quality of our training; the value of our programs; and the development of our profile to help further these goals.

The development of our fields and facilities is a top priority. The Memorandum of Understanding which will govern the relationship between WWPSA and West Windsor Township is almost complete; this agreement not only formally describes the responsibilities of each party in the maintenance of our field locations, but more importantly lays the groundwork for the long-term improvement and financial investment in our fields. The next step will involve the introduction of drainage and irrigation systems, permanent lighting, improved field surfaces, and potentially a turf field. We continue to rely upon all of our field partners – West Windsor Township, Plainsboro Township, Sarnoff Corporation and the Board of Education – for their support. Without them, many of our programs would be not be possible.

The Fall Youth Recreation program was a success, largely due to the great efforts of the Director of Rec., League Managers and volunteer coaches. For 2008, a significant effort will be made to address the need for more balanced teams in all Leagues. We aim to train, develop and provide more referees to ensure 100% coverage for all games for 3rd Grade Leagues and older. The newly introduced WWPSA Coaches Curriculum will be further supported with online video clips to help coaches to prepare their training sessions. We will continue to promote small-sided soccer (3v3, 4v4) as the ideal training format and will explore the potential for more Recreation events to enhance our players experience. Hopefully, our Rec players will continue to take advantage of the professional group training sessions provided as part of the Rec programs in Spring and Fall. Summer and Winter programs are also offered by our professional training partners. The Goal Fest 3v3 tournament, designed exclusively for our Rec players, took place for the first time; while successful, many lessons were learned which will help the development of this event in the future.

The Travel program has advanced significantly in the past few years in the face of increasing competition from surrounding clubs and private soccer academies. While some of our most skilled players have been lured away to other clubs, the Travel program has taken a number of steps to turn the tide. Our teams are competing at ever higher levels advancing into more competitive Leagues such as MAPS and JAGS. In the past, once formed, Travel teams were left largely to determine their own direction. Going forward, while retaining some of that autonomy, we hope to develop increased cooperation between teams, using our collective strength to encourage and support our teams to play at higher levels, to enter and be accepted to more competitive tournaments and to attract the highest level of professional trainers. To increase the opportunities available



to our most committed players, we will seek to develop relationships locally, within the State and beyond. Ultimately, our goal should be to seek the best possible opportunities for our Travel players whether their ultimate goal is the travel experience itself, Varsity or College soccer.

Our Adult program, while still only a few years old, has developed into a strong program. Two teams represent WWPSA in a competitive league, while several others play in local indoor leagues and tournaments. The Adult Rec program offers an opportunity for our coaches, parents and other local adults to participate in soccer in a friendly environment.

I would like to provide even more complete and better defined information to players interested in our programs. The number of programs we offer has increased over the past few years to encompass all seasons and all levels of play. Our goal is to provide the best possible experience to all of our players from pre-K through adult, whether casual, recreational or highly competitive. It is important to clearly define each program, its structure, cost and expectations in order that players and their families are matched with the most appropriate opportunity. In general, we will focus on resources for players, coaches, referees and parents to enhance their experience.

WWPSA should continue to leverage its size for the benefit of all of our members. We will introduce soccer partnerships, for example with the New Jersey Wildcats women's soccer team, which will include training opportunities for all of our girls as well as joint marketing opportunities to potential corporate sponsors. We will continue to work with PUMA to address our immediate concerns and to develop future opportunities.

Last but not most important, as a non-profit Association, WWPSA relies entirely upon the support of its members to make our programs possible. I am extremely thankful to all of our volunteers - Board Members, Committee Members, Team Managers, and parent volunteers - for their time and efforts to support what we do. Without these volunteers, too numerous to mention, we would not exist. We are constantly in need of help. While we recognize that not everyone is able to commit significant time, even the smallest contribution is helpful. And, if you cannot give any time, we ask your support in the smallest ways - provide positive encouragement to your player(s), their teammates, coaches and referees, drive responsibly at our fields and park in designated spaces, help set up and clean up by taking away your litter - all of these contributions, however small, make this a better Association.

