



WWPSA Annual Report

2008 WWPSA Quick Facts

Program participation	
Adult Competitive League	62
Adult Fall Recreational Soccer	110
Adult Spring Recreational Soccer	96
Big Brothers / Big Sisters	73
Camp – Recreational Soccer	110
Coaching F License Course	33
Rutgers Safety Course	40
Travel Tactical & Positional Training	151
Youth Fall Recreational Soccer	1,397
Youth Spring Recreational Soccer	613
Youth Travel Soccer	553
Youth Travel Development Academy	85
	3,323

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 60 other towns in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

Table of Contents

- [Chairman's Report](#)
- [Executive Director's Report](#)
- [Finance Report](#)
- [Facilities Report](#)
- [Equipment Report](#)
- [Rec Soccer Report](#)
- [Travel Soccer Report](#)
- [Adult Soccer Report](#)
- [Soccer Development Report](#)
- [Sunburst Report](#)
- [KidSafe Report](#)
- [Fundraising Report](#)
- [Merchandise Report](#)
- [Photos and Trophies Report](#)
- [Sponsorship Report](#)
- [Scholarship Report](#)
- [IT Report](#)

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

This was my most challenging year I've experienced since joining the WWPSA Board in 2004, and I want to thank all of the terrific volunteers who dedicate so much of their free time to helping make this Club a place where athletes want to play, coaches provide guidance, and fun, imaginative soccer is alive and well. I'd like to review some of the highlights I'm most proud that our volunteers helped realize:

- By working with WWT and other sports organizations in West Windsor, Robin Dean and Howard Rabin helped develop a facility with two full-sided, fully-lit, irrigated fields at Conover Park, which provided many teams with high-quality practice and game fields for much of 2008.
- Robin and Howard also worked closely with Plainsboro Township who installed permanent lighting to provide two additional lit practice and game fields at Plainsboro Community Park.
- Two members of the US Olympic Women's Soccer Team participated in a camp for our girls during the summer, sharing soccer and life skills and providing invaluable memories to those who attended.
- We helped facilitate the donation of dozens of soccer balls and equipment to impoverished children in Africa and South America.
- Two Travel teams, the U-14 XTreme (semi-finalists), and the U-11 Terminators (quarter-finalists), enjoyed success in the NJ State Cup tournament, an achievement seldom matched in WWPSA history.
- We saw resurgence in the popularity of our Sunburst Tournament by welcoming 220 travel soccer teams from NY, CT, PA, and NJ. We received so many applications that we had to turn dozens away and hope to use the buzz from Sunburst 2008 to create an even more fun, exciting and competitive tournament in 2009.
- Sixty teams participated in Goal Fest 2008, a 3v3 tournament open only to registered recreational soccer players. The flight medalists received their awards from Ethan Zohn, the winner of *Survivor: Africa*. We had another day of fantastic weather and our volunteers helped everything run smoothly with lots of smiles all around.
- We offered parents the option to re-use still-fitting uniforms from 2007 and issued a \$20 discount if they chose to do so. We work hard to provide our participants with strong value for your contributions, and we will continue to look for future opportunities.

Similar to last year, I regret to say goodbye to two Board members who have made strong contributions to our Club. Pat Trombetta is stepping down as Treasurer after serving in that capacity for ten years. His



guidance and forethought have enabled more transparent reporting of our financial results and left us with the resources to pursue several facilities improvement projects over the past two years that have provided immediate benefits. I also wish to thank Pedro Portilla for a strong year in the role of Director of Travel Soccer. Pedro was everywhere, from managing one Travel and two Rec teams, to attending Travel Executive Committee meetings, to helping launch our Travel Development Academy, to helping refine and redefine our Travel teams, to coming out to support teams with which he had no affiliation other than as a member of our Club. While we don't expect our next Director of Travel to contribute nearly that much, Pedro definitely made a lasting impression on whoever takes over this role going forward.

I want to thank both Pat and Pedro for their invaluable contributions and want them to know that their efforts will be remembered.

I also wish to thank the Sarnoff Corporation who, by permitting us to use their expansive facilities, support nearly the entire Recreational soccer program, as well as countless other activities. In addition, the townships of West Windsor and Plainsboro warrant additional mention and our sincere and continuous gratitude for their efforts at providing WWPSA with fields suitable for our needs.

Last year at this time I noted improvements we were planning to Conover and Duck Pond Park, and I'm proud to look at both significant projects. We installed a badly-needed irrigation system at Conover, as well as constructed a brand-new fully-lit full-sided field, as well as installed new light towers to fully light Conover # 2 for safe nighttime use. And now, after much planning and behind-the-scenes work, we're watching three full-sided fields grow in at Duck Pond Park, and that's

just the beginning of what's planned. It's a great time to be involved in WWPSA!

