



HUDSON VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE, INC.

MEMBER OF E.N.Y.Y.S.A.
AFFILIATED WITH U.S.Y.S.A.

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December 2024 Newsletter

Spring Registration Kicks Off

Winter is just beginning but there's no rest for the soccer community. Spring registration has kicked off with Debbie Silver's seasonal announcement. There are a couple of changes for this season. The Club Affiliation and Coaching Two Teams forms are now online and can be completed in GotSport. Instructions were provided with the announcement. We are asking every club to use these two forms to help us make the registration process more effective. Also, in your team registration form, you can select or change the "Preferred division" for your team and use the "Optional Notes" field for any additional messages you would like to share with the staff. We are working with GotSport to make changes that will improve the use of the Forms technology to make it more user-friendly.

Tournaments

As we do every year, HVYSL is running two Winter tournaments in 2025, the [Slater Memorial](#) on Jan 11-12 and [President's Day Cup](#) on Feb 17-18. Both tournaments are held at the Hudson Valley Sports Dome in Milton. Registration is now open for both tournaments. For Slater, the boys brackets are filling up fast, but we need **more girls teams** to join in the fun. You have more time for the President's Cup. There is a \$25 discount for any team that plays in both tournaments.

Academy, Premier and T3 Programs – Rene Rivera

HVYSL is celebrating the 20th anniversary of our Academy Program. This supplemental training program is offered to all HVYSL member players. Three indoor tournaments and two outdoor tournaments supplement the once-a-week training schedule. The Academy Age Groups are U7/U8 (Pre-Academy), and U9 thru U11.

Four years ago, HVYSL initiated the Premier program. HVYSL member players can play in Premier league play on Saturdays and still play on their local travel teams on Sunday. The program has grown from one girls team to 6 this season.

HVYSL offers the T3 Skills Training Program. The T3 components are: Technical, Tactical and Thought. Many beginner goalies in HVYSL have taken advantage of the Keeper 101 Clinics. These are being offered again in 2025.

Watch out for our summer camp announcement coming in January.

Refereeing Corner

For the last two summers, prior to the start of the season, the Hudson Valley Soccer Referee Association [HVSRA] has promoted and provided a free educational program to coaches, parents and players. "So you think you can ref?", has been offered to over 600 people

between the two previous summers. The program focuses on two primary topics, 1) minimizing referee abuse; 2) rudimentary explanation of offside, and fouls and misconducts.

With the continued increase in referee abuse cases in the region during the fall 2024 season, HVSRA has partnered with HVYSL and EDP to offer the series to all coaches and club administrators in the early months of 2025. A schedule will be provided to each of the leagues, and it will be up to the clubs to find the appropriate location for the seminar. These seminars will be mandatory for all club administrators and team officials [coaches, managers, trainers], regardless of age group or experience level.

For the fall 2025 registration, the leagues will make the recording available to parents as part of their requirements to register their child prior to participating in league play for the 2025/2026 season.

US Soccer addresses Birth Year – School Year Issue

If you thought that the birth year school year debate had been settled, you would have been mistaken. At their November 22nd board meeting, US Soccer modified their 2015 ruling, effective August 2017 to adopt the birth year eligibility rule nation-wide, and are now leaving it up to the “members and leagues” to decide what works best for them. Key outcomes from the meeting:

- No change for the 2025-2026 soccer year.
- U.S. Soccer will formally approve the implementation process in the coming weeks and conclude that effort by the 2025 AGM (2/27/2025-3/2/2025).

For more details, see the [official statement](#) released by US Club Soccer.

Soccer Parenting – The Sideline Project

HVYSL Staff are looking into partnering with Soccer Parenting to provide our member clubs and their coaches and player parents with valuable educational material about sideline behavior. Soccer parenting offers a free three minute “Parent Pledge” video that explains the difference between Supporting, Distractive and Hostile sideline behavior. They also offer the “Sideline Project Course,” a fifteen-minute video, and a one hour “Return to Good Standing” course for people who need that. Their Leaderboard program offers a league-wide option containing additional course material that is valuable at the start of a season. In 2025, HVYSL plans to offer the “Parent Pledge” and run a pilot of the Sideline Project course with the possibility of running a Leaderboard in September. Updates to follow!

HVYSL Winter Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This coming Thursday, December 12, at 7:30 PM, HVYSL will hold its Winter AGM fully remote via Teams. Member clubs are expected to participate; all clubs are welcome to attend and participate. We have a packed agenda, and there are fourteen By-Laws changes proposed to be voted on. These changes affect every club and team in the league. Please make every effort to turn out for your club.

HVYSL Hosts a Hall of Fame Event

On Sunday, December 8th, The Hudson Valley Youth Soccer League inducted into our Hall of Fame five coaches who have served the youth of the Hudson Valley for years. In recognition of their many contributions to their clubs and the league, we are proud to announce the following inductees effective December 8, 2024:

- Dean Martin - Brewster Soccer Club
- Eddie Maloney - Washingtonville Soccer Club
- Luiz Amaral - Washingtonville Soccer Club
- Dimitri Giatiakis - Affiliated with several clubs and former Director of Coaching Hudson Valley Youth Soccer League
- Phil Larkin - Carmel United Soccer Club

Please extend your thanks to these honored members of our soccer community.

Survey Results

Following the Spring 2024 season, we conducted a survey of all the HVYSL affiliated clubs to get feedback on topics relevant to the operation of the league. The response was overwhelming. More than eighty-five surveys were submitted, seventy-eight by the deadline with many useful comments that will help us improve how we operate. Below are the scores:

- Ratings were on a scale of 1 – 5
- Overall season score: 3.78
- League communications: 3.87
- Registration process: 3.88
- Seeding process: 3.69
- Scheduling process: 3.08
- Refereeing: 3.27

Questions asked:

Championships: 45
Ten game schedule: 33

Fall Awards Yes: 55
Fall Awards No: 23

U12 Standings &
Championships

- Yes: 57
- No: 21

Ten matches w/TBS: 36
Ten weeks no TBS: 27
Other: 15

There were also forty text responses providing valuable information to the league

office. We are using the results of the survey to create action plans to improve our operational processes. We thank you for your support!