I look forward to the challenges ahead and will strive to improve the experience and opportunities presented to all of our players.

Financial Report (Dir. of Finance – Pat Trombetta)

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We collected \$98,360 in facilities fees that are designated specifically to facilities projects. Separate financial statements will be reviewed during the meeting.

Facilities Report (Dir. of Facilities – Howard Rabin)

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Accomplishments

In 2007, we saw marked improvement in the quality of playing surfaces at a number of facilities in West Windsor. WWCP #1 is a high-quality, game-only field; WWCP#2 is a well-maintained and well-lit practice facility. Conover FS#1 held up well, despite the long summer drought. We now have access to a second lit practice field at Conover which will receive substantial attention and renovations in the Spring of 2008.

Thanks to Robin Dean's efforts (keeping those light towers functional) we made significant progress in terms of lighting the Zaitz practice areas throughout the Fall season.

We greatly appreciate the continued use of the Sarnoff fields. We rely on Sarnoff for many of our events, although we have little control over that facility.

We have also improved our communication and cooperation with the Plainsboro Parks personnel. We could not function without their work, assistance or facilities.

Objectives

We recognize that well-lit practice facilities and high-quality game fields are important concerns for all our members. Our comprehensive facilities plan is designed to improve every WWPSA soccer field. These improvements have already begun and will continue, subject only to the constraints imposed by engineers, politicians and accountants.

The fields at Zaitz and Conover are slated for additional refurbishment in 2008. We met several times with the West Windsor Township in 2007 to move these plans ahead. With the cooperation of West Windsor Township, we plan to implement



significant renovations and improvements at a number of West Windsor locations in 2008.

Safety

Please drive safely and obey all road signs when dropping off or picking up players, e.g., One Way, No Parking, etc.

Remember, at least two (2) adults must be present at all WWPSA functions at all times, including practices and clinics, so be sure to communicate among your team's parents to make sure at least one parent is always there with a coach.

Goals must be anchored before practice or play begins. Coaches, players and parents should look for hazards prior to every practice or game. Please report any unsafe condition to facilities@wwpsa.org.

Recognition

We appreciate and rely upon the volunteers who perform field set-up, field break-down and special projects. Please continue to watch for opportunities to help us monitor and improve the facilities we all use. If you are one of those who has already helped: thank you!

Equipment Report (presented by Robin Dean) [Back to top](#)

This year marked the introduction of our new partnership with PUMA who provided uniforms for all of our players and programs, including Youth Rec., Youth Travel, Adult Rec. and Adult Competitive. As a result of the combined order, WWPSA received significant promotional support in the form of coaches' shirts, goalkeeper shirts, tournament shirts, team bags and balls. PUMA also supported our tournament events at Sunburst and Goal Fest 3v3.

All WWPSA players were outfitted in the club colors of green and white. For the first time, Youth Recreational players were provided with two uniform shirts instead of only one. As a result, we were able

to eliminate excess uniform orders; in the past, it was necessary to order multiple uniform sets for each League with the maximum anticipated number of shirts per team, long before we knew the final number of registrations. Going forward, players will have the opportunity to reuse their uniforms when they register for future programs, reducing the registration fee for players who do not need a new uniform. Potentially, uniforms will be able to be used for two years, creating a significant overall saving in registration fees.

Uniform sizing and distribution created a number of challenges. In total, we received more than 12,000 items from PUMA including approximately 6,000 shirts. We anticipate that we have enough uniforms remaining in stock to support our Spring Rec program needs for 2008.

Our equipment inventory is currently strong with plenty of soccer balls, corner flags, pinnies, cones and other items. Our equipment needs in 2008 will likely revolve more around goal frames and nets than smaller items. Our inventory is currently stored in four locations: Soccer House, Access Storage and two field containers. This fall, significant progress was made to sort and organize our inventory and to clean the storage areas. In the near future, we plan to donate hundreds of old uniforms accumulated over the past years as overstock.

