



Report

President

Curtis Regruit

November 7, 2015

Introduction & Comments

Western New York's youth soccer community is very fortunate to have a support base that is comprised of enthusiastic, dedicated volunteers, qualified soccer professionals, and supportive families. Occasionally I think about all that we collectively accomplish each year and it is impressive. The past year was no exception. Together we provided opportunity for 60,000 children to play the game that they love in a safe, healthy environment. Thank you all for helping to make it possible.

In August, Rich Wagner resigned as our state association President to accept a position with US Youth Soccer Region 1. In his new position, Rich will assist Region 1 with implementing continuous improvement opportunities for Region 1 services, tournaments, and events. He is highly qualified for this endeavor. Rich served as the NYSWYSA president for 5 years. His accomplishments were myriad, including championing our Recreation Soccer Initiative, presiding over a fiscally sound association, and leading a diverse state staff and board of directors with high integrity, honesty, and passion.

I would like to thank Sue Gurak (treasurer) and Kim Mehta (Southern Tier District Commissioner) for their past service to the association. Both served our membership admirably.

Several of our existing Board of Directors members deserve mention for the length of service to the organization.

- Roger Best, Rochester District Commissioner: 30 years
- Tim Mellander, Assistant Director/Registration of & Database Management: 19 years
- Kevin Arnold, Binghamton District Commissioner: 11 years

New York State West Youth Soccer Association (NYSWYSA) is grateful to the corporate sponsorships and cooperative partnerships that support and enhance the programs we



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offer to our membership, who are the true beneficiaries of their generosity. I would like to thank them for their support.

- Admiral, our exclusive apparel provider for NYSWYSA
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Pullen Insurance
- Demosphere
- Pearup
- Sports Logic
- Rochester Rhinos
- Western NY Flash

As we embark on our Annual General Meeting weekend, we are pleased to have Manfred Schellscheidt with us to conduct sessions in our Coaches workshop. Mr. Schellscheidt is one of the most influential soccer coaches in the United States. His coaching resume includes vast experience at the youth, college, and professional level, including having coached at every level of the U.S. Men's National Team and for the U.S. Olympic Team. We are grateful for his presence this weekend to share his knowledge and expertise with you, our members.

Last and certainly not least, I want to thank the commitment and dedication of our entire NYSWYSA staff and the Board of Directors, without whose tireless efforts none of the programs and services we provide would be possible.

NYSWYSA Organization & Mission

I believe the mission of NYWSYA is relatively simple: "Promote the game of soccer by providing superior, value-added, youth soccer programs and services for our state association members."

With that as a guiding principle, it is with the following simple premises that the NYSWYSA staff and volunteers will strive to meet our members' needs and expectations.

- Feet on the Ground: Visiting our members and ask for their input.
- Strive to be as Nimble and Flexible as is practical.



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- Provide "WOW" experiences in everything that we do for our member players, coaches, leagues, and soccer families.
 - Be a recognized leader at the US Youth Soccer Regional and National levels for our contributions to youth soccer..
 - Create "Soccer Fans for Life".

NYSWYSA continues to be fiscally strong by adhering to its financial policies and managing the association's financial resources prudently. This has enabled us to sustain and continuously improve our coach and player development programs, the competitive and recreation soccer events that we offer, and our membership grant program despite a challenging economic environment. During the past few years, we successfully navigated a declining population that we forecasted by monitoring census demographics. This enabled us to anticipate the decline in membership that resulted and to manage our resources accordingly. Current census trends demonstrate that the decline has stabilized.

2014/2015 Highlights

- 2015 National Championship Series
 - o 5 NYSWYSA teams reached the Region 1 Tournament semi-final game.
 - o 3 NYSWYSA teams reached the Region 1 Tournament championship game.
 - Olympic Development Program
 - o 1999 Girls team reached the 2015 ODP National Championships
 - Recreation Initiative
 - o Hundreds of children participated in soccer festivals with the Syracuse Silver Knights, Rochester Lancers, and Rochester Rhinos.
 - Our coach education staff completed another highly successful year delivering quality license and education courses throughout our state footprint.
 - State Cup participation continued strong growth in the number of participants.
 - TOPSoccer continued its strength with its programs in the Buffalo, Lockport, Binghamton, Watertown, and Syracuse.
 - Many NYSWYSA leagues qualified for play in the Region 1 and National leagues.
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Looking Forward

- In August, the NYSWYSA Staff and Board of Directors initiated development of our 2015-2018 Strategic Plan. This plan will serve as a roadmap for effecting improvement in key areas important to our membership. We anticipate completion of the plan in November. Please let us know if you have ideas on how we can help you administer and improve your own programs. Key improvement initiatives that we will focus on will include
 - o Recreation soccer
 - o ODP
 - o National Championship Series
 - o Coach & player development
 - o Being more proactive to support leagues when our service is requested.

On behalf of the NYSWYSA Staff and Board of Directors, we are honored and appreciative for the opportunity to serve you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Curtis R. Regruit
President, NYSWYSA