

From the President's Pen...

When you receive this newsletter, I will no longer be your president. After serving for about ten years in that capacity, I decided it was time to step down. Tony Rodrigues will be the new president of Orchard Valley and I will become Past President.

Orchard Valley has made great strides over the past decade to become a well run, well governed league with the reputation of always striving to do the right thing for the youth we serve. The league is presided over by an excellent board of officers and volunteers who donate countless hours to make the league the smooth running vehicle that it is and to provide an excellent program for all children. I know you will extend Tony and the Board every courtesy and, as always, I urge you to volunteer in any capacity. No job is too small and all contributions of help are greatly appreciated.

Good luck to all of you in future soccer years.

For Youth and For Soccer,
Jack Salvemini

Spring Recreation

Welcome to the OYVSL 2009 spring season for recreation soccer. We are looking forward to another fun and exciting season.

This spring we are offering two changes to our program. We have changed the format of our Under-8 program to be inline with our fall program. They will play 7 v 7 on a full size U8 field and goals. This was tested last spring and well accepted by our coaches and players. In addition we will be offer a U16 division for spring with a 6 v 6 format, full size goals and modified pitch. This should prove to be exciting and fast-paced with high scoring games.

For the fall season we will be adding a U18 boys and girls team. They will participate in the West

Valley play through league, which will give our older players an opportunity to continue playing our sport.

We need your participation to make this a success.

If you would like information on any of the recreation programs please email me through the OV web site.

Frank Gargiulo
OVYSL Recreation Coordinator.

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**Recreation signups have been extended to March 9th.
Sign up Today!**





Referee Mentor Program



I would like to remind fellow referees that Orchard Valley Youth Soccer League (OVYSL) is among the leagues in District 2 that participates in the CYSA-N District 2 Mentor/Mentor Candidate program. This is a good thing for referees who want to participate as a mentor or mentor candidate because the program addresses key concerns of referee retention, growth and development while enjoying the essence of the game. Here's what the program is about and how you can participate:

Who can be a mentor?

Referee Mentor Criteria:

1. Commitment – committed to a sustained program. Prepare to hang around and help for awhile.
2. Respect – Must be respected within and outside the immediate soccer community.
3. Knowledge - Formal and practical knowledge of the Laws of the Game.
4. Ability – Mentor needs to have the background and game experience to recommend mentored candidates for upgrade in grade or game assignments.
5. Training - Successfully complete a 3-hour mentor class.
6. License – Mentor should hold a Referee Grade 7 or higher unless extenuating circumstances allow for a waiver to this requirement. Waiver must be a joint agreement between the District 2 Referee Director (Dave Morton) and league Referee Coordinator/Assignor.
7. Communication Skills – Mentor must have good communication skills in order to allow for positive information to flow to mentored individuals.

Who can be a mentor candidate?

Mentor Candidate Criteria:

1. Referee grade level and experience - Current USSF referee license, Grade 8, one year minimum experience.
2. Age level - Minimum age of 14 years old.
3. Desirous of being mentored.
4. Commitment - committed to refereeing to the point of accepting and implementing suggestions from a mentor.
5. Willing to challenge oneself – Not afraid (with help and support) to take on tougher assignments. Not afraid to travel to another venue/league.

How can I participate as a mentor or mentor candidate?

Read the criteria above and, if you feel you meet the criteria, please send an email to: Tony Rodrigues at mrsoccer@garlic.com or contact me at home after 6:30 PM at (408) 461-1283.

Please note that Orchard Valley mentors new referees on an as needed basis. This referee mentor program is intended to mentor those referees that are committed to improving their referee skills and grow within the referee community.

For the Good of the Game,

Tony Rodrigues
Orchard Valley Referee Development
Coordinator
408 461-1283

Have you Noticed?



Orchard Valley Soccer League has a new logo! Orchard Valley's new logo can be seen on all our uniforms for both competitive and recreation. OV started the change last fall and the new logo will be prominent this season. The new logo will be the OV identification symbol along with our new white home and black away jerseys. Our

recreation program will also be displaying the new logo. It is the intentions of OV that the new uniform colors and logo will become our identification icon wherever an OV team is seen.

Frank Gargiulo



Orchard Valley Sponsored Referee Class

Orchard Valley is sponsoring a referee grade 8 (Referee Class 2) class in March/April 2009. Here are the specifics about the referee class:

When? March 23, 25, 26, 30, April 1 and 2 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM.

Where? IFDES (Portuguese) Hall, 250 Old Gilroy Street, in Gilroy.

Who? The class is offered to interested individuals 12 years or older from the

surrounding communities of Gilroy, San Martin, and Morgan Hill. Orchard Valley now requires that Abronzino and Delgado head coaches hold a Referee Class 2 license if they are to coach at this level. Some coaches also take referee class since this class is a prerequisite for those coaches who want to pursue a Coaches National D license.

How do I sign up? Please contact Tony Rodrigues at (408) 461-1283 or send him an email at mrsoccer@garlic.com.



Perspective

I used to be a coach. I spent more than seven years coaching both recreation and competitive teams for Orchard Valley. I was always conscious of my responsibility to be a role model and I tried to use soccer to teach my players important lessons about life and teamwork. I was the kind of coach that the "win at all cost" parents ran away from as quickly as they could.