Rec Report (Dir. of Rec Soccer – Bill Kramer) [Back to top](#)

WWPSA's Youth Recreational Soccer division had a reasonably good year in 2007, but not without exposing a small number of issues that need to be addressed in 2008. This past year began with a change in leadership for the Youth Recreational division, when I stepped aside in favor of Sanjay Mandloi during last year's elections. I agreed to stay on as Sanjay's assistant. Unfortunately, after 6 months Sanjay resigned his position due to the time commitments of a new job. I reassumed the Director's role and worked quickly to start preparations for the Fall season. This year I will step aside again, confident that the candidate who is elected will succeed with the help of the club leadership that will surround him or her.

Spring 2007: The Spring 2007 session was successful, with 613 registered players. The session was once again run on the field by our training partner ProActive Sport, which is run by Nick Harrison. We upgraded the uniform shirts that we provide to players while we were transitioning as a club to uniforms provided by our new partner, Puma.

Summer 2007: The Summer 2007 pickup program was also a success, and many players were able to enjoy informal games of soccer that were offered at the same time as pickup games were offered to adults, allowing parents and kids were able to show up and play at the same time. Thanks to Tom Laesch who coordinated the Summer program.

Fall 2007: WWPSA's largest and highest profile Rec program is of course the Fall Session, which this year provided more of a challenge than in the past due to the timing of the change in Rec Division leadership. The planning process for the Fall began very late, causing us to open Registration at the end of June, which in turn resulted in a late start to almost everything else,



including recruiting League Managers, recruiting coaches, and determining the size of leagues, determining the number of teams needed and in some cases the size of team rosters and the format of games. This Fall, our numbers were down for the first time in several years (see chart).

Fall Rec 2007 vs. 2006 Statistics

<i>Program</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>Pct Chg.</i>
Boys Fall Rec	836	930	-10%
Girls Fall Rec	534	603	-11%
Fall Pre-K	124	120	3%
Total	1,494	1,693	-10%

We had 1,494 players in 18 leagues and 122 teams with 316 registered volunteer coaches. One of the challenges facing the club is to see if the decline is a one-time event fueled by the late start to registration or if it is the beginning of a demographic trend. One key improvement for next year is to better advertise the opening of registration for all of our programs.

We again sponsored a Big Brothers and Big Sisters program, utilizing volunteer soccer players from the High School North and High School South Varsity programs to assist the coaches in our youngest leagues. Turnout was good by the Girls teams, but participation by the Boys teams was disappointing. In exchange for their efforts, WWPSA pledged a \$1,000 donation to each team based on participation. We will make two donations this year, one to each Girls team, as recognition of their contribution to our programs. We need to evaluate how well this program is helping our coaches before renewing the effort for next year.

We also provided financial assistance to several families this year, allowing a total of 8 players to participate free of charge. We also provided those families with

gift cards from Dick's Sporting Goods to use for soccer equipment that were donated as part of their sponsorship of the Rec program.

We implemented several changes this year, most of them successful:

- We adjusted our older leagues to continue our effort to reduce the age gap in any one league. This year, for the first time, the largest gap of ages in any league lower than Seniors was two years, a far cry from several years ago when the Girls Intermediate League had players from 5th through 7th grades playing together and Girls Seniors had 8th through 12th.
- We changed our uniform system to one provided by Puma. The green and white jerseys seemed to be well-received, but the quality of the uniforms was not what we expected. We are discussing how to remedy this issue going forward.
- We moved practices for 3rd Grade Boys and Girls to Saturdays prior to games instead of during the week. This helped alleviate demand for good quality lit training fields and a traditional shortage of coaches who commute to and from New York and have a difficult time assuring that they will arrive at practice on-time.
- We began using large signs at our fields with detailed field maps and schedules posted each week. These seemed most useful for the younger leagues where we have many games in a small area.

Another major change was our experiment with an alternative method for assigning players to teams in Boys 4th, where League Manager Len Hayduchok held an evaluation session on the first Saturday of the season, followed by the League Manager and head coaches picking teams during that weekend. Most individual requests were honored, and team assignments were sent out by the next day. This method holds several significant advantages over how we've completed team assignments in the past:

- Allows for later registrations
- Significantly reduces the work of the league manager, especially during August when so many are on vacation
- Allows coaches to participate in the player selection process
- Creates greater transparency in the process and reduces the opportunity for League Managers to "stack" their children's teams
- Aligns parents' expectations of when team assignments should be received with what our process allows.
- Eliminates the need for written evaluations from coaches the previous fall, which is a painful process for all involved.

