



HUDSON VALLEY YOUTH SOCCER LEAGUE, INC.

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March 2025 Newsletter

Games Chair Update – Max Labrenz

Another successful Fall season and two Winter tournaments in the books! The delayed U16 and HS season was successful by allowing HS aged players to play on their school teams without worrying about conflicts with their club teams.

HVYSL plans to host some more US Soccer grassroots coaching courses prior to the start of the Fall 2025 season for any new coaches. We highly recommend that coaches continue their education by taking part in their access to The Coaching Manual (provided to member clubs by HVYSL), United Goalkeeping Alliance, (provided to member clubs by HVYSL), and the US Soccer National license courses.

The seeding for the spring 2024 season was based off the results from the fall season for our U13+ teams,

while the focus of the developmental teams (U9-U12) was to create a schedule based primarily on geographic location. The seeding went through two iterations and the schedule developed and published live as of last week.

We look forward to another season in the Hudson Valley where our young players have the opportunity to play the beautiful game of soccer competitively with teams from their surrounding communities.

Spring Championships

HVYSL is pleased to announce that the 2025 Spring Championships for the U13+ competitive divisions will be held the weekend of 21-22 June at the Cantine Soccer Complex in Saugerties, NY. Cantine features two well-kept full-sized grass soccer fields with lights, snack stand and pavilion. All finals matches are scheduled and posted in GotSport so you can see the day and time of your

division's final match. The semi-final playoff round will be held on the weekend of 14-15 June. Since the host of those matches cannot be predicted at this time, the bracket is available with suggested times for the host to hold the match. The host will be the first and second placed teams from regular season play.

Tournaments

Thank you to all who participated in either the Jim Slater Memorial Tournament in January and/or the President's Day Cup tournament in February. Both tournaments were sold out and featured one-hundred twenty teams in twenty-four divisions competing for medals, trophies, and shirts. Please share any feedback you may have with the staff. We have received a few messages and are always looking to improve upon the experience for you and your players.

Teams that participated in both tournaments received a \$25 discount.

One thing that would help in planning and seeding for the tournaments is early registration. The earlier teams register for the tournaments, the more confidence the planners have in establishing divisions to support them. When teams in an age group register within two weeks of a tournament, they may find that the division they would play in was replaced by another division that was filled.

Academy, Premier and T3 Programs Update – 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 girl's team to six 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 clinics are in progress this month and the response has been strong in both programs. They have been held at the Hudson Valley Sports Dome in Milton.

Soon to come; HVYSL Keeper Next Level and HVYSL TOPS Soccer Fall 2025. Look for updates this Spring.

Refereeing Corner – Brian Baer

Hudson Valley Soccer Referee Association is pleased to announce programs that launched during the off season and can be found on our website.

The first program is our referee Academy which allows members of our community to increase their knowledge of officiating at a much higher level than what is already provided to our now 690 members across the region. The academy is in addition to our monthly membership meetings which focus on an educational topic.

Our second program that we are excited about is our women and soccer program. This program is the first in the state which supports the development of women officials across the Hudson Valley with Education and Training designed specifically for women by women.

Our third program is new starting this spring which is our Respect Teen Referees program. Every referee under the age of 18 receives a

green wristband and a green lanyard that will help identify them as youthful referees to players, team officials and spectators. By identifying these individuals our hope is that those referees would hopefully experience fewer instances of referee abuse because of the visual clues that they are wearing.

Finally, due to our "So You Think You Can Referee" educational program and the updated US soccer policy 531-9, we have created a page on our website entitled The Coach's Corner. This page allows for team officials, coaches, assistant coaches, trainers, and managers to provide objective feedback on the referee's performance that we can use to help guide our educational program. It also provides an opportunity for team officials, spectators, or players to file a report when there is a violation or a potential violation of US Soccer Policy 531-9. The commentary is meant to be constructive and not destructive, and we hope that the team officials across the area will find that outlet to be a positive experience. On behalf of the 690 plus referees that service the beautiful game here in the Hudson Valley we look forward to a successful spring campaign.

US Soccer Referee Abuse Policy

Hopefully, you have all seen the new policy published by US Soccer Policy 531-9 Misconduct Toward Game Officials in Amateur Matches.

This policy takes a no-nonsense approach to identification, reporting, investigation, and penalties associated with referee abuse. HVYSL has implemented its own penalty matrix that will apply to all our matches as of the Spring season. You can find the policy document and penalty matrices on the HVYSL web site under CLUBS/COACHES RESOURCES page or by clicking [here](#).

Please take the opportunity to familiarize yourself with the policy and share it within your clubs. NOTE: If a penalty received is against a minor referee, there is a triple multiplier applied. So, if a coach is given a two-match suspension and it was against a minor, the penalty is tripled to six matches.

Soccer Parenting – The Sideline Project Update

HVYSL Staff has partnered 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.

This month, HVYSL is offering the "Parent Pledge" and will run a pilot of the Sideline Project course with the possibility of running a Leaderboard in September. Look for an update shortly.

United Goal Keepers Alliance (UGKA) partnership update

HVYSL initiated a partnership with the UGKA effective 1 January 2025 for one year. This partnership provides free grassroots goalkeeping coaches courses with professional goalkeeping coaches, weekly educational sessions for coaches and goalkeepers of all ages with guest speakers, a weekly newsletter, opportunities for goalkeepers to highlight their skills and more. This is an exceptional value, and any club interested in participating can just reach out to jsantella@hvysl.org for more information.

HVYSL Offering Summer Camps – Rene Rivera

This summer, kids who love the beautiful game of soccer and need something to do during the day can take advantage of the league offered and run summer soccer camps. Held at the Hudson Valley Sports Dome in Milton, NY the Hudson Valley Youth Soccer League (HVYSL) is offering Summer Soccer Camps in July, prior to the start of the Fall 2025

season. The Camps are for children ages 7 to 14.

The technical focus of the camp is soccer skills. Giving each player a chance to be creative with the ball at their feet. We want the players to challenge themselves with newfound confidence during their 1 v 1 training. They will progress to group passing and receiving sessions to help improve "first touch". Campers will also be exposed to the importance of SAQ work (Speed, Agility & Quickness). There will be an appropriate age focus on the tactical components of the game. Group attacking, group defending, finishing, and playing out of the back will be covered.

The camps will be held rain or shine since there are indoor facilities available in case of rain or extreme heat.

Camps will be held in July:
Week 1: July 7th thru July 10th: 9am thru 12:00pm
Week 2: July 14th thru July 17th 9am thru 12pm
Week 3: July 21st thru 24th 9:00am thru 12pm

Fee is \$200 per session.