

Director/President's Letter

It is hard to believe another season of soccer has come and gone. Most of our older teams ended their seasons this past weekend at the State Cup Tournament in Boise. Best of luck to those playing in the Three Blind Refs Tournament in Kalispell this weekend. Congratulations to all – win or lose, you make us proud.

I would like to give a special thanks to the following individuals:

Our coaches – Your time and dedication to your teams is critical to the players' development and success; your willingness to attend and complete licensing courses and guest coach training sessions makes you the most skilled coaching group in the region.

Our managers – Your efforts ensure everything is organized and accomplished and that our members know what is going on with their teams and the club in general.

Ken Thompson – Your performance in your first complete year as DOC has moved Sting soccer forward, improving player development and Sting leadership in the regional soccer community.

Matt Rutchi – Your assistance and teamwork with Ken has improved the quality and success of Sting programs and teams.

Barb Patton – As the Voice of Sting Soccer to our members, you consistently provide organization and accurate information for our members and the Sting Board.

Matt & Katie Snow & the Hot Shot Committee – Thanks for directing another successful Hot Shot Tournament.

Julie Kohles – You made our first Ultimate Goal Raffle a success.

Field Crews – Without your hard work, mathematical acumen, attention to detail and painty fingers, our players would be making rhomboid runs and kicking trapezoidal through balls – thanks for keeping us on the straight and wide.

Lastly, but most importantly – thanks to all the kids for playing – we hope you enjoyed your season!

As this year wraps up, we are already working on next season. Tryouts will start next week (details on our web page) and our staff is busy at work looking towards what next season will hold for our club. We encourage your kids to stay active during the summer months working on their technical foot skills and if possible, attending a summer soccer camp.

It has been a pleasure being your Club President this last year and I look forward to serving in this capacity again next year.

Thanks once again to everyone, because it really does take all of us to make this club a success.

Enjoy your summer!

Rob Rollins
Sting Soccer Club President

Tryouts – Canfield Middle School Next week!!

U10 & U11 – Monday, June 7th 5:30-7:30pm

U10 & U12 – Tuesday, June 8th 5:30-7:30pm

U13 – Wednesday, June 9th 5:30-7:30pm

U14 – Thursday, June 10th 5:30-7:30pm

U15 - U18 – Friday, June 11th 4:00-6:00pm

Give and Take Table at Tryouts

Do you have gently used, outgrown or unneeded soccer gear crowding your garage or closets? Bring usable soccer boots (cleats), shin guards, size 3, 4 or 5 balls to donate or exchange for more suitable equipment to Sting Tryouts at Canfield Middle School on Tuesday, June 7th at 4:00. We especially need jerseys that players on the current U10 and U12 teams have outgrown. These can be recycled to the younger age group since that style is discontinued and those teams have another year with that uniform. If your player in these age groups

has outgrown their jersey, please make it available to players in the younger age. Helping each other fund everyone's Sting Soccer experience makes that experience better for everyone.

State Cup

Eight Sting teams participated in the 2010 Idaho State Cup Tournament. Sting Soccer was represented by well by the 13B & 13G, 14B, 15G, 16B & 16G, and 18G & 18B teams. Three of the four non-Boise teams that made it to the finals were from Sting (13G, 14B, 18B). The 13G and 18B teams won their championship matches, earning positions in the Far West Regional Tournament in Albuquerque next month. Matt Ruchti (ADoC, 18B coach), Bob Walker (13G), and Andy Vredenberg (U14), and their players all deserve to be congratulated on their success.

Uniform Sizing and Ordering – June 15th (Location to be determined – email to follow)

June 15th is Uniform ordering day. Soccer etc. will be here to help players try-on and correctly size their new uniforms. Since most teams are scheduled to purchase new uniforms this year, Soccer Etc. will be available to take orders for new equipment. Samples will be available to ensure proper sizing. **PAYMENT WILL BE DUE AT THE TIME OF ORDER** to facilitate accuracy and timely order fulfillment. Credit card payment will be possible, but a 3% surcharge will be added to all credit card charges. Please make checks payable to Soccer Etc. (Sting Soccer makes no money on player uniform orders, but we do negotiate for the best possible price from Diadora and our vendors.)