I've spoken and written about the need for more people to step forward and volunteer their time often over the past three years of my tenure as Chairman. Our needs have never been as great as they are now, with so many projects and responsibilities stretching our already committed volunteers and Executive Director past what anyone can reasonably expect. The simple fact is that with just a few more volunteers in key positions, we can make life easier for many more volunteers and prevent overusing our internal resources. Just like a field, volunteers need periods of rest to recharge and come back stronger than ever, so what do you say? Won't you please reach out to me or Robin and ask how you can help? We've welcomed several new volunteers this year into key positions, including Carolyn Demouth (Merchandise), Jacqueline Fernandes (Volunteers) and Mary Painter (incoming Photo Day Coordinator), and these are but a few of the volunteers who help in so many ways. This Club doesn't work without you, and we have needs in so many areas that we can absolutely find a way to rely on you in ways that fit your skills and available time.

I look forward to working with you to make it happen.

Executive Director's Report (Robin Dean)

[Back to top](#)

Entering 2008, we aimed to achieve significant improvements in several areas, specifically our fields and facilities, the quality of our training, the value of our programs, and the continued development of our profile to help further these goals. This year, we made progress in all of these areas, although much work remains to be done.

WWPSA took great strides towards our two primary facilities goals: (1) to phase out the use of portable light towers and conduct all evening practices under permanent lighting; and (2) to significantly improve the quality of our playing surfaces. Our lighting situation improved dramatically. We installed new lights at Conover Park to complete a practice facility with two fully-lit fields. The addition of new permanent lights at Plainsboro Community Park added two more lit fields for a total of four (4) additional fields with permanent lighting in fall 2008 compared to fall 2007. We also installed new sod at Conover on one full-sided field. In addition, Howard Rabin labored to improve field surfaces at several locations including spreading topsoil and undertaking significant seeding projects. Irrigation was installed on three (3) fields at Conover Park, which will enable us to maintain a high quality facility there. The Board of Education approved our application to host games on Sundays on the new turf fields at High School North and High School South.

After many years, work was also started at Duck Pond Park and significant progress was made. We anticipate opening a facility there in fall 2009. 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, our programs would not be possible.



Under the strong leadership of John Slater, the Youth Recreation program advanced in many areas this year. Following the recommendations of the 2007 Recreational Executive Committee, we implemented a number of initiatives, most notably the introduction of Opening Day. The lessons learned in 2008 should help us to significantly improve this effort in 2009. We improved the quality and consistency of our referees and set a goal to provide 100% coverage for all games for 4th Grade Leagues and older. While we did not reach 100%, we came very close to providing officials for all games this year (approximately 300 games). Most importantly, John's emphasis on coach and player development as well as providing resources and support to our coaches helped maintain the focus on the quality of the soccer experience.

The Travel program, spearheaded by Pedro Portilla, launched the Travel Development Academy (TDA) for U7, U8 and some U9 players. The TDA program delivered fundamental technical skill development in a small-sided environment with professional trainers. WWPSA hosted a Festival Day with teams from several nearby Clubs competing in 5v5 games with our TDA players. This initiative is key to the development of our future Travel teams and also provides a bridge from Rec to Travel for young players and families interested in the Travel experience.

The Adult program continued to gain strength with more players graduating from the Rec program to competitive adult soccer. As a result, our two competitive teams have grown stronger. The Rec program continued to promote an opportunity for our coaches, parents and other local adults to participate in soccer in a friendly environment.

This year, we worked to provide complete and well-defined information

to players interested in our programs starting with a clear presentation of our programs on the website. In general, registration for our programs was opened earlier and information was also distributed earlier to help families to make their decisions. 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. Therefore, 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 2008, a considerable effort was made to develop relationships between WWPSA and the wider soccer community for the benefit of our members. This is a long-term effort to create affiliations and associations that will ultimately benefit our Association. WWPSA worked closely with the New Jersey Wildcats and, as a highlight, we were pleased to welcome US Women's Captain Christie Pearce Rampone and Shannon Boxx to our Summer camp a few weeks before they went on to win Gold for the US Women in the Beijing Olympics. We have also worked to develop cooperative relationships within our community, working together with other youth sports and community groups.

In these uncertain economic times, WWPSA has been mindful of the need to provide value in our programs. We are aware of the financial hardship faced by some of our families and will be looking for ways to control our costs while continuing to provide a quality soccer experience. For 2009, this will be a priority. Some initiatives, such as the uniform reuse program, have already been successful with 50% of our Rec players opting to play wearing uniforms from a prior season. We will continue to look for other opportunities to limit program costs.

In 2008, we continued to promote a unified Club culture in which our programs work cooperatively together and provide appropriate soccer opportunities for players of all ages and abilities. Our Rec and Travel programs worked together very closely this year.

