

CHANGE

It's been said that the only thing which remains constant is change. Our soccer program, and the larger state, regional, national, and international programs within which we function, are no exception.

There were several significant changes to the governing Laws of the Game in 1997. Even if you've had a long-time association with the game, if you haven't been to a coaching or referee clinic recently, you may be surprised to find out how much is different. See the article on p. 2 for details.

Another major change was the requirement for trained "assistant referees" in place of linespersons. Many "old-timers" who'd been lining for years are not current in the "training" now required.

Concerns about risk management and licensing youth coaches have been raised more often recently. The state has required a disclosure form of all volunteers for several years. At the most recent NMYSA meeting, a strong proposal was put forth by the new State Coaching Director that coaches at all levels should be licensed, to improve the quality of the game and to limit risk. An ambitious program to license ALL coaches within 6 years is moving forward. See page 6 for more information.

Not all change is for the better, however. In a game we use to teach our children motor skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship, we have seen some decidedly unsportsmanlike behavior in some of our League parents. See **The Prez Says** on page 3.



WANTED!! NEW REGISTRAR

The current LAYSLS Registrar has decided not to renew her contract at the end of its present term (Mar '98). A qualified replacement is being sought, to be in place by 1 Feb '98. This position is a non-voting (paid) part-time contractor. Please contact the Registrar or President (see pg. 4), and send a resume to PO Box 649, Los Alamos 87544.

ANNUAL MEETING

The LAYSLS Annual Meeting will be held 24 Nov '97 in the downstairs meeting room of Mesa Public Library from 7-9 PM. All interested persons are invited. Board members will report briefly on the past year's activities. All general members will have the opportunity for comment on and input to the League's programs. It is important for the Board to hear your suggestions and concerns.

New business will include election of Board members for the four positions whose terms expire this year: Treasurer, White Rock Coordinator, Advanced Team Coordinator, and Coach Trainer / Equipment Coordinator. Each Board member's term is two years. The terms of the nine-member Board are staggered: four are up for election in odd-numbered years and five in even-numbered years. The five continuing Board members are serving as a nominating committee (President, Secretary, Referee Coordinator, Hill Coordinator, and Publicity Coordinator). See the box on page 4 for names and phone numbers of the current Board members. If you are interested in serving in any of these positions, please contact a member of the Board. If you know of others willing to serve, or who would be an asset to the League, please nominate them. If you have any questions about the duties associated with any of these positions, please call the current office-holder, see the summaries on page 6, or visit our web site and review

(ANNUAL MEETING continued on page 5)

INSIDE

- Page 2: '97 Laws of the Game
- Page 2: LANL sanctions LAYSLS
- Page 2: Board Reports, start
- Page 3: The Prez Says (sportsmanship)
- Page 3: Where your money goes ...
- Page 4: Board Reports, continued
- Page 4: Calendar & Board of Directors list
- Page 4: Web site update
- Page 5: Volunteers & Administrivia
- Page 6: Board Reports and Positions

⚽ HILL COORDINATOR

Joy Dee White

Another fall season is here and going as fast as the previous months! I really want to thank Marcee Sarracino and Anne Thoma for all their hard work. You both did an awesome job and need a huge pat on the back! Good work!

I would also like to thank those parents who have been so supportive and willing to help make this soccer season happen. The ultimate measure of a successful soccer season is what happens on the field and the overall enjoyment of the game. I know a lot of time and effort is spent providing your kids the opportunity to play, but the benefit to our kids will not be fully realized until later. They are learning skills (hopefully soccer ones too!) that they will use the rest of their lives. So please continue to encourage your kids to work with the coaches and their teammates and we will have a successful fall season!

⚽ LANL SANCTIONS LAYS�

Because many LAYS� players are children of LANL employees, and most LAYS� coaches and volunteers are also affiliated with LANL, the Laboratory had officially approved LAYS� as a "Laboratory Sanctioned Organization" by e-mail note from Human Resources Division on 26 Aug 1997. The note goes on to say "... Please note that use of Laboratory resources and worktime for Laboratory sanctioned activities should be kept to a reasonable minimum as determined by your management. Good luck to you and your organization." The sanction request was made primarily to authorize use of LANL e-mail for communications regarding game and practice schedules. There may also be some reasonable use of meeting space for LAYS� activities. Where Board members have LANL e-mail addresses, they are now listed on our web site's Board of Directors page after their personal e-mail addresses. We are very appreciative of LANL's support.