This process worked so well and has so much promise that we've included it in our preliminary planning for the 2008 Fall season with some important modifications. Of course, the incoming Director of Rec will participate in the final decision,



but this way certainly has merits and can make the jobs of key volunteers much easier.

We once again offered Monday and Wednesday Group Training Sessions to all Rec players in Kindergarten and above. We also provided all Rec coaches with a written coaching plan developed jointly by the Director of Training and ProActive Sport, our professional training partner.

One of the challenges we had again this year was the assignment of Referees throughout the 3rd Grade and older leagues. This improved midway through the year when our Executive Director, Robin Dean, took over and was able to dedicate significant time to the task each week. Robin has plans for making further improvements in the process for next year.

There were two Red Cards issued this season, the first to a coach and the second to a player. Each recipient was ejected from the game in which they received the Red Card and was suspended for the next game. This is the second consecutive year that Rec has seen a volunteer coach receive a Red Card for challenging the authority of a referee during a game. This represents a very small percentage of our coaches, but WWPSA's challenge is to figure out an effective way to ensure coaches fully understand acceptable behavior on the field.

The Fall season culminated in playoffs for the Boys Senior and Boys Intermediate Leagues. Each playoff went well. In the Boys Intermediate Final, Jaguar defeated Porsche by a score of 2-0. In the Boys Senior Final, Red Bulls defeated Arsenal in a come-from-behind, overtime victory by a score of 4-2. The Girls Senior and Intermediate Leagues decided not to have playoffs this year.

The Rec Division once again paid for a pizza party for the Boys Senior League as a way to say

“thank you” to the boys who played their entire careers through 12th grade with us. The Girls Senior League chose to apply a pro-rata amount towards each team's year-end party for the same purpose, to honor the girls who played through 12th grade.

Thanks to all League Managers; they have a difficult job, and without them we couldn't have the high quality program in the fall that do. Winter 2008 Program: WWPSA is considering offering an indoor Winter program starting in January; details will be posted on www.wwpsa.org once confirmed.

Conclusion

The biggest needs for Rec remain developing enough well-lit practice fields that have a good enough surface to take the daily pounding of 4 hours of games or practices throughout the fall season and having enough dedicated volunteers to tackle the tough jobs.

Volunteering in a role such as this one is a lot of hard work and late nights, but it is equally rewarding. I can tell you that some of my most memorable moments were small things, like helping a family that's new to the area register just in time to start fitting into new surroundings, helping families who need financial assistance so that their children could play with their friends, or watching our newest players – in Pre-K, Kindergarten, or 1st Grade – know that they've accomplished something very real by stepping foot on the soccer field for the first time.

While there are many people I need to thank for helping me over the past three years in this position, these people in particular are dedicated to the cause of WWPSA beyond my ability to express my gratitude:

- Justin Stein, WWPSA Chairperson and former League Manager
- Robin Dean, Executive Director and former Director of Soccer Development
- Steve Per, Merchandise and Equipment and former League Manager
- Howard Rabin, Director of Facilities
- David Westbrook, WWPSA past President and current Rec coach
- Earl Deamond, past Director of Facilities
- Nick Harrison, President of ProActive Sports

I wish my successor good luck in continuing and improving the soccer program for all youth players in Plainsboro and West Windsor.

Travel Report (presented by Robin Dean)

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At present, WWPSA's Travel program is among the largest in New Jersey with approximately 550 players participating on 41 teams ranging from U-08 through U-18. Our teams provide most interested players with an opportunity to play at a range



of competitive levels. Many of our teams compete in the Mid New Jersey League (MNJYSA), while several of our premier teams have advanced to play Mid-Atlantic Premier Soccer (MAPS) or Jersey Area Girls Soccer (JAGS). We have experienced success in State and National Cup competitions as well as the many tournaments we attend, both in New Jersey and out-of-state.