Over the past years, we have implemented a series of initiatives designed to help develop our youngest players to master the fundamental technical skills needed to enjoy the game of soccer. We have successfully introduced small-sided play in the youngest Rec Leagues and with the introduction of the Travel Development Academy have now added a key step into the development process. Through training and education, we have gradually provided more learning opportunities for our volunteer parent coaches and have offered support with a comprehensive coaching curriculum supported now by online video clips.

Last but 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 – Chairman, 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. It is



only due to the tremendous effort of a few key volunteers, that many of our long held goals are finally being realized

For 2009, my priorities include the completion of our major facilities initiatives, to seek to further improve the quality of our training, to work to ensure a value soccer experience, and to recruit more help for our key volunteers to spread the burden that they currently carry. It is this last issue which is perhaps the most problematic for our Association. Once again, we are sad to note the departure of some key volunteers, some of whom have dedicated years of their time and energy for the great benefit of WWPSA. We are eternally thankful to those who are leaving us and, at the same time, we are seeking new volunteers to refresh and renew our Association.

Financial Report (Dir. of Finance – Pat Trombetta)

[Back to top](#)

The Financial Report will be provided at the AGM.

Facilities Report (Dir. of Facilities – Howard Rabin)

[Back to top](#)

Robin Dean deserves our thanks and deepest appreciation. He has transformed our plans and dreams into actual field improvements around the township. In 2008, we saw marked improvement in a) our capacity for lit practices; and, b) the quality of playing surfaces. As we move forward, please look for opportunities to volunteer and help us improve the facilities we all use.

Accomplishments

WWCP #1 is a high-quality, game-only field. The surface of this field was carefully managed and improved; WWCP#2 is a well-lit practice facility. We made substantial improvements to the field surface this year.

In 2008, Conover FS#1 and FS#2 became fully lit and high-quality fields. We brought new sod to FS#1, and improved the FS#1 lights by replacing

old fixtures with new, better lights. After reaching an agreement with the neighborhood, we brought new poles and fixtures to FS#2 (nearest South Post Road). The field surface and lighting on FS#2 is vastly improved, and we will continue to dedicate efforts and funds to improving the Conover facility.

In cooperation with West Windsor Township, we dedicated substantial funds to Duck Pond Park. Watch for developments at Duck Pond Park in 2009.

The portable lighting at the Zaitz practice area is still a workable temporary solution. With intensified efforts to grade, seed and fertilize the fields at Zaitz, we will continue to upgrade this facility. We expect to see better drainage and better field surfaces in 2009. Once again, West Windsor has promised to support our efforts at Zaitz.

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

We have 4 fields at Plainsboro Community Park including 2 fields under new lights. We have improved our communication and cooperation with the Plainsboro Parks personnel. We could not function without their work, assistance or facilities.

We reached agreements with the Board of Ed. to use the new turf fields at HS South and HS North on Sundays in spring and fall. We appreciate the continued use of CMS and GMS middle school fields in the fall. Thanks also to the Board of Ed. for the use of gym space during the winter months.

With the development of two lit fields at Conover and the addition of two lit fields at PCP, we have increased the number of practice fields with permanent lights for the fall season from three (3) in 2007 to seven (7) in 2008. During the spring season this represents an increase from one (1) field to three (3) fields with permanent lights. This is a tremendous improvement for our program and takes us closer to the goal of accommodating ALL practices under permanent lights and eliminating the use of portable light towers.

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 conditions to facilities@wwpsa.org.

Objectives

Well-lit practice facilities and high-quality game fields are important concerns for all of our members. Our plan is to improve every WWPSA



soccer field. With the cooperation of West Windsor Township, we plan to implement significant renovations and improvements in 2009.

Recognition

We rely upon volunteers for field set-up, field break-down and special projects. If you are one of those who has already helped, "Thank you"! Please look for opportunities to volunteer and help out in 2009.

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

In 2008, we replaced several old permanent goal frames with three (3) new sets of portable frames. These modern frames are much safer and also enable us to manage our facilities more efficiently. We plan to continue this effort in 2009. Emphasis was placed on the correct storage of frames during the season and in the off-season, again with safety as the primary concern. We also replaced nets on a number of sharpshooters.

Our equipment inventory is currently strong with plenty of soccer balls, corner flags, pinnies, cones and other items in stock. Some old unused equipment and uniforms were donated to the US Soccer Foundation's Passback Program to benefit players in less fortunate communities. We purchased a new stock of First Aid Kits which will be used in our equipment bags in 2009 and continue to provide ice packs to our teams.

Our inventory is currently stored in four locations: Soccer House, Access Storage and two field containers. This year, significant progress was made to sort and organize our inventory and to clean the storage areas. In 2009, we anticipate moving a significant amount of our inventory into a new storage area being built by West Windsor Township.

