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soccer club

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Message from Sam Head Ballistic United Soccer Club President

Hello Soccer Fans -

Here is hoping that summer was restful, adventurous and eventful for you and your families. Are you all ready for the Fall soccer season? Here it comes!

The 47th Annual Soccer Parade marked the official opening day for the Recreational season on September 12. I look forward to the parade every year. It's great to see the creativity in the costumes from the players, the team parents and coaches, and to see the passion and excitement around the Fall season. The Recreational season will run through the weekend of November 14 - come out and see some games. Here is a link to the full recreational schedule (<http://busc.org/schedules/>). These boys play for the love of the game, the sun, their friends and teammates, and sometimes for the snacks. This is where the love and passion for the game begins.

The Competitive teams already have a few games in the books. The Comp season began in late August with league and State Cup games. These teams range in age from 7 and 8-year-olds up to players in their early 20s. Do you have an extra hour to two during any weekend? Stop by the Sports Park or Val Vista to see some of the BUSC Competitive teams play. Where the Rec teams play for the fun, their friends and the snacks, the Comp teams add a fiercely competitive element to the mix. They want to outscore the other guys and they play good soccer.

The third of our soccer programs is the US Development Academy team. This is a regional team that proudly wears the Ballistic name and crest. The core of 16 players on Academy team that will take the field this Fall and Winter are Ballistic players - 9 of the boys played in our club for a number of years and 3 are Pleasanton boys. That is quite an accomplishment for these boys to be selected among the best players in the U14 age group from the Tri-Valley, extending up to Walnut Creek, over to Hayward and out to the

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Central Valley. Keep an eye on the BUSC website for the U14 Academy schedule. Come out and see some fast-paced and exciting soccer.

I am very proud that all three of our programs, coaches, staff and board follow the same underlying principal to develop the boys on and off the soccer field by offering the beautiful game at the level of play that is right for each boy.

As a final note from me, please keep an eye out for our referees. Remember that the refs are our friends and neighbors, your classmates or friends of our kids. They are human and, as with all of us, are bound to make some mistakes. Please allow them to do their work, to make mistakes, and to learn from their mistakes. At the Summer Classic tournament here in Pleasanton in August, a young referee left the game in tears. This referee is a local high school kid who was out earning a few dollars participating in the beautiful game. The parents and fans from one of the teams were very harsh in their criticism of the refereeing of the game, and their comments eventually became personal and bordered on verbal abuse. We lost the services of this referee forever, and the game of soccer may have lost a player and passionate advocate. A family in the Pleasanton community is damaged by this experience.

This is youth soccer. Help us all to keep this fun for the players, the coaches, the referees and the fans. Cheer for our players, cheer for the opposing players, thank the refs and coaches. Stand up for our referees if you hear someone in the audience making disparaging remarks. Set a good example for the kids in our community. Above all, have fun!

See you at the Orange and Gold event at Barone's on October 16 and on the sidelines.

Enjoy the season!
Sam Head
BUSC President

US Soccer Policy Changes

Last month US Soccer made a huge announcement that it would be changing the way youth teams are formed and the format in which the younger ages play in games beginning in 2017! With this major announcement comes a lot of anxiety on behalf of players and parents as they try and determine moving forward, how and where their child shakes out in 2016 & 2017.



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The main reason for these policy changes is to be in line with the rest of the world in terms of forming teams by **birth year** versus the current standard of August 1st. The changes will also have younger age groups train and play in smaller teams and on smaller fields in order to maximize their ball touches and number of decision making opportunities during a training and/or a game. [The U8s will play 4v4; the U9s & U10s will play 7v7; the U11s & U12s will play 9v9; and finally U13 & up will play 11v11.](#) These format changes could take effect as early as spring of 2016 or as late as August of 2017.

Recently, the two major sanctioned youth leagues across the country, US Club & USYSA, have both announced they will be mandating these changes take place in 2016. Norcal Premier League, our clubs competitive league will be forced to comply as a US Club sanctioned league. Norcal is holding meetings in each of the 7 regions across Northern California over the next two weeks in order to communicate their thoughts but also listen to feedback from the clubs on these policy changes and the timing thereof. Norcal is working closely with all Club Coaching Directors to create a plan that will comply with USSF's mandate yet create a smooth and sensible transition to the new standards. BUSC are actively involved in these conversations and we are working hard on our end to be ready for the transition. Once the transition plan gets established, we will communicate the timeline with all of you.