We face several challenges. There are an increasing number of private soccer academies enticing our players. Currently, our facilities limit the amount of growth we can sustain unless we increase the number and quality of our fields, especially our lit practice fields. Our premier teams face difficulties to be accepted to more competitive tournaments, a challenge that becomes more pronounced for our older teams attempting to enter College Showcase events. We need to identify and attract more high-level trainers to support a growing program without sacrificing quality. We need to support all of our teams, recognizing their different philosophies and considering the increasing costs of participation. The competitive level of our teams will only continue to improve provided we can attract high-level trainers, solve our field limitations, develop a greater profile in the wider soccer community, and work collectively toward a common goal.

Despite these challenges, WWPSA's Travel program remains one of the largest in New Jersey. Under the leadership of a new Director of Travel, the Travel Executive Committee will strive to address the issues and to continue to provide the best possible opportunities for training and competitive play for all of our players.

Adult Report (Dir. of Adult Soccer – David Boate) [Back to top](#)

The Adult soccer program continues to grow. During 2007,

the number of registered adult players increased by approximately 20 players over 2006. Three adult programs were offered during 2007: Adult Recreation League, Adult Competitive program, and Summer Pick-Up program. Currently, there are 146 adult registrations.

The Adult Recreational League is a co-ed soccer league that offers players 18 and over of all abilities the opportunity to play soccer on Saturday afternoons. It is a friendly league where score is kept on the days played but standings are not recorded. Fall season registrations consisted of approximately 80% male and 20% female. The average age is approximately 34 years old; the oldest player is 52. The league does not use referees; good sportsmanship is promoted through a player call forum. This type of league is unique to Central New Jersey area.

Adult Recreational League programs were offered in both the spring and fall. The fall season had the most registered players ever, 109, yielding eight teams; 91 registered for the spring season.

The cost of the program was \$60. The cost mainly covers insurance paid by WWPSA plus a facilities fee that is paid by all WWPSA players. A shirt is also provided for Adult Recreational players — this past year, royal blue in the Spring and white in the Fall.

Adult Competitive Program

The Adult Competitive Program is essentially the Association's Travel program for adults. Two teams play in the Mercer County Amateur Masters Soccer League, www.mercermensoccer.net. Currently, 37 adults are registered to play on either the Wasps or Cosmos. Games are played on Sunday mornings at Mercer County Park. The Wasps are in their fourth season, while the Cosmos have played for two years.

Player fees were increased this year to cover all costs incurred by the club, the largest being League Fees. Insurance, which costs more for adults than youth players, was renegotiated this year and substantially reduced. The cost of \$170 per player is for an annual season of 19 scheduled games in both the fall and spring. This cost is more than players on other MCAMSL teams pay; however, WWPSA's teams are able to practice at least once a week on a lit WWPSA field. Uniforms are also included in the cost.

Summer Pick-Up Games

Adult Summer pick-up games were offered on Saturday evenings this past summer. Adult only pick-up games were played on Saturday evenings at Sarnoff.

Soccer Development Report

(Dir. of Soccer Development – Paul St. Amour)

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Soccer Development (SD) facilitates the skill development of our youth recreational soccer players, coaches and referees.

This annual report highlights some of the SD accomplishments made during 2007.



Players

Developing better soccer players through direct interaction with the children is our primary area of focus. On-field training is primarily provided by our training partner ProActive Sports and Soccer (ProActive). This year we held sessions for pre-K through eighth grade in the spring, summer and fall seasons. In the spring and fall, SD supported Recreational soccer by coordinating the ProActive trainers. This instruction included age-specific training sessions and game support. During the summer, we partnered with ProActive to conduct soccer programs that led over 100 players in a variety of games.

Building on the great success of the 2006 Big Brother and Sister program, we extended this fall's program to assign the 51 Big Brother and Sister volunteers to support the parent coaches of our Kindergarten 1st grade teams. The players added youthful energy to the training sessions and acted as positive role models to our youngest players. We want to thank all the volunteers, the high school coaches who supported our program and the parents who drove their children every Saturday morning. A particularly loud "thank you" goes out to the 29 girls from High School South.

