



# DELAWARE SOCCER CLUB

Newsletter - April 2018

## Celebrating 40 Years of Soccer!

Offering Buffalo & WNY families a memorable soccer experience since 1978

For 40 years now young girls and boys have gathered in Delaware Park excited to play soccer, make new friends and have great fun as members of Delaware Soccer Club. Our purpose remains the same today as it was in 1978 – to promote interest and participation in the game of soccer and to develop and improve the soccer skills and knowledge of participating players and coaches. As the oldest not-for-profit soccer club in western New York, DSC has grown tremendously through the years thanks in large part to all of the volunteers who have dedicated their time and effort towards our great mission. The club continues to operate with an all-volunteer Board of Directors.



More inside!



### VOLUNTEER TODAY!

All Spring House League Coaches are volunteers and we hope you will consider this rewarding opportunity! DSC will provide the practice plans and support you need, regardless of your soccer background. You run one practice a week and a game on Saturday! Visit our website or call for more info!

# DSC and U.S. Soccer Align Development Philosophies



Longtime members of Delaware Soccer Club may notice some changes in the club's approach to develop the passion and the skills of its young players. Based on the latest U.S. Soccer Player Development Initiatives, DSC has integrated into its practice planning the U.S. Soccer mantra of "Play, Practice, Play." This emphasizes U.S. Soccer's idea that "Kids under the age of 12 don't win World Cups so we should not treat them like adults or professional players. Individual development and fun soccer experience is a priority."

To this end, DSC is moving its game format to align with the directive of U.S. Soccer so that all players U8 and under play in a 4 v 4 format. "Playing with less players on the field means that players are constantly involved in play and provided with more opportunities for touches on the ball and overall player development". In addition, according to U.S. Soccer, "Registered and certified referees are not needed at this level. Together, coaches and parents are expected to create and promote a fun and safe environment for the players."

These changes align DSC and U.S. Soccer in our development efforts as we continue to focus on improving players' skills while providing a fun and positive environment so that all the players can create great memories while playing this great game!

# CALENDAR

- Apr. 14: Cleat Exchange on Hertel Ave. 9am-12pm
- Apr. 14: 7v7 Coaching Course at NAAC, 1pm-5pm (registration required)
- Apr. 15: 4v4 Coaching Course at NAAC, 1pm-5pm (registration required)
- Apr. 15: Last day to register for Spring House Soccer
- Apr. 16: U8/U9 Travel Parent Meeting at NAAC, 8pm-9pm
- Apr. 21: Spring House League Coaches Meeting at NAAC, 9am-11am
- Apr. 23: Spring House League practices begin
- May 5: Spring House League games begin
- May 7: B&WNYSL Travel League games begin
- June 10: Boys 2018-19 Travel Team Tryouts
- June 23: DSC SoccerFest! And last day of Spring House League
- June 24: Girls 2018-19 Travel Team Tryouts

## DELAWARE SOCCER CLUB PRESENTS: 2018 SUMMER SOCCER CAMP SCHEDULE

- ★ June 25-29 — **Grassroots Training Camp 1** — Ages 5-14
- ★ July 23-27 — **Elite / Jr. Elite Training Camp** — Ages 5-11/12-16
- ★ August 13-17 — **Preseason Training Camp** — Ages 12-16
- ★ August 20-24 — **Grassroots Training Camp 2** — Ages 5-11



## BUFFALO'S GRASSROOTS SOCCER CLUB



All camps will take place at:  
Point of the Meadow Field at Delaware Park  
Register online @ [www.delawaresoccerclub.com](http://www.delawaresoccerclub.com)





## RAISING THE BAR FOR COACHES

In effort to raise the standard of training across the board and create the best possible learning environment for all of our young soccer players and coaches to develop to their potential, Director of Coaching, Brendan Murphy has added 2 experienced professional coaches to the Delaware Soccer Club coaching staff. With the addition of Rey and Asani the club has seen widespread benefits already. Since November, Rey, Asani and Brendan have been at virtually every travel team practice and every house league practice that has occurred. This has resulted in a noticeable improvement in the level of training that each player has experienced.

### Coaches Spotlight

#### REY MARTINEZ

##### \* Head Trainer

- ✓ 16 Yrs Pro Soccer
- ✓ Played in MLS for Colorado Rapids
- ✓ Played in USL for Rochester Rhinos
- ✓ Played for Cuban National Team
- ✓ Assistant Coach for D'Youville College Men & Women's Teams
- ✓ Assistant Coach for Rochester Lancers of NPSL



*Coach Rey has an infectious personality and an ability to connect with players from all different backgrounds. As a native Spanish speaker, Rey puts our bilingual players at ease immediately. The positive energy & creativity that Coach Rey brings to every session keeps kids of all ages engaged, interested and excited to come back! We are truly fortunate to have Coach Rey working with our travel and house league players on a regular basis!*



Quote from Coach Rey:

*"My family is in Cuba so this club is like a family to me."*

### Coaches Spotlight

#### ASANI SAMUELS

##### \* Technical Director

- ✓ 2 years professional soccer
- ✓ Played for Rochester Rhinos
- ✓ 2015 USL Champion
- ✓ 2015 USL Finals MVP
- ✓ 4 years NCAA D1 Soccer
- ✓ 3x Regional All American
- ✓ 2015 Canisius Male Athlete of the year
- ✓ 4+ years experience w/DSC



*Coach Asani has a passion for teaching young soccer players to love the game, work hard in every practice and to improve their technical ability every day. Players of all ages love Coach Asani's jovial yet demanding demeanor on the field as well as his creative mind for technical activities. Asani's presence is an incredible asset to our club as he works hard to raise the level of training at every session.*



Quote from Coach Asani:

*"We must hold our players to the highest standard possible."*

Thank you to all parents and players who attended our April Break Camp. It was a great pleasure for the coaches to work with all players who were there. Please come back! Summer camp Registrations will open soon! [www.delawaresoccerclub.com](http://www.delawaresoccerclub.com)



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Currently the club's day-to-day operations run under the stewardship of our Club Manager, Bret Stothart, and Director of Coaching, Brendan Murphy. Stothart began with DSC last May, bringing with him a strong sports business background, while Murphy began his work last July, carrying a wealth of playing and coaching experience at every level. Together the two work together to keep programming cutting edge and over 1,500 families informed on the many programs offered throughout the year.