How will this impact my player?

The club's technical staff and board is in the process of analyzing how these changes will affect our players and teams and how we operate moving forward. I would encourage everyone to not jump the gun and try and determine how your sons' current team will be formed in 2016. Once the staff studies the options and determines the best route to take, we will take this recommendation to our board for approval.

Initial plans, depending on the implementation timeline given to us by Norcal and US Club, indicate that at some point in the next 18 months, our Director of Coaches, Technical Director, and coaching staff will be evaluating players' ages, team rosters, and player positions to determine how each BUSC team should be assembled. Some teams may have few changes while others may be more. Players who are currently "playing up" will still be allowed to do so with the approval of their coaches. Some players may choose to play up while others may move down in Age group. **We understand that this may cause some anxiety but you can be assured that BUSC will be basing its decisions on what is best for the overall development of your player.**

Our coaches will be available to provide guidance and discuss any decisions individually.

For further information, take a look at [US Soccer announcement](#). Feel free to educate yourself further on the subject.

Bernal Community Park

Ballistic United Soccer Club was founded in 1968 and for over 45 years the club has played an important role in the development of parks and sports fields in the City of Pleasanton. In the 1970's, BUSC was instrumental in the first phases of the Ken Mercer Sports Park and in 2004 after significant contributions to planning and financing from BUSC, Val Vista Park opened. As the training and playing needs of our young athletes has continued to grow, BUSC has worked closely with the City of Pleasanton over the last decade and taken a lead role to realize the development of sports fields at Bernal Community Park.

The new sports complex at Bernal Community Park will be approximately 16 acres and located immediately north of the existing baseball fields. The new facilities will include three lighted synthetic multi-purpose fields, parking, an equipment storage building, restrooms, picnic areas, playground area, lighted pathways and infrastructure that will be able to accommodate a concession building in the future.

The sports complex is currently under construction and being developed in conjunction with a 40-acre Oak Woodland area. The Bernal Community Park sports complex is expected to open in Summer 2016.

Please take time to visit the www.PlayBernal.org to learn more and understand the opportunities to get involved in this exciting project.



Pleasanton youth soccer (RAGE & BUSC) has come together to create the annual Orange & Gold Fall Fundraiser! The event will take place on **Friday, October 16th** from **6:00-10:00pm** and be held at **Barone's** restaurant.

This event was created for BUSC as an important tool to replace the fundraising efforts started by the clubs old "coupon book" fundraiser over 40 years ago! This historical and important effort by the club over the past 40 years raised approximately \$750,000 dollars and created the clubs Field Fund. The BUSC club partnered with the city 10 years ago and contributed \$500,000 to help get our city's Val Vista fields built. The new fundraiser will consist of all club players selling raffle tickets and the competitive team families contributing raffle items or baskets to win!

The proceeds of the raffle will go towards continuing to build our field fund and maintaining current fields, equipment maintenance, scholarship needs (for both the recreational & competitive programs development).

For more details visit our [website](#). We hope to see you at the event!

BUSC Day at the Earthquakes

On September 12th, over 400 BUSC and Rage players and parents attended the San Jose Earthquakes vs. Seattle Sounders game. BUSC families arrived early, tailgated, and enjoyed the pre-game festivities & food.

The game itself resulted in a 1-1 tie with both teams playing with a play-off spot at stake.

BUSC Abroad

Each year our club takes our U14 competitive age group to England for a 10-day trip over spring break. This year the group was opened to the U15 age group. To date the travel party consists of 42 players and 33 family members and coaches. The trip is operated in partnership with Global Image Sports (GIS) and Sheffield Wednesday (SFW). SFW is our international partner and GIS serves as their US based agency. The trip consists of players training with their pro academy staff 4-5 times, visiting London for a couple days of tourist activity, attending 1-2 England Premier League (EPL) games, watching SFW play, and touring Manchester United

stadium.

Each summer SFW staff attend and scout our BUSC players, from our U12-U19 1st teams during our summer CSEB residential camp, and invite selected players back to their SFW elite player camp in the spring. Players selected are players SFW and BUSC staff feel meet the player profile of SFW youth teams. Families must pay for the trip if they choose to accept the invitation. This year over 20 players were selected!