Rec Report (Dir. of Rec Soccer – John Slater)

[Back to top](#)

WWPSA's Youth Recreational Soccer division had a good year in 2008 as it continued to build on past successes while adding some new changes and improvements. The year featured a change in Rec Program leadership, continued strong interest in the Spring program, a new Soccer Skills program hosted by the New Jersey Wildcats semi-professional women's soccer team over the summer and new team formation processes in the fall. With all of our successes, we are faced with a few challenges in that we need more help in Rec administration and we need to continue to involve more parents as coaches to replace those who have served the program well but are no longer continuing.

Leadership Change: I would like to thank Bill Kramer for all of his hard work over the past 3 seasons, and especially last fall where his heroic efforts, along with Robin Dean's, helped to save the fall Rec season. My tenure began with my supervision of the Spring Rec program but did not become official until late summer of this year. I would like to thank Robin Dean for his hard work during that period keeping the Rec program running and for his continued assistance throughout the fall. I would also like to thank Justin Stein and Brent Nielsen for their help during the transition process. Leading the Rec program is quite a challenge but I believe we have put in place several new processes that will make the programs more efficient and easier to administer.

Spring 2008: The "Let them Play" spring 2008 session enjoyed continued success, building on the concept of limited training followed by open play without assigned teams. The goal of this very deliberate approach is to let the players enjoy the game with a minimum of direction and coaching, to let them make their own decisions, determine their own rules and simply play the game. This open format encourages self-discovery and builds critical player decision-making abilities and is our attempt to emulate how soccer is enjoyed throughout much of the rest of the world. It is also great exercise for the kids and allows the Rec players another season to continue to improve on their skills.

For the Spring Uniforms, we switched to using the same Puma Green/White uniforms used in the fall program. This allowed 50% of our players to reuse their uniforms and save the additional expense purchasing new uniforms when a perfectly good kit sat in their drawers. We also piloted a central uniform distribution at the Dutch Neck Fire Hall for those needing uniforms. This was a great time-saving effort that allowed us to efficiently distribute uniforms that fit properly.

Consistent with 2007, Spring Rec was run at the fields at Sarnoff Corporation, with 613 registered players. The sessions were led once again by our training partner, ProActive Sport, which is run by Nick Harrison along with parent volunteer coaches for the younger leagues and supervisors for some of the older leagues. I want to thank the volunteer coaches who stepped forward and especially so with the younger grades that required a little more involvement to keep the kids organized.



We also worked at delivering the weekly training guides to the volunteer coaches to make them as prepared as possible. We need to continue to improve on this process to allow more parents to feel comfortable stepping into this key role.

Lastly, we allowed girls to either play girls-only or co-ed at the 4th and up age groups to encourage older girls to participate.

Summer 2008: During the summer, WWPSA hosted and supported a number of recreational soccer camps provided by our training partners, including week-long programs offered by ProActive Sport & Soccer and UK Elite. In addition to the camps, WWPSA also hosted a weekly evening pick-up game at Conover fields. We plan to continue to offer summer soccer opportunities in 2009.

WWPSA's largest and highest profile Rec program continues to be the fall session. This season we were able to make great strides forward based on past efforts and ideas. We continued our centralized distribution of uniforms from the spring along with re-use of last year's uniforms, offering our parents a welcome option during challenging financial times. For the first time, we were also able to introduce league-wide, independent ratings for grades 2nd and up based on last year's pilot run by the 4th grade boys. This enabled us to better balance teams, centralize uniform distribution and generally make life much simpler for many of our administrators. We were also able to offer more lit practice fields than ever and we hosted the 2nd Annual Goal fest tournament.

Fall Opening Day & League Ratings:

One of the biggest changes to the Fall Rec Program was the Opening Day. On Opening Day, 80% of our players in each League participated in a 90-minute program managed by independent professional soccer trainers from

ProActive Sports & Soccer. The professional trainers evaluated players and then gave them a broad player rating that the league managers used as critical input to team formation. Although we had to reschedule around a tropical storm, it was a great thrill to see the players in a group setting prior to the season. It brought a new sense of community to the Rec Program and allowed for League Managers, coaches and parents to gather in a single setting.

Fall Rec Statistics

<i>Program</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>	<i>Pct Chg. ('07 - '08)</i>	<i>Pct Chg. ('06 - '07)</i>
Boys Fall Rec	741	836	930	-10%	-10%
Girls Fall Rec	498	534	603	-6.5%	-11%
Fall Pre-K	158	124	120	28%	3%
Total	1,397	1,494	1,693	-5.6%	-10%

The primary purpose of Opening Day was to independently evaluate players to ensure that they are divided as equally as possible between teams to ideally form teams of equal strength. This benefits all players and our hope was that it led to as many competitive games as possible. This also left us the flexibility to honor as many player requests as possible that are a pillar of our Rec program. While we can never create a perfect league where all teams enjoy the same number of wins and losses, player enjoyment and success is not always measured by wins and losses. Other considerations are team and personal development during the season and for each child to feel that they did their best and had fun while doing so.