In 2006, the Club released its training development program. This age-specific program provides weekly training guidance for Kindergarten – 8th grade teams. In 2007, the training guides were more widely distributed to all coaches. We also undertook a project with PlaySportsTV (headed by Doug Donaldson) and ProActive (headed by Nick Harrison) to establish a web-based version of the training guide. The web-based medium will provide coaches with video vignettes of all the training exercises in the WWPSA training guides along with additional tips and guidance to plan and conduct

training sessions. Originally planned for release in the fall season, we expect it to be available before the upcoming spring season.

WWPSA and ProActive have worked together for almost two years following a competitive bid process. During this time, Nick Harrison and the trainers from ProActive have provided terrific support to the club and stepped up in many situations when we needed their support. In recognition of this strong partnership, the Association and ProActive have agreed to extend the current agreement through the spring of 2009.

Coaches

SD recognizes that the Club cannot be the sole provider of all training provided. For our children to excel, we must provide them with an opportunity play and learn more frequently than just in the professional trainer-led sessions. Volunteer parent coaches are the backbone of our players' continued development. We are thankful for these volunteers and are happy to accept volunteers of all abilities. To support our volunteer coaches, SD deployed pre-season training sessions for our parent coaches. These sessions are designed to help the coaches more effectively plan and conduct training sessions and manage their teams. Prior to the fall season, we ran two coaches' training sessions that were attended by over 100 volunteer parent coaches. Robin Dean and Nick Harrison led these sessions.

For our travel team coaches and recreation coaches who desire additional training, we hosted an F-license course during the summer. We trained 64 coaches from around the Mercer county area including 22 from WW-P. The F-license is required for coaches of all travel teams and is also very helpful for recreation coaches who want to build their competency.

Finally, SD hosted a Rutgers University SAFETY course for 18 new coaches. Former WWPSA Chairman David Westbrook delivered the course that provides tips and guidance to coaches on topics ranging from player safety to litigation to managing a team.

Referees

The third aspect of the SD strategy is referee development. SD recognizes that players are our Club's most important constituency. Like volunteer coaches, referees benefit from our support and as we improve our referees, we improve the players' experiences. In preparation for the fall season, SD hosted 31 participants – including 18 from WW-P – for a Grade 9 referee training course to help develop our local referee pool. This designation allows referees to officiate recreation games up to U14.

Most recreation referees are high school-age players who want to deepen their love of the beautiful game and make some side money. Players who are interested should check the WWPSA website frequently and watch for an e-mail broadcast as we will be offering additional referee training during the winter.



SD expects to deliver these programs and more in 2008 and welcome suggestions and parent participation. Please contact SD at training@wwpsa.org to get involved.

Finally, "thank you" to the WWPSA Board, Robin Dean (Executive Director) and Nick Harrison (ProActive) for their continued support of SD activities.

Sunburst Report (Sunburst Director – Jacqueline Stein) [Back to top](#)

The 13th Annual Sunburst Travel Soccer Tournament was held June 2-3 at Mercer County Park and at Conover Park. In total, 178 teams participated, playing approximately 350 games across 23 fields. WWPSA teams included 12 from the U08 – U10 divisions and 23 from the U11 – U16 divisions. Other participants came from New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey to total 46 small-sided and 97 full-sided teams. Four of the WWPSA full-sided teams placed first in the weekend competition, with three coming in second. PUMA added to the event with their vivid signage and popular misting tent.

Sunburst 2008 is scheduled for May 31 – June 1 and preparations are underway to ensure a successful and fun-filled tournament.

KidSafe Report (presented by Justin Stein) [Back to top](#)

We quickly processed background checks on all new volunteer coaches and paid trainers in accordance with our KidSafe Policy; thanks to Lisa Schmid for her invaluable assistance. All results came back with "green-light" evaluations, meaning that no background checks found evidence meeting pre-agreed criteria.

Fundraising Report (Dir. of Fundraising – Marc Herold) [Back to top](#)

We received the completed Fundraising Feasibility Study conducted by Graham Pelton and are working to implement the results into our ongoing Facilities Plan.

