

AYSA CONNECT

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From the Desk of
Derick Brownell,
AYSA President

It's been a time of firsts for me – my first AYSA AGM, my first Federation AGM and, now, looking forward to the return of the US Youth National Championships to Phoenix and my first experience at hosting the event.

Our AGM was held on January 29th and I was pleased with the turnout of coaches, administrators and presidents. We had a special guest appearance from Sam Snow, the US Youth Director of Coaching, who provided our coaches with an excellent educational opportunity. Lori Howell (VP Administration), Mark Thede (VP Competition) and Linda Corbett (VP Recreation) were all reelected by acclamation. I want to thank each of them for their continuing work on behalf of AYSA.

The Federation AGM was held this month and Arizona's seat is right at the front. We are given a vote at the table along with US Club, US Adult, Players Committee, Lifetime members and other delegates. Sunil Gulati and Don Garber spoke on the tremendous sense of loss at losing the World Cup bid. Many of you in our community helped with the bid and share that disappointment. The spirit behind the efforts will live on and we'll all work together to continue to advance soccer in our country. On that note, April Heinrichs spoke on the state of women's soccer and the need for better training in our youngest players, u6 to u10, to give them a better understanding of the game and create well-rounded players.

I am proud to announce that in continuing our mission to provide better services and continued stability to our programs, we have opened an Endowment fund with the Arizona Community Foundation to provide funds in perpetuity for our programs. Please follow this [link](#) to read a letter on how you can contribute. All donations are tax deductible.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you who volunteer for the good of the game! I am looking forward to seeing you all out on the fields or at the many workshops, clinics and events hosted by AYSA.

All the best,

Derick

**The Best of the Best Are Coming...
US Youth National Championship Are Here in
July**

Plan on watching! Plan on volunteering! This is our chance to show everyone what Arizona hospitality is all about! The US National Championships will be held here in Phoenix on July 26-31. We need your help! Hundreds of volunteers will be needed to do everything from helping keep everyone hydrated to staffing the fields and hospitality venues. Consider volunteering as a club or team. For example, at past National Championships, clubs have provided special lunches for the many VIPs who will be in attendance or manned a venue as a team effort.

Please email the office at aysaoffmgr@aol.com and volunteer. We need each of you to help make our National Championships the best ever.

**See the Game!
Raise Some Money!**

On March 8th, some of the biggest names in soccer – Thierry Henry and Rafa Marquez – will be on the field when the Red Bulls take on Atlas Futbol. Don't miss the game and don't miss the opportunity to raise funds for your club by selling tickets to the event. For each ticket sold, a \$5 donation will be made to your club and the top-selling club will win the opportunity to walk on the field with the players for each team!

Find out all about it – go to www.azysredbullgame.com

**Player Development is for Coaches and Parents
And Pays Off with Better Players, Better People!**

By Austin Daniels
AYSA Technical Director

The winter season is going strong. The leagues are finishing and the State Cup is upon us. There have been many victories and just as many losses. Sometimes in our rush to get immediate satisfaction we reduce the season to wins and losses. How many times do we sit back and look at our season from the standpoint of the “big picture” and what do we mean by the “big picture?” For some people the big picture is just wins and losses. For most, hopefully it is about teaching the great game of soccer and helping young people become better people and better players.

In youth soccer there are many coaches who want to play the game for their players, constantly giving instructions for the players every move. This type of behavior does not allow players to learn to make their own decisions. One of the best ways for young players to learn is to make mistakes and learn how to correct them.

Parents can also get caught up with this problem as well. How many games have you been to and you hear the parents coaching from their sidelines?

Many times the parents are yelling something that is the direct opposite of what the coach is saying. How do you think that makes the young player feel? I can tell you not very well.

As adults, coaches and parents alike need to guide but not dictate. Their instructions may help us win the game but it will most likely slow down the developmental process. A soccer game is a short term event where the players can find out what they currently

know and can do. In the long term process of player and people development, young children need to know that getting better is an on-going process. While losing a game may be a set-back, players learning from their mistakes is part of the developmental process.

What can coaches do to help their players develop?

Trust your players. If you have done a good job in training trust that the players can carry out your instructions once the game begins.

Have the ability to motivate positively. Try to strike up a positive rapport with the players. That will help you get that extra degree of effort from your players.

Be Enthusiastic. No amount of knowledge will make up for a lack of enthusiasm.

Have a sense of Humor. Soccer is a game and it is suppose to be fun. Enjoy it with your players.

Have a current knowledge of coaching youth soccer. Don't coach your team as if you are coaching in the World Cup. The adult game is very different from coaching youth soccer.

What can parents do to help their child develop?

Help, encourage and support. Be positive in their efforts. Support doesn't mean do. Let the players make mistakes and learn to correct them. Remember guide but not dictate.

Praise effort and performance more than results. As we said in the beginning, the game is more than wins and loses.

Cheer for the players. It is confusing when the players are getting coached from both sidelines. The coaches are there to do their job. Hopefully the parents are there to encourage their child.

Have patience. Remember development is a process. Players learn and improve at different stages. Try not to compare your child to anyone else's.

Enjoy the games. Part of competing is the ups and downs of sports. Enjoy the successes as well as the failures.

In closing we are all responsible for the development and well being of the children playing soccer. Too many children stop playing soccer because it is boring or too much pressure or it is just not fun any longer. The parents, coaches and administrators need to set positive examples to ensure that as many children keep playing as long as they want to.

For more coaching tips, visit the resource section of the AYSA website [Here](#)

News from Region IV

Region IV TOPSoccer Symposium Scheduled Here

TOPSoccer is what makes us the game for all kids. Phoenix is pleased to host the TOPSoccer symposium on April 8-10. A packed agenda will cover everything from adaptive equipment to a TOPSoccer coaching course.

This is your opportunity to have members of your Club or League learn more to help administrate or start a TOPSoccer program. This is one of the most rewarding programs in US Youth Soccer. Watch the AYSA website, www.azyouthsoccer.org, and the US Youth Soccer website, www.usyouthsoccer.org, for more information!

Region IV Championship Wrap-Up

Thanks to everyone who helped make the 2011 Phoenix ODP Championships a huge success! Our state was very well represented with a team in every age group – 10 in all. We showcased their talent and our beautiful weather for almost 100 college coaches. We're sure some of the Region's finest players will be hearing from them.

Next up are the National ODP Championships for the 94's and 95's at Reach 11 on March 4th and 6th. Find our more at [US Youth Soccer ODP National Championships](#)

2013 Regionals Announced

The Far West Regionals for 2013 will be held in Hawaii. The U12 age group will continue to be included with each Member State deciding whether or not to participate.

Where Will Our Winners Play?

This June, the winners in the u13 to u17 divisions will represent Arizona at the President's Cup in Salt Lake City. Our State Cup winners, u12-u17, will travel to Boise for Regional play. Arizona President's Cup will be held March 19-20th, 26-27th while State Cup will begin in April and finish on May 15th.

Your AYSA Insurance Travels with You – With Help When You Need It on the Road

Travel Assist is included in your AYSA insurance when you're traveling to a sanctioned soccer event. For global travel, they can help with pre-departure services such as informing you of any needed immunization requirements along with passport and visa requirements and a weather report. On the road, you have 24-hour service to replace lost or stolen airline tickets with payment through your credit card plus help with lost luggage. When you need it most, Travel Assist can also help with medical emergency services and legal assistance.

Best of all, it's all included in your membership fee!