Fall Season kicks off with Annual BUSC & RAGE Soccer Parade

The Saturday after Labor Day weekend is the annual kick off of the rec league each year. For the past 40 plus years, the Pleasanton soccer community (Rage and BUSC) came together with the city of Pleasanton to hold the Annual [Soccer Parade](#). All teams participate from U5-10 and it is a lot fun to see all the Rage and BUSC teams walking Main St. together, with their team banners and decorative uniforms!



BUSC Club Merchandise and Web Store

Check out our newly developed web store and the merchandise available for sale! In partnership with our local sports retailer, [All-Star Sports](#), families can order and pay online and pick up their delivery locally at the [All-Star Sports](#) location right off of Valley and Hopyard.

Club Mobile App is Here!

BUSC and the Rage have partnered with Mobile Youth Sports Network (MYSN) to launch our own mobile app! This is a great tool for families to easily access our club website using their handheld devices. All Competitive BUSC & Rage team schedules can be easily downloaded into the app and both club websites can be linked to the app. Coming soon will be a user-friendly communication and messaging center for players, parents, coaches, and the club to share information in a privatized manner. This means no emails or cell phone numbers need to be entered and you remain private!

Detailed info can be found on our [website](#).

BUSC College soccer Advisory Partnership with iSoccerpath



Our club has furthered our partnership with [iSoccerpath](#), the company who held our annual college player information night this past spring at the Pleasanton Marriott!

All families with players on our U14-U19 1st & 2nd teams who have sons', who aspire to play collegiate soccer at any level, will soon be receiving information regarding the services and benefits of partnering as a family with [iSoccerpath](#).

Referee Update

Each year we LOSE between 70 to 80% of the young kids who sign up to become referees due to parent and coach verbal abuse. This year is no exception. You may have already experienced showing up for your game and finding there are no referees present to officiate the game. Verbal abuse is the primary reason why there are no referees. So, we need your immediate help to make sure that we get and keep referees for our soccer games.

First, please consider becoming a referee. Second, please make sure that at any game you are at ALL of the parents and coaches are saying only positive things to the referees. Please remind those being abusive to referees to consider

how they would feel if the referee was their child. Even the occasional "Come on ref?" should not be tolerated. Feel free to report any abuse that is observed so that the appropriate action can be taken. Finally, make sure you applaud and praise the referees that do officiate your match.

As a reminder, club coaches are responsible for the behavior of each of the player's parents. Coaches are instructed to tactfully warn the parents if they exhibit improper behavior. After that, we are encouraging a "zero tolerance" policy and coaches are expected to ask parents exhibiting improper behavior to leave the field. As a last resort, coaches may also "pull out" of the game the kids whose parents are unable to control themselves. We apologize to those who may be impacted by such measures, but we should never be placed in a position of having to have the kids pay the price for poor parental behavior.

BUSC is confident we can serve as an example to all other parents and coaches of how to act at a youth soccer match. We should all hold one another to the standard of proper behavior and everyone is encouraged to make sure that your boys will have a wonderful soccer experience. Please also keep in mind that you want your coaches to enjoy their season as well, and that the referees feel welcome to return for another year of officiating! Thank you for adhering to these standards and we look forward to seeing everyone out on the pitch!

US Soccer Academy Update

Our club enters its 3rd season as an official partner of US Soccer and their US Soccer Academy league. Our club has been participating as a U14 league member ([U14 Schedule](#)). In 2016, US Soccer announced it will be forming a U12 league and BUSC will be participating in that age group. We have also applied for the U16 & U18 leagues and hope to become a full-ledged US academy club serving the Region 3 & 4 players.

These academy teams are built to service the region in which they reside and are ultimately regional all-star teams. Players who fit this high level player profile are 100% committed to soccer and are very driven and talented! These teams train 4x per week, are not allowed to play in state cups, tournaments, PDP, OPD, or high school programs. These rules are US Soccer rules and not BUSC rules but our teams must comply if participating. This high commitment is not for ALL players and just because a player does not make this

level of team does not mean he is not a collegiate level soccer level player! All it means is the family and club will have to work a bit harder to market their son in other traditional and proven methods such as attending high profile tournaments and college ID camps.

We hope to learn more about our clubs application for the U16 & 18 age groups by the end of the year but US Soccer may choose to let us know at their typical announcement date of March 31st each year.



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