

# CCSA Newsletter

Spring 2008

PO BOX 756 HOUGHTON, MI 49931  
www.coppercountrysoccer.org



## A Big Thank You

Much time and energy was put into making last season fun and safe for the players. We depend on our volunteers. You are all appreciated! We are looking forward to this season, and hope to see all of you again soon!

## Registration Deadline

The registration date will be on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Players registering after this date will be put on the waiting list and will have to pay a \$10 late fee. You are not guaranteed a spot on a team if you are on the waiting list.

### Registration Night

Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>  
Houghton High School from 6-8 PM.

## Save Time – Mail Back Your Registration Form

Instead of waiting in line on registration night to turn in your form, just fill out and/or make changes to the form and mail it back. If you have questions, you can call your division coordinator (name and contact info is on the CCSA website) or call someone listed on the back of this letter from the CCSA Board.

## Field Update

The CCSA is having a hard time securing soccer fields for the 2008 season, especially for the 12 and up divisions. Please check our website for updates prior to registration.

## Referees

Referees are needed for the 2008 soccer season. We are also searching for a new head referee. Interested? Call Bernetia Elrite at 369-0659.

## Coaches

Coaches are needed in all divisions. A great way to get involved! Call a board member today!

## How Can You Help?

We know there are many people out there who would like to help the CCSA in some way. We need to hear from you! Please review the website to see if there are committees on which you could serve, or contact someone on one of those committees with a specific offer of help.

## **From the Copper Country Soccer Association Board**

Elections for the CCSA Board were held in November of 2007 for the 2008 season. A number of new members joined the board, and many of the 2007 board members were elected to continue their service. Contact information for board members are found at the end of this article. The CCSA Board works to offer soccer opportunities for Copper Country Youth at all levels of interest, ability and involvement.

The Board recognizes some immediate needs on which to focus, including the ongoing challenge of developing our own soccer playing space through development of a dedicated soccer facility or by continued partnership building with the community. This remains a long-term challenge for the Association, and the Board intends to continue to work on this while offering the ongoing soccer programs to Copper Country youth.

An additional area of focus that the Board is very actively working on is that of good sporting behavior. There is a more detailed article on this later in this newsletter. In summary, the Board recognizes that we are in the business of providing a soccer experience for copper country youth, including, players and referees. Our coaches need to be committed to both parts of this equation – the players and the referees. The Board will not tolerate any unsporting behavior that brings the association or the sport of soccer into disrepute. New this year will be pledges made and signed by parents and coaches to conform to the sporting principles of the CCSA. No one may coach or have their child play without a completed sporting conduct pledge form on file.

The board is also undergoing some reorganization in order to operate more efficiently, and to involve more individuals in the organization. A number of standing committees are in development including Recreational Soccer, Travel Soccer, Publicity, and Rules committees. As the roles of these committees are refined we anticipate bringing a revised set of bylaws to the membership. This organizational structure will help to match the skills of volunteers to areas of our activities that can benefit most from the interest and expertise of our membership. A board member chairs each committee, and information about these can be obtained from any board member.

If you have any comments or suggestions about CCSA and do not know where to direct them, please contact the Board President who will discuss your comments and suggestions with you and work on ways to address them in cooperation with other members of the CCSA board.

## **So There Are Soccer Rules?**

SAY Soccer has developed a Parents Essential Rules Guide. It goes over the basic rules of soccer so any parent or player can understand the soccer rules. It is available in the Soccer Store <http://www.saysoccer.org>. Each booklet is \$1.00, plus postage.

## Important Dates

April 17 Registration Night & **Registration Deadline**  
6-8 PM @ Houghton High School Gym

**Note:** If Registration and PAYMENT have not been received by April 17, player *will be put on a waiting list* and will not be guaranteed a spot on a team.

**\*\*Make sure to sign your registration form\*\***

Board members will be available for questions.

Mid-May to Mid-July Upper Divisions season  
(Age 12 and up)

Late-July to Late-Sept Lower Divisions season  
(Age 4 to 11)

Sept. 22 Jersey Day  
Wear Your Soccer Jersey to School

## Board Contacts

Andrew Storer, President  
370-2847  
storer@mtu.edu

Tom LaBerge, Vice President  
482-4199  
talaberge@up.net

Bonnie Belmas, Secretary  
487-9665  
bbelmas4@yahoo.com

Jean Middleton, Treasurer  
296-0477  
jmiddo@sbcglobal.net

Emily Betterly  
482-7971  
egbetter@mtu.edu

Mary Sue Hyslop  
482-1882  
mshyslop@charter.net

Craig Makens  
483-3754  
cam@thermoanalytics.com

Shane Middleton  
296-0477  
smiddo@sbcglobal.net

George Newman  
337-4364  
newmans383@yahoo.com

Jean Oberto  
523-4419  
jmoberto@gmail.com

Byron Quinn  
281-7846  
bjquinn@mtu.edu

**Head Referee**  
Bernetia Elrite  
369-0659

## Field Painters Needed

If you can help set up and maintain field lines, this would be an incredible help to the association. George Newman coordinates painters throughout the summer and fall. We have instructions and supplies available; we just need volunteers who can paint over the existing lines once or twice a week. Please contact George at 337-4364 to help us with this task!

## Let us know about your vacations

Each summer we run into the same problem – a team that has to forfeit one or more games because most of the players are on vacation. If you have any planned vacations, please fill in this information on the registration form so we can try to make sure that each team will have enough players for the whole season.

## Interested in Soccer Camps?

Still in the planning stages! Information will be forthcoming. Keep an eye on our website.

## Reminder – Jewelry cannot be worn at soccer

The 2007-2008 SAY rulebook states:

Illegal/unsafe equipment: The following shall be considered examples of illegal or unsafe equipment, and shall not be worn by any player: jewelry or watches. Earrings must be removed prior to play. *Please put off piercing ears until after the soccer season.* This is for your child's protection.

## **Communications and Action Plan for Unsporting Conduct**

CCSA offers Soccer opportunities for Copper Country youth. We recognize that in addition to training and developing players, we are training and developing referees. All players make mistakes on the soccer field, and so do referees. All coaches, players and parents must recognize this, and recognize that referees are learning and developing their skills in the same way that the players are. All coaches must work to instill sporting conduct in their players and teach players to respect the decisions of the referee regardless of whether they agree with that decision.

It is essential that we instill sporting behavior in Copper Country youth as coaches and parents. We will lead by example in this area. All coaches and parents will be required to sign a sporting conduct pledge at the start of the season and will be held to this. Communications about violations of this pledge will occur as follows:

**Coaches:** Referees, parents or other coaches can make reports of violation of the pledge by coaches, and make them directly to the president of the CCSA.

**Parents:** Violations by parents called by referees or other parents are reported to the coach of the team the parent is associated with. That coach must inform the CCSA president of the complaint, and how they are working to remedy it. Sanctions include removal of parent from the sidelines of the games, informing the parent not to make any statements during the game, and ultimately the removal of the parents and their player from the game, and if necessary the season.

**Players:** Violations by players are reported to the coach by the referee. The referee may use yellow and red cards to discipline players as per normal soccer regulations. Coaches must ensure that any actions of the referee are accepted and enforced. Any type of threatening or physical behavior by a player directed towards a referee results in automatic red carding of the player and yellow carding of the coach.

**Referees:** Any complaint about referees should be made to the Head Referee and the President of the CCSA board. Under no circumstances should complaints be directed to the referee in person by coaches, players or parents. The Head Referee will work to address any issues about the refereeing to ensure the highest possible standards of refereeing of CCSA games.

**Violations should be reported promptly.**