

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT.      NOVEMBER 2005.**

### **Glen Buckley, State Director of Coaching.**

My annual reports for the past 5 years have documented the number of participants that have passed through the coach education courses during the previous season. I have always said that maybe we have reached a plateau. However, once again I am very happy to report that last year's figures of coaching course participants equaled those of previous years.

For the past 6 years we have averaged 1,000 candidates on our courses during the period from September through May. In addition to our Youth Module, E Certification and D license courses, last May we hosted a National C license at the Chiropractic College in Seneca Falls. Paul Halford , national staff instructor and the DOC from PA West came in to assist me. We had 28 candidates complete the course.

As I write this we have completed 4 YM , 1 E and 1 D course since September. On the calendar are two more E courses and 1 D course, with three other clubs putting the final touches to some level of course to take place before the end of February. I will resist saying that we may have reached a plateau! Per capita we are in the top three states in the nation for the number of coaches we educate in our courses each year. So congratulations to all of you and your organizations for your continued efforts in seeking education for your coaching staff!

Please keep the requests coming. If your organization is looking to host a course, please do not put it off. Contact us now to secure the dates to avoid disappointment; they fill up very fast.

US Youth Soccer have recently published a "parent education" document and mini online learning tool. I was part of the initial team put together by then national coaching director, Tom Goodman, to research and compile this tool. A version of our efforts is now online and is the first in what will probably be many initiatives aimed at the parents of our children. Check it out and take the free quiz, and see what you know about the cognitive, physical and psychosocial development of our young athletes.

Small sided games continue to be a prominent subject across the US Soccer and US Youth Soccer regions. At this year's AGM it was the Board of Directors plan to take a proposal to the entire membership. The proposal was to continue the SSG policy put in place in 2001 by you, the members. The addition would have been to reduce the number of players on the field to 9V9 inc GK's for the Under 12 age group. It is my belief that the majority of our membership are in favor of this proposal. I have arrived at such a conclusion from the number of conversations I have had with you during the past couple of years. I received 3 emails from club officials, and I believe the president received 5 or 6 more, stating that they were not in favor. In addition it was brought to our attention that two of our leagues were also not in favor. Consequently the proposal has been removed from the slate for this year.

However, it is our intention to continue to communicate with our members and offer any help we can to enable you to better understand the rationale behind the proposal. I have prepared a separate document on the subject in an effort to try to answer some of the questions we were asked in the emails of those against it. I believe it is very important that you understand that it was NEVER our intention to implement this without it first going to a vote of the membership. I would hope that the boards of the leagues that say they are against it, put it to their members and allow them to vote on the subject. Then in 12 months time a proposal can be brought to the table for all to vote. Better still, we all collectively agree that this is the best thing to do and that there is no need for a vote. It is also my hope that by that time everyone will have been given an opportunity to be in full possession of all the facts and be open minded enough to look beyond

logistical issues. Let's make a decision based on the best interest of the children and create the best environment where they will have more opportunities to develop.

There are currently 32 States playing 9v9 or less with their U12 programs.....they must have had the same logistical problems that we face, but they overcame them and have not looked back. More states will follow over the next few years.....do we want to be the only state association of 55 that is not playing reduced numbers with U12?

I would like to make myself available to each and everyone of you to discuss this matter at your convenience. I have already begun attending club board meetings to discuss this topic. The meetings have been excellent and have served to reassure me that the majority of you do want this to happen.

As always I am available to you to discuss any soccer topic that you may fancy. At the moment I am especially happy to discuss the merits of my old club Wigan Athletic and their charge up the Premiere League to a Champions League spot!! They are currently 4<sup>th</sup>, who would have thought....

Glen