



NORTHERN CHAUTAUQUA SOCCER ASSOCIATION



NCSA Recreational and Travel Soccer Report 2019 P.J. Gondek

The extent of my involvement with the house (recreational) side of NCSA was exclusive to the training we offered at Fredonia State prior to the season. I was able to run Concord training session in four groups for house league coaches to observe age appropriate activities. I was not only able to show them the activities but talk them through each exercise and offered time for a question and answer period. After a classroom session was held to highlight some aspects of the practice as well introduce U.S. Soccer Coaching curriculum and submit the document I created. (see attached). Director of Coaching, Brett Gould used the same format to offer another subsequent training that I was unable to attend. President Jake Wilkins would be able to report how many participating coaches were at these trainings. I regret to say that I did not have the free time necessary to observe the house coaches as I did last summer. My time spent with the different aspects of Concord really consumed my free time.

This spring and summer proved to be much different than in years past due to the introduction of “academy style” training sessions. On Saturdays for the bulk of the spring I was the lead trainer for our four oldest Concord teams. On Mondays my 15U girls trained together with the 19U girls. Thursdays were game days for BWNYJSL for the 15U girls. I did observe each team on several occasions in training and in matches.

In my observations I think we are right where we need to be with our program. In my opinion, players who want more will look to seek out premier teams and players who want less will scale back to recreational soccer. The addition of home games for our teams really added to the positive experience for the families of our players. Cutting travel in half minimized time on the road that we spent in 2018. The players seemed to enjoy the home game atmosphere. Our teams, once again, competed very well in the league again this season. Virtually all feedback in the conduct of our players and coaches was positive. I would to comment on a few aspects of our program.

- 1) Coaching – I think we have some of the best coaches I have observed in the league. It is my understanding the some coaches may not be returning so we will need to recruit and train qualified, experienced, licensed coaches that can more our program forward

and be able to challenge our best players. Coach continuing education is a must and it should be paid for by the club.

- 2) Uniforms/Branding – I think we did a decent job in getting our brand out there with uniforms, coaches' apparel and introducing a new logo. We will need to continue our efforts in this area. I have a few ideas in this area.
- 3) Fields – It is absolutely imperative that we secure the fields at Fredonia State and DHS as well as Holy Trinity. The quality of the training is directly related to the quality of the facility. This was paramount to our success.
- 4) Training – Academy style training whenever possible with individual session for team tactics still being necessary.
- 5) Developing the Whole Player – Holding players accountable for many things including wearing the proper practice gear, asking them to arrive in enough time to be dressed and ready for warm up on training day, arriving at games in a timely fashion for warm up just to name a few.

It is my understanding that we are now without a Director of Coaching. The scope of the Technical Director, the Director of Coaching and the Director of Travel positions are so broad and time consuming that they each should be paid. I do not think any one person can serve in more than one capacity nor should they. I think each has its own specific duties. We may want to revisit restructuring these positions base on availability and expertise but we will need to be sure that we have the right person in place going forward in each of these positions.