There are also many factors that affect a team's performance during the year. Late player registration, along with players' prior experience, are factors at the start of the season; however, two dynamic factors that arise during the season are player development and game availability. Player development can be affected by the number of practice sessions attended, time spent practicing at home, amount of free midweek training that players choose to use, player and coach availability during the season and the quality of the experience of the volunteer coach. Lastly, coaches are encouraged to rotate kids through different positions to expose kids to new positions and not just place players in the same positions week after week with the focus only on winning that week's game.

We will always look to improve the team formation process but we feel strongly that the Opening Day concept is one that meets our goals and one that we will build on and continue to use in the future. Next year we look to add more coaches and add more oversight to the process.

Fall Enrollment: Our overall numbers were comparable to last year with an approximate 5% change from last year's fall Rec program. However the introduction of the Travel Development Academy that started in 2008 drew some of our former Rec players into that program.



We had 1,397 players in 18 leagues and 117 teams with over 300 registered volunteer coaches. Our ability to run the program effectively will require that we get as many returning coaches back next fall with early as possible commitments as the number of head coaches is as equally important as the number of players when determining team sizes.

In 2009, especially in some of the younger leagues, the number of teams will be limited by the number of parents who step forward to fill head coaching roles. If enough parents do not step forward, we will have to assign kids to teams prioritized on registration date. While this might lead to kids who registered later not being able to play and be extremely disappointing, we can only offer unlimited registration where we have enough volunteer head coaches. Too many players on a team leads to reduced playing time, touches on the ball and overall enjoyment.

Fall Practice Fields: We were able to take advantage of the now 7 lit practice fields that allowed all teams from 3rd grade and above to practice at night. While we had a few incidents involving neglect of the portable goals, overall our facilities for evening practices were better than ever. We made significant improvements to Conover fields with the installation of new lights, as well as the installation of a new full-sided field. I would like to pause and thank Robin, Howard Rabin and all who worked on these items and to let them know our success this year was paved with all their hard work.

Goal Fest: we had over 33 boys' teams and 23 girls' teams across 14 divisions in a fun and exciting 3v3 tournament specifically presented for the enjoyment of our Rec players. While the tournament had fewer registered teams than we had hoped, we still believe in Goal Fest and will continue to host this tournament in the future. This year we

had a special guest, Ethan Zohn, winner of *Survivor: Africa* and founder of GrassrootSoccer and a national spokesman for America Scores. Ethan was kind enough to hand out many of the medals given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers in each age division and we thank PUMA and Ethan for stopping by.

Fall Big Brothers & Sisters: 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. We had a significant increase in the turnout by both the young men and young women from WW-P High Schools North and South. In exchange for their efforts, WWPSA will make a donation to each of the teams who met our requirements in recognition of their contribution to our programs. Additionally, we had a number of Big Brothers and Sisters volunteer at the 3v3 Goal Fest Tournament, making a huge contribution during a fun day. I would like to thank Paul St. Amour for his efforts in running this program.

Financial Assistance: we also provided financial assistance to several families this year, allowing over 10 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.

Fall Referees: referees are provided for Saturday games for 4th Grade and older Leagues. In the past, we have been challenged by a shortage of referees as well as the complexity of assigning approximately 30 games each weekend. In the past two years, we have hosted and promoted referee certification courses and have developed a better communication with qualified referees in our area. For the first time in 2008, we used a professional referee assignor to work with our referees to assign games each weekend. As a result of the increased pool of referees, greater availability on a weekly basis and on the new assigning system, we were able to reach a very high percentage of game coverage that was unprecedented in previous years. Only a handful of games lacked referee coverage over the course of 10 weeks. In total, more than 300 games were assigned successfully. We have also worked to develop the quality of our referees. For the first time, we were able to match newly qualified referees to work with experienced officials at Senior League games, which enabled some games to be covered by a full crew of 3 referees, while at the same time helping our newest referees develop experience. Based on the feedback from this season, the overall quality of our referees has increased over prior years.

Changes for Fall Rec: we implemented additional changes this year, most of them successful:

- 3rd Grade Leagues played in a 5v5 format on Mini fields (same as 2nd Grade), while 5th Grade Leagues (including Girls 5th/6th) played in an 8v8 format on small-sided fields (same as 4th Grade). The purpose of playing in smaller formats is to encourage greater participation by individual players and to enhance all players' enjoyment of the game.



- The 3rd Grade League had the option to schedule a midweek practice (last year, practices were conducted immediately before Saturday games).
- The weather cancellation policy was amended for Saturday games. In 2008, the decision will be made as late as 8am on Saturday morning to provide more opportunity to assess the weather when the forecast is uncertain. We will also, if necessary, make a separate decision for (a) Pre-K, Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades; (b) 3rd Grades and older. In the event of very cold weather, for example, we may cancel for younger ages but not for the older groups. We had a very cold closing week but we only lost 1 week to cancellation this entire season.