⚽ '97 FIFA LAWS UPDATE

There are a number of **important** 1997 changes to the Laws of the Game:

- Goals may now be scored directly from kickoffs and goal kicks.
- Players bleeding from a wound **MUST** leave the field of play and may **ONLY** return to the field when signaled to do so by the referee—players cannot come back on the field as soon as their wound is dressed; they must wait for the referee to signal them on.
- The team winning the coin toss **MUST** choose which goal to defend; loser kicks off.
- The ball is in play as soon as it is moved. This applies to kickoffs and penalty kicks—which still must move forward—as well as to all free kicks and corner kicks—which can be moved in any direction. As soon as the ball has moved, it is in play. Only minimal movement is required. The ball no longer has to travel its circumference to be in play. Remember though, kicks by the defending team taken within their own penalty area must still clear the area before the ball is in play (*i.e.*, goal kicks or free kicks).
- The keeper may **NO LONGER** touch the ball with his/her hands from a throw-in by a teammate. Thus, while teammates may still throw the ball in to their keeper, the keeper must kick or head the ball and cannot use hands. Penalty: indirect free kick.
- Failing to respect the required distance (10 yds) on a free kick or delaying the restart of a game are now cautionable offenses (yellow card). This means that defending players **MUST** fall back at least 10 yds as soon as a kick is awarded and players must not be allowed to delay the restart of the game by standing in the way of a kick, by kicking/throwing the ball away, by dawdling in collecting the ball, by stalling taking a throw-in or a free kick, etc.
- Keepers must release the ball from their hands within 5-6 seconds or be cautioned for wasting time and they **MUST NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE MORE THAN 4 STEPS**.
- "Using offensive, insulting or abusive language" has replaced "foul or abusive language" to emphasize that such behavior will **NOT** be tolerated—including **BEFORE** and **AFTER** the game, regardless of whom it is directed toward. Penalty: send off (red card). This applies to players, coaches, **AND** spectators. If spectators are a problem, they are the coach's responsibility. If the coach does not or can not deal with them, the coach will be sent off and, if necessary, the game will be terminated.
- On penalty kicks, the goalkeeper may now move sideways along the goal line or otherwise move his/her feet before the ball has been kicked. He/she may **NOT**, however, move forward until the ball is in play (moved forward).

⚽ THE PREZ SAYS

John Courtright

The LAYS� Board has the responsibility of providing a safe environment for as many kids as possible to learn and play the game of soccer. I would much rather be writing about how we have our biggest enrollment ever in LA soccer, or how a Los Alamos team won the regional tournament in the 3v3 soccer shootout. But every once in a while, someone must be brought up short and told to remember that this is still a game, and the reason for playing is so kids can learn soccer.

The LAYS� Board supports our volunteer coaches. Last spring, a recreational U-10 team was beaten soundly by another U-10 team. After the game, while the losing coach was consoling the losing goalie, the child's parent became distraught and not only verbally assaulted the coach, but physically pushed the coach backward. The incident occurred in front of several parents as well as the goalie's teammates. I personally interviewed several parents, referees, and the two involved parents. The Board had an emergency meeting and assessed the following penalty on the parent of the goalie. The child was immediately suspended from playing the rest of the season (2 games remained). If the child was to play this fall, the parents would be required to attend the annual coaches orientation and referee basic guidelines classes. During the '97-'98 season, both parents would be required to sit in chairs at the games and only offer positive comments and encouragement. Should the Board receive one more complaint from the referees or coaches concerning the behavior of these parents, the child would once again be suspended from playing soccer.

The Board supports the players. Toward the end of the spring season, a U-10 team was having a make-up game. When the team arrived, their assigned field was partially under water. Since the field next to it was empty and dry, they proceeded to play their game there. Shortly before half time, a U-16/19 team which was assigned to play a make-up game on the dry field showed up for their warm-up. Out of courtesy, the U-16/19s told the coach of one of the U-10 teams that the older team was supposed to play on that field, and that the U-10s would have to move at half time. At half time of the U-10 game, the U-16/19s took their assigned field. At that point, one of the U-10 coaches got angry and had words with the referee as well as with several of the U-16/19 players. When a 15-year-old girl finally made a comment to her teammates about "let's go ahead and play," the U-10 coach, in front of everyone, young and old,

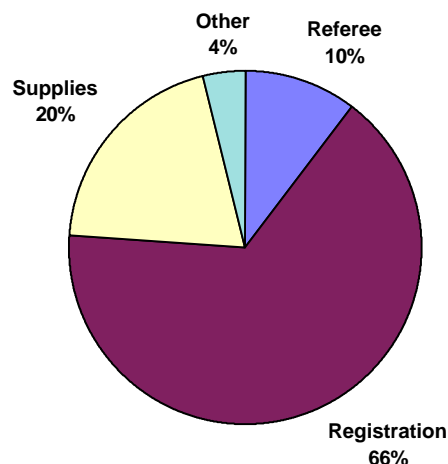
(THE PREZ SAYS continued on page 5)

