

Convenience - We Can Do That

By Dave O'Brien

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Through my work as a soccer administrator it has become glaringly apparent to me that while many people want their children to play competitive soccer, they also want the experience to be, first and foremost, convenient. Now I'm not one to say, "I can't." Heck, people build skyscrapers on hills in Seattle, and construct bridges that span massive bodies of water. Who came up with the idea of building a ship large enough that it can accommodate the landing of airplanes anyway?

No, in my book anything is possible. I'm an opportunist, so if people want competitive soccer with ultimate convenience, I'm all about providing it. With that in mind, next year our club will start a new segment of teams based around convenience. Your child may try out for a traditional team, or one of these new and improved teams. Here are just some of the features of the "Convenience Teams":

- Teams will be coached by fulltime coaches with no other employment, commitments, or obligations in their lives.
- Coaches will be single without children.
- Coaches will be ugly, so as not to attract a love interest during the course of the season.
- Uniforms will be custom tailored, wrinkle free, and laundered at the fields.
- Practices will be held after school, so players can get home in time for dinner and "Deal or No Deal."
- Staff will pick up players from school and drop them off at home after practice.
- Games will only be scheduled on days that families don't have any other activities planned.
- Games will only be played on sunny days, with the temperature between 55 and 75 degrees (with no wind).
- In the event that games are cancelled at the last minute due to unforeseen weather, the club will pay for your gas and buy you lunch.
- Trams will shuttle people from their parking spaces to the fields.
- Tournaments will only be entered if they are within 90 minutes of the furthest player on the roster, and if the tournament director agrees to schedule our games at 10:00 and 2:00.
- We will only enter tournaments that realistically offer an 85% probability we will win. If no such tournaments can be found, we will create one and make a rule that if a team is beating one of our teams in the second half, they are disqualified and forfeit the match.
- No games will be scheduled when any parent's alma mater has a televised football or basketball game.
- Parents will not be required to take part in any volunteer efforts. In fact, the word "volunteer" will not be allowed in this segment of the club.

Of course, while anything is possible, everything has a cost. The cost to play on a Convenience Team will be \$8,500 per player. Players should expect a minimum of 2 games per season, but there will be a high likelihood they will be undefeated.

See you at tryouts.