DSC has seen remarkable growth and change over 40 years, but one thing has always remained the same – and will continue as we head into our next 40 years – that is our members' passion for providing our local families with a tremendous soccer experience, while building character and good sportsmanship in a positive environment.



## Get Your U.S. Soccer Coaching License!

Delaware Soccer Club is proud to be among the first clubs in the country offering U.S. Soccer's newest Grassroots Licensing Coaching Course in coordination with NYSWYSA. April 14 and 15, 1pm-5pm, DSC will run two separate coaching clinics at the Nardin Academy Athletic Center. Anyone, including new parent volunteers and seasoned coaches, within DSC or outside the club, is welcome to register for the clinic and earn their U.S. Soccer Grassroots Coaching License.

"These grassroots coaching licenses can give DSC coaches the knowledge and confidence to develop the skills of our players starting at the youngest ages," said Brendan Murphy, DSC Director of Coaching. "Courses specific to a 4v4 format and 7v7 format will also enable the coaches to grow right alongside the players, all with a minimal time commitment and at little to no cost."

Coaches interested in the course must register online here: <http://www.nyswysa.org/coaches>. The course will consist of two hours of theory in the classroom and two hours of practical work on the field. Participants should be prepared for some athletic movements and dress accordingly (sneakers and athletic apparel). Coaches who attend the course(s) and subsequently coach a DSC team in 2018 will receive partial/full reimbursement of the fee, depending on the number of qualifying coaches.

## Developing the Game Plan

Delaware Soccer Club has recently embarked on the formal process of updating its strategic plan to assist in guiding the club in its short and long-term decision-making moving forward. Thank you to the many members who participated in the club-wide survey, which offered valuable feedback in the process!

Your feedback, a deeper look into DSC's competitive advantages and a SWOT Analysis all helped produce internal and external strategic priorities the club will pursue in its efforts to achieve its newly created vision: to grow an inclusive and passionate soccer culture connecting Buffalo communities.

### External Programming Strategic Priorities

1. Offer Consistently High Quality Soccer Experience
2. Maximize Opportunities for All to Participate
3. Grow DSC Soccer Culture to reach more Buffalo families

Multiple strategic objectives and goals were developed for each priority, along with key performance indicators to measure progress. These efforts have created a game plan that, with your continued support, will provide the current and future leadership of DSC with a road map toward continued growth and success.

## Giving the Gift of Soccer

Three talented boys received the gift of soccer this March when a friend of DSC personally donated \$1,800 to cover the cost of participation in the DSC Travel Program. Without the local couple's generosity, these boys would have likely missed the opportunity to join DSC and play this great game. We are grateful for their donation and all we may receive during any given season. DSC offers more than \$30,000 annually in scholarships to those in need. This would not be possible without our generous members, friends, local businesses and city politicians. Hundreds of Buffalo youth have benefited through the years and their participation continues to positively shape the overall experience had by all.

DSC encourages you to consider a tax-deductible donation to help support our efforts to connect Buffalo communities and provide opportunities to those less fortunate. Every donation, small or large, can help make a difference in the life of a child.

### ADULT LEAGUE COMES TO A CLOSE!

April 11 marked the end of another fun and successful indoor adult league for DSC! Six teams competed in a round robin format, playing once a week for 10 weeks on Monday and Wednesday nights. No standings or win/loss records were maintained, as the league simply offers the opportunity to gather with other soccer fans and enjoy playing the game. Thanks to all who participated and keep an eye out for the next session next November!

### CLEAT EXCHANGE THIS SATURDAY!

This Saturday, April 14, from 9am-12pm, the DSC office will be open for its annual Cleat Exchange! Clean up those old cleats that don't fit anymore and bring them to the office at 1424 Hertel Ave. Exchange those old cleats for a different pair or just drop them off for another member who can use them! Don't have an old pair in decent shape? You can still stop in to purchase a pair for just \$5.



## DSC TRAVEL TEAMS MOVING OUTDOORS!

Weather, ready or not, the DSC Travel Teams are excited to move outdoors come May! Many teams began training indoors at the Nardin Academy Athletic Center more than five months ago and have worked hard, while having a lot of fun. Now the players are ready to get out on the pitch and show off their skills! The Buffalo & WNY Soccer League begins its game schedule May 7 and runs into the first week of Aug. and all teams are also competing in at least one weekend tournament. Best of luck to all the teams as they proudly represent the club in their DSC green and gold!!

Delaware Soccer Club is located at 1424 Hertel Avenue, Buffalo, NY, 14216.

Walk-in hours are Mon/Tues/Weds. 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Phone and email support available Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 8:00pm.

Email: [office@DelawareSoccerClub.com](mailto:office@DelawareSoccerClub.com). Phone: 716-213-6558



@DelawareSoccer



@DelawareSC



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