Fall Sportsmanship: we had only one reported red card incident this year and only a handful of reports of any arguments or bad behavior on the field this year so I would like to thank all the coaches and parents for their continued efforts to set a good example and for enforcing good sportsmanship. This is something we will continue to work on and manage as necessary.

Fall Final Items: we held playoffs for the Boys Senior and Boys 6th Grade leagues this year. In Boys' 6th, the United defeated the Wizards in a very exciting final played under the lights at our premier field at West Windsor Community Park. The playoffs featured 4 out of 5 very competitive games. In Boys' Senior, the Spartans defeated the Red Bulls in overtime. Congratulations to both teams and we will look to continue or even expand the playoffs for the older divisions next year.

The Rec Division once again will pay for a party for both the Boys' and Girls' Senior Leagues as a way to say "thank you" to all who finished their careers with us and for those who played at our highest levels.

Overall Rec Items:

- **Volunteers:** we were able to get a number of volunteers to help with our Uniform Distributions in the spring and fall, our Fall Opening Day and Goal Fest events. I would like to thank Jacqueline Fernandes for organizing volunteers for these events. I would also like to thank all our volunteers for their efforts and continued suggestions for improvement. It was with great pride and thanks that Robin and I could get a group of volunteers started and then see them take ownership and training of the next shift.
- **Group Training:** we once again offered Monday and Wednesday Group Training Sessions to all Rec players in Kindergarten and above in the spring and fall. We saw increased numbers from last year in this important player development activity. ProActive Sport and Soccer continued to run the training with professionalism and flexibility that we needed for this program to be successful and cost-effective.
- **Professional Development:** while we have had great success, one area where we can always improve is the continued education of our coaches, especially our newest coaches. The greatest coaching achievement is to see players improve over the season, and good coaching is part of that. Fun is pivotal; if playing soccer not fun, young people won't play. Skill development is a crucial aspect of fun; it is more important that winning even among the best athletes. We will need to work hard to educate and recruit coaches so that we continue to develop a supply of new, qualified coaches and push the experienced coaches to learn even more and help train less experienced coaches.

I would like to thank the many, many volunteers that made this 2008 Rec Season a success including those below whose help was critical but not always visible:

- Our Fall Rec League managers: K - Amy Gardner & Afzaal Akhtar; 1st - Jill & Don Nixon & Rob Rubin; 2nd - Tom Linko & Adam Miller; 3rd - Brent Nielsen & Matt Martin; 4th - Jeffrey Bloom & Joerg Claus; Boys 5th Len Hayduchok; Girls 5th & 6th - Henry Henkel, Boys 6th - Marc Herold; Intermediate - Steve Altamore & Laura Poyd; Senior - Jerry McSpiritt & Doug Rabbino
- Coaches and Assistant Coaches from the Fall and the Spring Programs
- Robin Dean, Executive Director
- Justin Stein, WWPSA Chairperson
- Brent Neilson, Webmaster and Registrar
- Howard Rabin, Director of Facilities
- Jacqueline Fernandes Volunteer Coordinator
- Lisa Schmid, Kidsafe Coordinator



- Nick Harrison & his staff of professionals from ProActive Sport and Soccer
- Al Scarmato, Referee Coordinator
- Mary Painter, with some help from Cindy Alvarez on Photo Day, Photo Day & Trophies Coordinator

Thanks to all the players and to the parents and family who made this past year a success and a LOT of fun!

Travel Report (presented by Pedro Portilla) [Back to top](#)

2008 was an outstanding year for the WWPSA Travel Program and full of highlights. It was truly a transformational year for the travel program with the Travel Executive Committee "TEC" (<http://www.wwpsa.org/Travel/Exec>) embarking on a very ambitious agenda. First, the TEC inaugurated the Travel Development Academy (<http://www.wwpsa.org/Travel/tda>) which was aimed at teaching our younger players the soccer fundamentals in a 5v5 travel soccer environment. This program was well received by the community and had about 90 participants in its first year of existence (For more information feel free to read the WWPSA TDA articles at http://www.socceragency.net/maps/newsletter/MSSLnews_0811.pdf). Second, we had several of our older travel teams compete in state, regional and national tournament events. We congratulate the many teams that competed at these highly-contested tournaments. Many teams were flight winners, finalists and semifinalists; details can be found at <http://www.wwpsa.org/Travel/News>. Third, the TEC embarked at streamlining the travel team formation process and had a record of 95% of travel teams rostered by the end of June (a vast improvement over previous years). Coupled with this was the diligent work to better define the requirements for each level of travel

team: Classic, Premier and Premier Elite. As such, the committee provided guidelines for parents and players to better understand the different travel team categorizations (refer to <http://www.wwpsa.org/Travel/Classic>). Fourth, the TEC focused on improving the training available for travel teams. As a result we had a good number of highly-regarded trainers work with our teams and look forward to attracting more talent in the coming year.