⚽ TREASURER

Herb Fry

Where your money goes— The Los Alamos Youth Soccer league has a registration fee of forty dollars for full-year players (that play both the fall and spring seasons). For those who play only a single "half-season," the fee is twenty-six dollars. The graphic below shows where that money is spent by the League:

LAYS� Spending



The largest percentage, 66%, is spent on the registration of the players. Ten dollars per player, or 25%, is sent directly to the state for registration. This fee includes a blanket insurance policy for the players. The remaining registration expenses cover the salary of the Registrar and the operating expenses of the Registrar—printing registration forms, mailing, office supplies, etc. The next highest percentage, 20%, is for the purchase of supplies like soccer balls, cones, ball bags, and goal nets. The remaining significant area of expenditure, 10%, is for referees. This covers the referee classes, youth referees for the recreational soccer games, and referee registration. The final 4% covers expenses like coaches clinics, printing and mailing of this newsletter, stamps for board members and other office supplies.



⚽ WANTED!!

**Age-Group Coordinators (AGCs)
for the '97-'98 Season**

U-12 Girls (White Rock)

U-12 and up, Coed (White Rock)

Call Liz Fawcett, 672-1767

⚽ ADVANCED TEAMS

Pam Erickson

Ten advanced teams are participating in the fall season of the Duke City Soccer League, which officially began the first Saturday in September. We had our usual troubles in getting timely copies of the game schedules prior to the first game. These teams will play eight scheduled league games, and as many scrimmages and tournaments as time, weather, and parents allow. Good luck, Kixx and Lasers!

Kudos to Dave Sanchez, our new girls U-10 coach, for receiving his "D" license this summer. Brad and Debbie Smith also attended the "D" clinic. This license requires two full weekends of classroom and field instruction. All coaches are encouraged to inquire about upgrading their licenses regularly. Even the best coaches can learn something new, and should seek out new ideas regularly. Most levels of licensing are offered in Albuquerque, but if there is enough interest in Los Alamos, a clinic can be arranged. Talk to the Advanced Team Coordinator and Coach Trainer / Equipment Coordinator.

Following is the list of coaches for the current ('97-'98) advanced teams—girls U-10: Dave Sanchez; girls U-11: Deborah Kubicek; girls U-13: Michel Tuszewski; boys U-10: Phil Pellette; boys U-11: Gary Cort; boys U-11B: Steve Booth; boys U-12: Brad Smith; boys U-13: Steve Valone; Boys U-14: Mark Paffett.

⚽ FIELD LINING

We are an all-volunteer organization. Age group coaches (and parents) are responsible for finding volunteers or for lining their primary field. Contact the Coach Trainer / Equipment Coordinator for the equipment. Detailed "how to" directions are posted on the web site.

⚽ LAYSL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Courtright	662-9216	President
Bob Walker	672-9749	Secretary
Herb Fry	662-6491	Treasurer
Kim Thomas	672-3354	Referee Coordinator
Joy Dee White	661-6697	Hill Coordinator
Liz Fawcett	672-1767	White Rock Coordinator
Lore Pellette	672-0389	Coach Trainer / Equipment Coordinator
Pam Erickson	662-2056	Advanced Team Coordinator
Bill Flor	662-7885	Publicity Coordinator
Debbie Castro	662-2181	Registrar (non-voting)

⚽ '97-'98 CALENDAR

5-6 Sep	First weekend of Fall recreational games
22 Sep	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
4-5 Oct	Whole Enchilada Fiesta (U-10 thru U-12)
10-11 Oct	Last weekend of Fall recreational games
11-12 Oct	Whole Enchilada Fiesta (U13 thru U-16)
27 Oct	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
1-2 Nov	Young Olympian's Cup (U11 thru U14)
24 Nov	Annual Meeting and Elections
22 Dec	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
15 Jan	Spring supplemental registration OPENS
26 Jan	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
23 Feb	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
28 Feb	Spring supplemental registration CLOSES
?? Mar	Spring coach and referee clinics (TBD)
20 Mar	Spring team formation deadline
23 Mar	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
23 Mar	First Spring recreational practice allowed
30 Mar - 3 Apr	Public School spring break
10-11 Apr	First weekend of Spring recreational games
27 Apr	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
15-16 May	Last weekend of Spring recreational games
25 May	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
22 Jun	Regular Board meeting at Mesa Public Library
3-7 Aug	British Soccer (U-13 and up and competitive)
10-14 Aug	British Soccer (U-12 and under and competitive)