Eco-Friendly New Uniforms for 2010-12

The new Sting uniform starting Fall 2010 will be the Diadora Terre Verde. This mid-priced competition uniform kit is made from P.E.T. According to the Diadora catalog, "Recycled P.E.T., also known as recycled polyester, is a durable, eco-friendly fabric made from post consumer recycled plastic bottles such as soft drinking and bottled water containers. Approximately 31% of the plastic bottles produced in the U.S. are made from Polyethylene Terephthalate (P.E.T.). In the U.S. alone, more than 45 billion plastic containers ended up in landfills in 2006. Recycling P.E.T. by re-melting it and extruding it as new fiber saves raw materials while taking a dent out of the amount of plastic bottles going into landfills." Each Terre Verde jersey is constructed from the materials in 13-15 water bottles. Board members and attending parents found the material more snag-resistant than the current jersey and slightly less expensive. Prices of the new uniform kits will be about \$200 and will include Black and white jerseys, 2 pairs of shorts, 2 pairs of socks, and probably a choice of backpack or Diadora underlayer (Check specs). Warmups and other gear will also be available for order.

AGM – June 16th, 6:30 PM, CDA Library (Community Room downstairs)

The Association General Meeting for Sting Soccer will be held June 16th. Member participation is essential to the continued success of the club. Several Board members who have served you for a number of years are stepping aside after helping guide the club through the transition to a new DOC, the integration of the U10 teams, and numerous other changes. Please consider running for a position on the Board – we truly need your help to keep Sting Soccer functioning effectively for the best interest of all our members. The energy and enthusiasm of "new blood" and ideas will help the Sting organization move forward for the benefit of all our players and teams as well as soccer in North Idaho. Please attend and cast your vote for Sting Board members, the leaders of the Sting organization for the next 1- or 2-year terms.

Are You getting your Money's Worth? Is Sting getting your Effort's Worth?

We know you keep hearing this, but it really does take all of us to make the Sting Soccer Club function. For the fourth year in a row, Sting season fees will not increase. This is a direct result of our success controlling expenses and raising money through the Hot Shot Tournament and the Ultimate Goal Raffle. We control costs by using volunteer labor to maintain and setup fields, by performing various tasks throughout the seasons, and by achieving full parent and player participation in our fundraising activities. Think back over the past year and do a mental accounting of your efforts to help Sting Soccer function. Please consider increasing your volunteer contribution of time, energy, or skill for the upcoming season.

Referees- A big THANK YOU to all of those who participated as club referees this past season! It took a lot of effort and dedication from those folks, some of whom were consistently "stepping up", on weekends/weekdays to fill slots so that the games could proceed. These referees officiated 180 games this spring in Post Falls and CDA.

League Shake ups

Teams will face multiple potential options for league play next year. The Northwest League and District 6 will be options as they were this spring season, but Sting teams may also have the option of playing in other organizational structures as well. A US Club league has been proposed as has a Far West Regional League. Director Ken Thompson will keep the coaches informed about the possible options for their teams, and he and ADOC Matt Ruchti will determine the best placement for teams based on the options available.

New Format for Small-side Teams

A new policy for our younger teams has been adopted by IYSA that will change the size of our younger age teams on the field. On June 1, we received an email from IYSA Executive Director Craig Warner informing us of an approved policy change for U10s and U11s & U12s. Starting in the fall, U11 & U12 will play 9v9 on the field and U10s will play 8v8 for another year (until Fall 2011) when a switch to the 7v7 format for that age is confirmed. For U11s & U12s the change will ease the transition to full field (11v11) soccer and make our team sizes consistent with the Washington teams we often compete against. For U10s this will result in more touches on the ball for younger players and more time on the field (the "golden age" for technical development); it also may result in more teams at the U10 age group, but not until next year.

Strange Soccer Terms – Short Roster

You may hear more about "short rostering" after tryouts in June, 2010. Currently IYSA rules only allow 22 players to suit up for a game (11v11; 15 for 8v8). At tryouts this often results in "cuts" of capable players, as when a U13 age group has 25+ quality players. Sting and other clubs in the state are often faced with the difficult task of denying a dedicated player with potential a spot on a team. To address this concern, IYSA now allows clubs to register multiple "short roster" teams of 10 or 11 players in an age group. These teams then compete in league matches with "guest" players from another "short roster" team in the club to create a full squad. This option can complicate league scheduling, but creates opportunities to increase playing time for players. In addition clubs can coordinate age-group training activities to keep more players involved and progressing in their soccer skills and knowledge, and coaches can schedule more matches and more easily accommodate player injuries and planned absences from games. Sting may be experimenting with this strategy as a result of Tryouts this June.