And not but not least, the TEC made it a priority to provide player and coach recognition. We awarded Coach Pat McCarry and Team Manager Stacey Mangone from the Premier Elite U18G Breakaways, the first ever WWPSA Club Achievement work for their years of excellence in managing the Breakaways. We awarded Team Managers Karl and Jackie Pehnke from the Classic U13G Emeralds with the 2008 Outstanding Manager Award for going above the call of duty in ensuring their team's experience was unique and long-lasting. We also had three recipients of the Player Sportsmanship Award; Sam Hudson for the Classic U14B Viper Venoms, Keith Register from the Classic U9B Tornadoes, and Kasmir 'Kas' Grapski from the Classic U13G Emeralds. Congratulations to all our award winners!

We want to thank all the volunteers, trainers, and players that have made 2008 a fantastic year for WWPSA Travel; without your support our program would not be possible. WWPSA is on the US soccer map and we're excited to march forward with a single motto of doing was best for the player.

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

2008 was another successful year for the adult soccer program. The recreational program continued to attract around 100 players in each of the spring and fall seasons while several more players graduated from adult recreational to competitive soccer.

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 over 50. 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.

Soccer Development Report

(Dir. of Soccer Development – Paul St. Amour) [Back to top](#)

Soccer Development (SD) is responsible for facilitating the skill development of our youth recreational soccer players. To this end, we completed the following key activities in 2008:

- Continued our successful relationship with the Club's primary training partner ProActive Sports and Soccer (ProActive), including conducting training sessions for pre-K through eighth grade in the spring, summer and fall seasons



- Conducted the Big Brother and Sister program to support the fall Recreation program where over 70 boys and girls from the WWP North and South high school teams volunteered
- Supported Goal Fest by providing ten Big Brothers and Sisters to serve as team coaches
- Completed an initiative to put the club's recreational training program on a web-based platform
 - PlaySportsTV (headed by Doug Donaldson) and ProActive (headed by Nick Harrison) were instrumental in completing this effort
 - The web-based medium provides 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
 - Program is available to WWPSA Recreation coaches
- Conducted pre-season training sessions for Fall season parent coaches
 - Sessions are designed to help the coaches more effectively plan and conduct training sessions and manage their teams
 - Sessions attended by over 100 coaches
 - Special thanks to Robin Dean and Nick Harrison for leading these sessions
- Hosted F-license course during the summer where we trained 33 coaches from the Mercer county area including 17 from WWPSA
- Hosted a session of the Rutgers University SAFTEY course where we trained 18 new coaches

- Hosted a Grade 9 referee-training course
 - Expanded local referee pool
 - Grade 9 referee designation allows referees to officiate recreation games up to U14
 - Trained 37 new referees, including 19 from WWPSA

SD expects to deliver these programs and more in 2009. We welcome suggestions and parent participation. Please contact SD at training@wwpsa.org to get involved.

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

Sunburst Report (Sunburst Co-Directors – Jacqueline Stein and Diane Kooker) [Back to top](#)

The 14th Annual Sunburst Travel Soccer Tournament was held May 31-June 1 at Mercer County Park and Conover Park. 220 teams participated, playing approximately 440 games across 25 fields. This is an increase of 42 teams over the 2007 tournament! WWPSA teams included 13 from the U8 – U10 divisions and 24 from the U11 – U16 divisions. Other participants came from New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Three WWPSA full-sided teams placed first in the weekend competition, with four coming in second. PUMA added to the event with an appearance by Zach Thornton, a GK with the New York Red Bulls. The misting tent, Puma Tunnel and the free tournament shirt customization were very popular. Fountain Drinks provided free beverages to the tournament patrons. NJ Wildcats, a semi-pro women's soccer team, offered free admission to players participating in Sunburst and ½ price tickets to accompanying adults to either of their games that they purposely scheduled for Sunburst Weekend.

Sunburst 2009 is scheduled for May 30-31 and preparations are underway to ensure a successful and fun-filled tournament. We are planning to open Sunburst to U9 – U17 in 2009.

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

We processed background checks on all new volunteer coaches and paid trainers in accordance with our KidSafe Policy and reminded all parents and coaches of the importance of the “2-adult” rule for all practices and activities; thanks to Lisa Schmid for her invaluable assistance.

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

The Board determined that we did not have any initiatives that required a defined fundraising team during 2008. As we move forward with our facilities initiatives, we anticipate that we will need dedicated leadership and staff as we contemplate a significant project at Duck Pond Park to invest in the future health of our facilities and Club.



