



WHWSC



WEST HARTFORD WOMEN'S SOCCER CLUB

February, 2009

2009 Spring Season

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President's Message

I'm very pleased to welcome you to another great season of women's soccer! I look forward to helping WHWSC continue its successful operation. I will have a deep bench of support from an outstanding Executive Committee, and much to live up to, as Kim Heintz, Lisa Alexander, Cindy Courtney, and Beth Kennedy step down after two years of hard work and dedication. Can you believe the league is now in its 15th year? That may make some wince at how quickly time passes and others excited to know you're part of a long-lasting tradition in this area, but I think it tells an important story. Like many organizations, the group started with a simple mission, worked hard to spread the word, and it grew over the years. The club has worked hard to keep sponsorship and other resources available to support the interest in WHWSC. But regardless of our best intentions, our club depends most upon player commitment and participation in order to function properly. Please read the sidebar on "Absenteeism," which continues to be a strain on our operations in spite of our best efforts to keep this club well-funded and playing on fabulous fields.

In the meantime, we look forward to another Spring season. It's gorgeous and sunny out as I write this note (albeit 20 degrees), and I know we'll all be hoping for great weather and the first chance to stretch our legs. We will again offer two recreational divisions. Division A is open to women age 23 and over as of the first day of the season (generally more experienced players, competitive playoff division in the Spring), and Division B is open to women age 25 and over as of the first day of the season (broader range of experience, no play-offs, no slide tackling, open subbing). Please contact the division coordinators to help determine which division is right for you.

The season will officially begin the weekend of April 18th and 19th and will end the weekend of June 20th and 22nd. Games are held Saturday and Sunday, with scrimmages and/or makeup games on Thursday nights. The registration is due March 1, 2009. Please read the article on registration for more specific information about team placement, late registration, etc. As in past spring seasons, we will again be offering pre-season clinics to help refresh those skills! (But unfortunately, no youth serums will be administered.) More details to come in March. Finally, we are planning a new Sportsmanship Award for one team selected by its peers in each division at the end of the spring season. More details to come, but it's a good opportunity to start recognizing and rewarding those high quality teams others can count on for their collegiality and good attitude.

If you have any questions about league play, coaching opportunities, or sponsorships, please feel free to contact me at 214-1678, or by email at epbavier@gmail.com.

All best,
Evelyn





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Registration

Registrations are due to the registrar by March 1. The fee is \$55 which helps cover the cost of referees and linesmen, insurance, and team shirts and socks. A \$10 late fee will be charged for registrations postmarked after March 1. A copy of the registration form is attached or can be obtained online at www.westhartford-soccer.net. Thank you to those who have registered early. Late registrants will be put on a waiting list to fill openings, if any. Returning players who register late are not guaranteed a spot on their team. B division players who are unable to commit to play the majority of the games should consider signing up as a designated sub. Your name will be given to all of the team reps and they will call you first before seeking other players for subs. This is a great way to continue to play when you can but not take up a spot on

your team. Players whose registration forms are postmarked after March 1 will be placed on a waiting list to fill openings if any. It is important to get your registration in on time to guarantee a returning spot on your team.

Please register on time!

As in past years, league participants will be assigned to a team based on availability, experience, age and position. Requests to change teams will only be granted if there is available space on the requested team and the balance among teams is maintained. A Division will continue to accept registrations on an individual, group or team basis. If you wish to be placed with a friend, please include that request and your group members' names on your registration form. All efforts will be made to honor groups of women wishing to be placed on the same team. Please note that any team wishing to enter the league as its own entity must provide a team repre-



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 1	Registration closes
End of March	Pre-season clinics start
April 18/19	Spring season begins

sentative to participate in league governance and must comply with all other provisions of the By-Laws. Please call Pam Kapinos at 860-214-3471 with any questions regarding group and team registrations or for more information regarding A Division registration.

New Player Registration

On the registration form, please provide detailed information regarding past soccer or other athletic experience. This information helps the division coordinators appropriately place players on teams so as to ensure fair balance of teams.

ABSENTEEISM STRAINS CLUB OPERATIONS

In the past several seasons, Division A teams in particular have experienced sometimes debilitating levels of absenteeism. Division B teams, too, have suffered from poor attendance. The problem is not always division-wide, and some teams have had great turnout at every game. But some teams have often played games down 2, 3 or 4 players or face forfeiting the match. Not only is the game no longer enjoyable, but the team loses longer term momentum and unity. As players on those teams understandably seek their recreational soccer fix elsewhere, the division as a whole could face losing teams and/or expanding rosters on surviving teams. In short - a club whose members are not engaged at the right level will suffer operationally.

The Board of Directors will be making a pointed effort at understanding the reasons for chronic absenteeism problems in Division A, and reporting back its findings and potential solutions in the next season or two. In the meantime, please be aware that the bylaws allow Executive Committee action to be taken against a player who fails to attend 2 games without prior notice, or 5 or more games for any reason, with or without notice. Team reps are responsible for keeping the division coordinators aware of such problems. If you are a player, take heed and please do not commit to a team as a rostered player unless you can fully participate. If you are a team rep or coach, feel empowered to speak directly to players with chronic issues, and to act in the best interests of your team by keeping your Division Coordinator involved.