⚽ WEB SITE UPDATE

Because LAYSL can only afford a few printed newsletters per year, we established a web site to communicate better and more regularly with our members, as we described in a previous article. Our plan is to have our web site serve as the "master reference" for the League—making all of our documents, plans, bylaws, guidelines, and administrative material available to any member of the League in this way. Presently, it contains a great deal of material about the League, as well as detailed information about current activities, recreational team schedules, local field maps, the League calendar, past newsletters, clinic information, etc. For the latest, please visit our web site at:

<http://www.roadrunner.com/~laysl/>

We welcome comments and suggestions. If you have a calendar item, please use the on-line submission form. If you'd like to submit any information for site inclusion, please e-mail to us at:

laysl@newmexico.com

(*THE PREZ SAYS* continued from page 3)

slapped his own behind and told the teenager she could “k*** his b***!” Once again, the Board met, and came to the following conclusions. The U-16/19 team was considerate for allowing the U-10 team to finish their half. The U-10 team should have moved without question at half time. The reported behavior of the U-10 coach was inappropriate and inexcusable. Should the Board receive one more complaint about the U-10 coach, he will be dismissed as a coach and the record sent to the State association for further review or action.

From the discussions I heard when I attended the State association meeting in July, these types of incidents are not uncommon, but totally ridiculous. They shouldn’t happen. We are watching or supporting a game which happens to be played by children. Both incidents didn’t involve kids, but parents! We, as coaches, parents, and volunteers should be setting an example. The example should be to have fun and learn. I know such incidents can occur in any sport, but never should. Without question, such incidents are uncalled for, inexcusable, and a terrible example to anyone connected with youth sports. I promise that the LAYS� Board will do everything possible to ensure such behavior will not be tolerated.

(*ANNUAL MEETING* continued from page 1)

the League’s Bylaws and Guidelines.

In addition, the current Hill Coordinator (whose term expires in November ’98) has indicated that she may be moving next summer, and has suggested that we begin a search for her replacement ahead of time. In that way, the new person would not be faced with the Fall ’98 registration process with no turnover, as he or she could become familiar with the process by assisting during the Spring ’98 mid-season registration. Individuals interested in filling the unexpired term of the Hill Coordinator should also contact the nominating committee.

While volunteers are the heart and soul of the League at all levels, we do have one paid (part-time), non-voting Board position, that of Registrar. Debbie Castro, who has served so ably for several years, is not exercising her renewal option when her current contract term is up at the end of March ’98. **It is very important that we have a replacement on board by 1 Feb ’98** for some overlap with Debbie, as there is much to learn. Interested individuals please contact one of the Board members, and send resumes to PO Box 649, Los Alamos 87544.

ADMINISTRIVIA

Advanced coaches whose teams are participating in **in-state** tournaments (includes AYSO) need to contact the Registrar (Debbie Castro, 662-2181) once you send in your application. A “white” roster needs to be completed and signed by both the coach and the Registrar **10 working days** prior to the tournament. A \$10.00 ODP fee also needs to be sent to NMYSA with the “white” roster. For **out-of-state** tournaments, please contact the Registrar **at least 45 days** prior to the tournament, so that a travel application and “blue” roster can be completed and signed by all players, the coach, and the Registrar. The application and “blue” roster have to be mailed 30 days prior to the tournament. A \$25.00 ODP fee also needs to be sent to

(*ADMINISTRIVIA* continued on page 6)

VOLUNTEERS

LAYS� is a volunteer organization. Similar to other organizations, it takes a lot of people to enable the final product to be produced—our kids get to play soccer.

The organization needs more help. There are many small tasks that would be a big help for smooth operation of our League. We can use people for assistant referees (formerly linespersons), referees, and field marshals. We also need a new influx of licensed coaches and assistant coaches. There are positions for a White Rock field coordinator, an assistant equipment manager, and for people willing to line fields. Not all of these jobs entail the regular commitment that being a Board member or Age Group Coordinator can. If we don’t get help with these “smaller” jobs, we may have to hire some of the work done. That would result in higher registration fees.

The LAYS� Board is the governing body of our League. It is comprised of individuals who have a strong desire to see soccer succeed in Los Alamos. Believe it or not, all Board members do not have kids still playing soccer. The bottom line ... there are many small tasks that don’t require someone year round, but in the short run, an extra hand would be a welcome asset. If something in our League interests you, please call the appropriate Board member, or the League President, and volunteer a bit of your time to help the world of Los Alamos Youth Soccer. If you can make a more regular commitment, please consider one of the Board positions coming open in November or one of the Age Group Coordinator positions.



