

Good day ABSC members!

I am excited for the fall season. I know every season someone writes an email telling you how exciting things will be, but this season is truly different. Our club is growing and we have added some new faces to help us with our growth and added programs you have been requesting. I want to take a few minutes of your time to introduce you to the important changes as they were outlined to the coaches and team managers last week.

Headers

ABSC is a no-header club for players 12 years old and younger. Coaches are not to demonstrate, encourage, or explain headers to their young players. This is the most dangerous and not very effective skill for players of this age. The coach must demonstrate their knowledge of the game by teaching the players in their care different techniques for receiving the ball.

Preventive warm up and safety

As of this writing all coaches must have received an age-specific variation of the "[FIFA 11](#)" injury-preventive warm up. All coaches are expected to use this tool. If your coach is not using this tool feel free to communicate this to a club official so we can give the coach additional training. I expect full compliance without exception, and your coaches owe it to your child and your family.

Our [Times-Two Policy](#) states that we will have two adults on the pitch for the protection of the players and the coach at all times.

Recreational program

We are committed to raising the level of play for all rec players through coach training and allocation of qualified trainers at practices. This summer 80% of our trainers went through 24 to 64 hours of additional training themselves.

Competitive program

We have some very successful comp teams and we intend to expand this program for the players who wish to play at a higher level.

Community support

We have several undefeated teams, and it is important that we support these older players as they master their craft. Many of our older players are now coaching and training the younger teams, and this connection is an opportunity for the younger players to come out and see their trainers in action on the field in their own games and show their support. We had three teams who were undefeated last season, but even at their highest level, often it's only the parents of the players who come out to support them; think of how great it would be for these kids to see a nice crowd cheering for them. I am asking that we make an effort to support our older players, as it is important for them and for your young players.

Communication

Use our weekly feedback survey to let us know how we are doing and to address any issue you believe we should know about. We have a disciplinary committee to facilitate the efficient resolution of concerns, and we feel strongly that ABSC should be a place for families to feel safe to report issues without fear of having their child getting benched. ABSC is here for our players/your child.

Practice fields

We have over 1,600 players and limited field space, so as a coaching family, please use only the resources you need, and share the fields with each other. This not only helps with the space issue, but as your players age it builds friendships for when you may be looking to combine teams. Currently teams are on the same pitch with other teams of the same gender and age. This is a perfect opportunity for the coaches to arrange scrimmages, play dates and for the players and coaches to get to know each other.

Field usage

Our fields need to last us for the next 11 weeks of daily usage, so please move the goals off the goal line during practice so as not to wear out the goalie area. There is a \$250 fine for not adhering to this rule, but I expect everyone to comply because I do not want to fine your team. Further, please remember to be good neighbors: park legally, don't block driveways or the road during drop-offs, and don't bring a dog to the field.

Baseball fields

As we have over 100 teams, some of you practice on multipurpose fields. This is often the best option, especially for older teams, since it usually allows for fewer teams sharing a practice space. Most cities prohibit soccer goals on baseball fields, but I am working with the city on getting folding goals and a place to secure them. This may take a week or two, since all things have to follow a process. We were successful with one city park field last fall and now we have to revisit the issue again. I am working on your goals. I am also looking into some portable goals that are easy and safe for the coaches to transport.

Lights

Lighted fields are limited, so we have to be creative. If you practice on one of the nicer soccer field, you might not have lights. If you find yourself on one of the all-purpose fields, you will have more room, but no lights, so for the final week of practice you may have to start earlier or cut your practice short.

I will try to relocate some teams dealing with early dusk, but please understand I will not displace any younger team so an older team can have lights at the end of the season. We are a club that will work with the resources we have, but we will not displace one team in favor of another.

ABSC World Cup

We are going to have another good time this Labor Day, so [sign up](#) your team by tonight. I understand we will have teams from at least 5 different leagues, so as the club grows, so does our opening day event. The adult group is also growing, so if you played and would like to run around a little, get your team and let's play. It is so much fun and a great way to support our club. All fees go to support our scholarship and operating funds.

If you got to the end of this email, thank you for your time and I will see you on the pitch.

Regards,

[Toney Wright](#)

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Executive Director ABSC

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