Merchandise Report (Dir. of Merchandise – Steve Per) [Back to top](#)

WWPSA included some new clothing options as "fanware", in conjunction with the club's selection of PUMA as the authorized vendor of uniforms for both recreational and travel uniforms this year. The merchandise featured the new WWPSA logo as a crest and included PUMA fleece pullovers, PUMA Vencida rain jackets and PUMA Sack packs. These items were also listed on the WWPSA website and many families took advantage of pre-ordering supplies during player registration. As a bonus, we arranged to deliver all pre-ordered merchandise to families' houses as a "thank-you" when the inventory became available. In addition we offered the matching PUMA sweatpants for sale during Photo Day in kids' and adult sizes. Our loyal fans also purchased WWPSA shield-shaped magnets, logo T-shirts and logo golf umbrellas.

Orders that were filled this year from web based purchases netted \$1,547. A very successful merchandise sale at the annual Photo Day netted \$2,824, with an additional \$1,125 from Sunburst tournament merchandise (T-shirts and flannel pants). In addition to the newly purchased merchandise, proceeds were also derived from sales of merchandise we had in stock from previous years: sweatpants, sweatshirts, socks and T-shirts. Many bargain hunters took advantage of our sale and found soccer shirts, shorts and socks for a couple of bucks!

This year we offered one of our Sponsors the opportunity to sell bagels and coffee at Picture Day; many players and parents were grateful to grab a quick bite while they were waiting for their team photographs to be taken.

WWPSA welcomes your suggestions for future purchases that would benefit our players and families; please send your great ideas to merchandise@wwpsa.org. Some feedback we received at Picture Day 2007 was to offer more clothing for our youth players, such as sweatshirts and long sleeve T-shirts. We expect that merchandise will continue to be available for ordering on our website for the convenience of our WWPSA families.

Ewing Sports, the local distributor of our PUMA uniforms and merchandise, is also offering merchandise to supplement the Travel league players' gear, including rain jackets, sweatpants, cold weather undergarments and backpacks. If interested, you may contact Chris Goodrich directly at 609-882-8020 to make a purchase.

Finally, I would like to thank the many parents who volunteered with merchandise sales and setup on Picture Day — you exceeded expectations with your helpfulness and salesmanship; we could not have been so successful without your kind help. I have enjoyed working with you and look forward to seeing you at future events or matches in our townships.



Photos and Trophies Report (Photo Day Coordinator – Cindy Alvarez)

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WWPSA celebrated an unqualified successful event on Saturday, October 13, 2007 as over 150 teams descended on the Millstone River School for our annual Photo Day. Many families joined their players in the new “family photo” option, and as always, free team photos were taken to be distributed to all players. Parents were greeted by over 50 dedicated volunteers offering new fanware, reduced-price Sunburst merchandise and other items.

The day went smoothly as the sea of green and white gathered at the school. We’d like to again extend a special thanks to Cindy Alvarez, our Photo Day Coordinator, as well as Steve Per, our Director of Merchandise, who pulled it all together and presented an extremely well-organized, well-run event. We also want to thank our parent volunteers who not only fulfilled their volunteer obligation for the year, but who also went above and beyond in helping everyone find what they needed! I appreciate the break-down and clean-up crew and the parents who stayed longer to aid in the breakdown. Many thanks to Bagel World who offered coffee, bagels and drinks to families as an accommodation.

Everyone did a great job, particularly our friends at All Sport Photo of Trenton who again worked with us hand-in-hand to handle contingencies, keep things moving and put on a great event.

Over 1,500 participation trophies were distributed to the Recreation Division. 1st and 2nd place trophies were distributed to Boys Senior and Intermediate leagues for their end-of-season playoffs.

Sponsorship Report (Maryann Lewis)

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WWPSA Recreational Soccer recognized 11 sponsors this year, covering over 30 teams.

We’re hoping to improve our sponsorship participation next year through more concerted efforts by our Sponsorship Coordinator and Executive Director.