(ADMINISTRIVIA continued from page 5)

NMYSA with this packet.

Guest Player Forms need to be signed and given to the registrar 10 days before the tournament, and also require a \$10.00 ODP fee to NMYSA. Guest Player Forms can be picked up from the Registrar.

Remember, advanced coaches, that you must have your coach's book in your possession when you travel to games, scrimmages, tournaments, etc. (which includes registration forms, birth forms and pass cards). If you attend any out-of-state tournaments, you must also take the players' certified birth certificates.

Recreational coaches need to keep their players' registration forms during all practices and games. They contain the parents' signature consent for any required medical treatment.

COACH LICENSING

The State has proposed a detailed plan for coach licensing over the next 6 years. We will publish the proposal on our web site in the near future, showing the recommended license levels by age group and the proposed staged increase in license requirements between 1998 and 2004. LAYSL will support coach license training in our program.

WHITE ROCK NEWS

Liz Fawcett

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Age Group Coordinators who volunteered their time in order to make this fall season a success. They are: U-06, Lorraine Vasilik (672-9475); U-08, April Nakaoka (672-3323); U-10 Coed, Chris Michelotti (672-0419); U-10 Girls, Sandra Rodriguez (672-0306); and U-12 Girls, Jenny Sprinkle (672-1192). The U-12 Coed, U-14 Coed and U-16/19 Coed age groups have so few teams that I have been handling them myself. You may reach me at 672-1767 or by e-mail at LLFawcett@aol.com.

This year, we had a larger number of players than ever before (29 teams) and very few volunteers. Please contact your coach, Age Group Coordinator, or myself if you are willing to help in any way. We can still use your help. Soccer can be a fun activity for the whole family. Your kids need you to become involved. Again, a big THANK YOU to all who have volunteered, and please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns. Remember, soccer should be (1) safe, (2) fun, and (3) educational. Have a great season.

BOARD POSITIONS

It has been a while since we've run brief descriptions of the Board members' responsibilities. With the upcoming election, they are summarized below. Positions open at the upcoming General Meeting (or shortly thereafter, as described on page 1) are marked with an asterisk (*):

The **President** presides over all regular meetings, normally sets the agenda, and serves as the primary point-of-contact for LAYSL, both in Los Alamos and with outside organizations.

The **Registrar*** is certainly the busiest and most important Board member—maintaining all player records and databases, preparing identification and pass cards, paying State registration fees, preparing labels for all bulk mailings, and handling most of the other paperwork that keeps the League functioning. The Registrar is the only paid League position, and is a non-voting member of the Board.

The **Secretary** keeps the official minutes of all meetings, handles their mailing, and ensures that records are maintained of official Board operations.

The **Treasurer*** keeps the League's financial records and pays most of the bills.

The **Referee Coordinator** is responsible for ensuring that all our referees are properly trained, licensed and registered with the State. S/he also has the big job of scheduling referee for coverage of all in-town games.

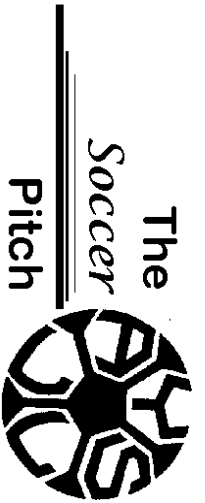
The **Hill* and White Rock* Coordinators** ensure that everything moves smoothly and correctly for the teams of the recreational program in their geographic areas. They recruit and select coaches; oversee Age-Group Coordinators, team selection and problem resolution; and jointly prepare recreational schedules. Their AGCs do the actual assignment of players to individual teams.

The **Coach Trainer / Equipment Coordinator*** is responsible for ensuring that our coaches are trained and that advancement opportunities are available. S/he also ensures that all teams have proper and adequate equipment.

The **Advanced Teams Coordinator*** serves as the single point-of-contact for all advanced teams, and for the League's interaction with the Duke City Soccer League.

The **Publicity Coordinator** prepares the LAYSL *Soccer Pitch* newsletters, newspaper ads, and other notices as required. The incumbent is also the League webmaster.







October 1997
Newsletter


**Los
Alamos
Youth
Soccer
League**

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
Los Alamos, NM
Permit No. 154

 Annual Meeting & Elections

 '97 Laws of the Game

 LANL Sanction

 Board Reports

 Volunteers



Los Alamos Youth Soccer League
P. O. Box 649
Los Alamos, NM 87544