Try as I might, I'll admit to being human too. There were a few times when the competitive nature of the game would suck me in. One such event happened back when my UII comp team took a trip to play in its first real tournament, down in Long Beach. It was like a trip into the great unknown. I had been told by a couple of peers that SoCal teams were so much better than District II teams. They wished me luck, but warned of dire consequences for taking my girls on such an audacious trip into the heart of the beast.

Despite the doubts, our girls surprised everyone. We won our first game, then our second. We won twice more on Sunday and found ourselves scrambling to book hotel rooms for an extra night! We were staying over Monday for the championship game!

All the parents were pumped! Our girls had proven they were really good. All the adults could talk about during dinner Sunday night was how well our girls were playing, and wondering what our chances were on Monday. The girls on the other hand, fretted about how long dinner would last... they wanted to get back to the pool.

Monday morning dawned and I gathered my team under some trees at the Polo Fields in Long Beach. I was in the midst of a long and impassioned speech about what the team had already accomplished, and what it could accomplish by winning this final game. Then, suddenly, my team captain blurted out, "Look! A Frog!"

In that instant I had lost my team! The girls piled around their captain to look at the frog. My thoughtfully planned pregame talk had been overwhelmed by the actions of a tiny tree frog, obviously planted by our opponents to distract us.

I gave my assistant coach a panicked look and struggled to suppress my laughter. I had always told the girls and their parents this was supposed to be fun. At that time, nothing was more fun than watching a frog.

I finally got the girls attention again. I gave them the line-up, sent them out on the field, and watched them win the game 2-0. They went on to win three more tournaments, the league championship and advance to the elite eight in State Cup play that year. And best of all, no frogs were harmed and a splendid time was had by one and all.

The obvious lesson, fun and winning are not mutually exclusive. As a coach you can't always lead your team to championships, but you can make sure they're having fun.

Kelvin Thomas

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Outdoor Sports Complex Q&A

Many teams practice at the Morgan Hill Outdoor Sports Complex, so whether you are a coach or parent of a player, you might find these Q&A's by Kelvin Thomas, Complex Turf Scheduler, helpful.

Q. Which part of the field is assigned to my team?

A. Multiple teams are assigned to a field at the same time. No team "owns" an end of the field. The coaches are expected to work together to develop a rotation that works to ensure that each team has equal access to the goals. Some may choose to rotate during the course of the night, some will choose daily or weekly. It's up to you guys.

Q. How much does my team have to pay for the field?

A. Every team that requested field time at the OSC has indicated it plans to play in the District II spring league and/or the spring time State Cup Tournament. Assuming that is true, your field fees are covered in your team registration costs for spring. If you do not register for DII spring, you'll either be assessed a fee by Orchard Valley, or dropped from the field in favor of an OV team that is playing DII spring.

Q. I did not get the days, or time slots I asked for. Why?

A. The short answer is supply and demand. The longer answer is that the OV Board came up with a priority system for requests that, among other things, gave extra weight to teams competing in State/Association Cup this spring and to coaches who are actively volunteering time to the league beyond coaching their teams. The reality is, everybody got something they wanted.

Q. Why don't we have more slots on Wednesdays?

A. The city is holding the football field on Wednesday nights for another program. I think there is a reasonable chance that the field may eventually become available to us. We're on the waiting list... so hopefully we'll get it.

Q. How many teams are on the field at once?

A. It varies, but usually three teams are scheduled on the field at one time. On a few occasions, we might have four... sorry about that. Please work together as best

you can. Just remember what its like to squeeze onto PA Walsh with five other soccer teams and two baseball teams... with that in mind, the overcrowding at the OSC won't seem so bad.

Q. Can I request changes to my schedule?

A. The posted schedule indicates who the coaches are for each time slot. You are free to negotiate changes amongst yourselves. I will not facilitate such changes. It's up to the coaches to work together. If the changes you make are short-term, I don't need to know about it. If you are arranging for a long-term change, please email me once you have agreement and I'll update the schedule to reflect the change.

Q. Can I schedule a scrimmage?

A. If you want to schedule a scrimmage during the Monday – Thursday period, you'll have to negotiate with your fellow coaches to see if they'd be willing to give up their slots. I have reserved a few scrimmage opportunities on Friday nights later in the spring that I will advertise as we get into March...and no...you can't book them now... at least not without a bribe.

Q. What can we (our players and fans) take to eat and drink at the OSC?

A. On the fields themselves, only water is allowed. This means no sports drinks, gum, seeds, etc... only water! You can take food into the spectator areas, but remember you are responsible for clean-up. My advice is to ask your parents to confine their tastes to easy to clean choices and make sure they throw their trash away. If you have someone who just loves sunflower seeds, you're going to have a long night cleaning up after practice.

Q. I requested practice time in June. The schedule only goes through the end of May. What's up?

A. Last June we saw a considerable drop in usage of the fields in June and therefore did not book as much time in June. We'll revisit the June schedule sometime in May.

Q. OK, so where is the schedule?

A. Check the Orchard Valley website (OVYSL.ORG), click on the *Turf Field Schedule* link. I get paid by the click, so visit often.





Board of Directors and Committee Chairs 2009-2010

<http://www.ovysl.org/board.htm>

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