Merchandise Report (Dir. of Merchandise – Presented by Carolyn Demouth) [Back to top](#)

Again this year, WWPSA has used PUMA as our official supplier of uniforms and fan wear. Sales of fan wear this fall brought in \$1,645 from website orders and \$794 from the sale of clothing at picture day. Items we had available on the website this fall included PUMA Fleece pullovers, PUMA Vencida rain jackets, PUMA Sack Packs and WWPSA green car magnets. These items proved very popular, and the clothing is virtually sold out. The pullovers and jackets are no longer available from PUMA and have been replaced with the PUMA v3.08 Hooded Jacket (a mid-weight hooded sweatshirt) and the PUMA v5.08 Training Full Zippered Jacket (a lightweight windbreaker). Both have the logo on left chest and are available on the website for \$49. Also available now are PUMA black shorts with a 5" inseam for \$19. Still available is the ever popular green shield-shaped car magnet, for \$5. In addition, this year we have a fundraiser going on to support the Challenge, our U14 girls team. They are selling a white golf shirt with the WWPSA logo on the chest for \$34. All items are available on the website. Sales of Rec uniforms brought in another \$880.

Again this year at Photo Day, we had one of our sponsors selling bagels and coffee. Many players and parents welcomed the snacks while they waited for their turn with the photographers.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank the many parents who helped to sell our items at picture day. It was a beautiful fall day, perfect for soccer and selling WWPSA merchandise. Our sale was very successful and we could not have done it without you all! I hope to see you all around town!

Photos and Trophies Report (Photo Day Coordinator – Cindy Alvarez) [Back to top](#)

WWPSA celebrated an unqualified successful event on Saturday, October 4, 2008 as over 170 teams descended on the Millstone River School for our annual Photo Day. As always, free team photos were taken to be distributed to all players. Parents were greeted by over 50 dedicated volunteers offering reduced-price Sunburst merchandise and other items.

The day went smoothly as eager and excited children gathered at the school. We'd like to again extend a special thanks to our outgoing Coordinator, Cindy Alvarez, who continued organizing – even without a soccer-playing child. Welcome and thanks to Mary Painter, our new Photo Day Coordinator, as well as John Slater, our new Director of Rec Soccer, who helped pull 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! We 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 1,200 participation trophies were distributed to the Recreation Division. 1st and 2nd place trophies were distributed to Boys Senior league for their end-of-season playoffs.

Sponsorship Report (Maryann Lewis) [Back to top](#)

WWPSA Recreational Soccer recognized 23 sponsors this year, a strong increase over 2007-08.

We're hoping to continue to involve more local businesses in our community to improve our sponsorship participation next year.

Scholarship Report (Robin Dean) [Back to top](#)

WWPSA presented 2008 Scholarships to Jenny Liang, Kira Mangone, Caitlin Wilson and Matthew Per.

IT Report (Webmaster / Registrar – Brent Nielsen) [Back to top](#)

During 2008, WWPSA continued using Demosphere International Inc. ("DII") to provide the Club with a hosted website, registration, league tournament design, KidSafe management, Team and Player profile administration, merchant services and financial systems management. The technology continues to offer WWPSA a convenient and efficient means to provide meaningful soccer experiences for all of its members.

- We introduced a Travel Development page to provide information to those participating and leveraged the scheduling application to provide a uniform look and feel among all of the programs.



- An online training application was implemented so coaches could have access to training material and videos that would enhance their ability to teach fundamental soccer skills to their teams.
- The use of a “Travel Tryouts” registration option was employed to simplify the formation of Travel teams and lower expenses.
- Detailed descriptions of the various volunteer options were made available to aid parents in choosing ways that they could assist WWPSA.

With over 2,400 households using the online registration system, our continued relationship with DII enables us to distribute targeted information quickly and efficiently to those who need it. We continue to strengthen our relationship with DII and work closely with them to add new features and system customizations that meet the needs of WWPSA and its members.

Survey Monkey continued to provide us with online survey management tools to obtain feedback on our programs and activities. Based on the positive feedback received on the ease of this tool, we will continue to utilize it as needed to ensure that WWPSA can meet the needs of its members.

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.

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!

- West Windsor Plainsboro Education Association
- Sarnoff Corporation
- Plainsboro Dental Care
- UPS Capital Corp.
- Pied Piper Kids
- Blackrock, Inc.
- Plainsboro Township Police Dept, Special Services Division
- Plainsboro PBA
- Huntington Learning Center, Lawrenceville and Hamilton, NJ
- Mobivity
- A-1 Limousine
- Princeton Presbyterian Church
- Bergdorff-ERA Princeton
- Braun Research, Inc.
- PlaySportsTV
- A+ Family Barbershop
- Dreyfus
- ChalkTalk Media, Inc.
- Cariaga Family
- Akros Pharma, Inc.
- Kinka Tai