Scholarship Report (Bill Kramer)

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WWPSA once again awarded scholarships to former WWPSA players heading off to college. Congratulations once again to the recipients of \$500 scholarships this past spring: Michael Christie, John Morris, Matthew Girandola and Stephanie Hagen.

IT Report (Webmaster / Registrar – Brent Nielsen)

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In 2006 WWPSA entered into a new arrangement with Demosphere International, Inc. (“DII”) to provide the association with a hosted website, registration, league, tournament, and KidSafe management, Team and Player Profile administration, merchant services, and financial systems. This change in technology leveraged by the WWPSA was a step forward in managing the affairs of the association and required some growing pains along the way as we adjusted each all-new system to more closely meet our needs.

- We introduced Field Status indicators to tell you when any fields are closed
- In response to your requests, we added a search feature using the Google™ search engine
- We upgraded our Parents’ Resources section to provide you with easy access to your most commonly-used functions and links
- We upgraded our calendar to show a wall calendar view
- We launched a Banner Contest where we asked for your close-up photos of WWPSA players to be considered for inclusion in the page banners to head each program’s home page, as well as the Club’s home page

We now have over 2,200 households using our registration system and are better able to distribute information targeted specifically to those who should receive it. We have worked closely with DII to improve and customize their systems for our purposes and we feel confident that DII will continue to work closely with us to address our needs going forward.

We continued to leverage Survey Monkey to provide us with online survey management tools to better manage our volunteer scheduling and Parent Feedback Survey needs. We have received very positive feedback on the ease of the use of this tool and we expect to continue to use it wherever appropriate.

We expect to continue to work closely with our IT application service providers and vendors will and to improve their applications as needed so that we can better streamline our interactions with you.



Preliminary Rec Soccer Parent Survey Results [Back to top](#)

Based on 196 responses as of Monday, November 26, 2007, here are some highlights from the survey (2006 results in parentheses):

- 87.1% (85%) of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that their children’s soccer skills improved
- 95.8% (95%) of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that their child enjoyed playing soccer this season
- 89.6% (92%) of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that they expect to register their child to play soccer next season
- 84.1% (90%) of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that length of the fall Rec season was about right
- 88.8% (83%) of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that the new WWPSA website was easy to use to find relevant information
- 96.2% (89%) of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that the new WWPSA registration system was easy to use and convenient
- 94.7% of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that they feel that E-mails sent to them by the WWPSA were effective in keeping them informed about relevant WWPSA programs and activities
- 73.3% (71%) of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that they feel that the WWPSA Board of Directors is addressing

the right priorities for our organization

- 75.3% (78%) of respondents felt they either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” that they feel that WWPSA registration fees are set appropriately based on the quality and number of programs and activities offered

On a scale of 1 to 9, with 1 representing the most important and 9 representing the least important, parents provided the following average responses for what they would like to see next year:

- Improved training for players: 2.51
- Improved training for coaches: 3.07
- Improved fields and facilities: 3.12
- Improved training for referees: 3.38
- Improve the quality of lighting at fields: 4.04
- Increased number of fields with permanent lighting: 4.10

We will share more results with you once we have collected more responses. Thanks to those of you who responded and shared your comments with us; the Board of Directors and Executive Director will review them all and take appropriate action, where appropriate.

Respondents represented players from every Fall Rec 2007 league and include those who responded to an e-mail broadcast requesting feedback from 196 Fall Rec Soccer parents after the 2007 season concluded.

Thanks to Fall Rec Team Sponsors!

We want to thank all of our Fall Rec Team Sponsors for their continued support of WWPSA’s largest program. Please support our sponsors whenever you can and let them know that you saw their listing with WWPSA!

- [WWPEA](#)
- [Sarnoff Corporation](#)
- [Plainsboro Dental Care](#)
- [Allied Vision Services](#)
- [UPS Capital Corp.](#)
- [Pied Piper Kids](#)
- [Tradition Capital Mgmt.](#)
- [Sydney Albert Salon](#)
- [Access Self Storage](#)
- [Dick’s Sporting Goods](#)
- [Ashley Furniture Homestore](#)

