

# March 2008 Newsletter

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## Professional Trainer Update

As most of you know, we have contracted with Universal Sports Group to provide us with an experienced professional soccer trainer. The original plan was to have the trainer in place before the start of Spring season. Due to some unforeseen issues, the trainer will start toward the end of Spring season. We are still very excited about the addition of this resource to our club. Our Director of Training (Mike Goodman) and I have spoken with Mr. Richard Slade and it is our belief that he will bring a tremendous value to our players and our coaches. Mr. Slade has a long list of credentials, key among those is extensive coaching experience and player development experience. He holds a UEFA "A" license which is the highest level of European Soccer Credentials. Mr. Slade has coached teams in Australia, England and the US and is excited about joining the HC Storm Soccer Club and helping us continue our growth and success. Mr. Slade is an Australian citizen and is completing the required travel paperwork to enter the US and work with our club.

## Hosting our Trainer

Part of the club's responsibility to Mr. Slade is to provide him with housing for an initial period. Mr. Slade is planning to work for a short while and then bring his family to the US when he will transition to his own housing. If you have access to an apartment or are in a position to provide housing for Mr. Slade please contact me ([mtippets@aol.com](mailto:mtippets@aol.com)) and we can discuss plans.

## Sportsmanship - Let's Put our Best Foot Forward

The Spring season has started and the excitement is incredible. Our AA teams are off to a great start and our AAA teams start competition this weekend. Parents and fans please remember that good sportsmanship is a requirement. Please keep all of your excitement positive and directed as support for your team. Please refrain from criticizing officials and from taunting opposing players and fans. Our reputation as a soccer club is a valuable asset and good sportsmanship will enhance that reputation tremendously. Please help us all by demonstrating the class that is HC Storm Soccer!!!

## Website Changes

If you have not visited the club website recently, please take a minute to do so. We underwent some changes this winter and we are striving to make it a valuable communication and information resource. We no longer have parent and player logins, it is a general information tool. If you have suggestions, ideas or need to report errors please send a message to me ([mtippets@aol.com](mailto:mtippets@aol.com)) and we will welcome the input.

## Annual Family Night - April 25 at Ira Allen Park

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the annual HC Storm Soccer Club Family night on April 25<sup>th</sup> at Ira Allen Park. We will have the usual soccer games and drills and more. Also, please invite all of your friends who have an interest in youth soccer. This event is a great time for the club to get together and to introduce our programs to potential players and coaches. We are in need of more coaches to lead teams starting with this summer and going into next year. If you have friends or family who would be interested in coaching, please invite them to the Family Night Event and also feel free to have them contact me directly ([mtippets@aol.com](mailto:mtippets@aol.com)).

## Player Fees for Coming Year

HC Storm is one of the most economical soccer programs in the state and we are very proud of that fact. Our club has been and is being run with the goal of providing the best possible soccer experience for a reasonable price. For the coming soccer year (June 2008 thru May 2009) we will have an increase in the player fees. This increase will help us cover the costs of a professional trainer and the increased expenses associated with running a successful program. With the exception of our new training resource, our club continues to be staffed entirely by volunteers and this helps us control costs. Next year the fees will be:

\$375.00 - Full Year AAA Player  
\$300.00 - Half Year AAA Player  
\$300.00 - Full Year AA Player  
\$250.00 - Half Year AA Player

These fees help cover the cost of referees, insurance, registration fees (state and district), team equipment, field maintenance and field use charges. Also, this year our fees include a 15 hour summer camp for each HC Storm Team. By offering a summer camp through the club, we hope to save parents the cost of outside summer camps. The cost of the typical BYU Soccer Camp is \$300. We believe that the quality of our summer camps will be better and more beneficial to the club teams.

#### **Divisions and Brackets - What does it all mean?**

The popularity of soccer is on the rise in Utah and this is demonstrated by the number of teams that are registering each year to play in state and district competition. In order to organize this growing number of teams into a manageable competition schedules, the UYSA is using brackets to organize teams. The other reason for brackets (AA) or divisions (AAA) is to manage the level of competition. As is the case in professional soccer leagues around the world, the goal of all soccer organizations is to provide the best possible competition and allow teams to compete and develop. This is especially true in youth soccer programs. Organizing teams into divisions and brackets allows the organizing body to place teams of similar talent and experience together. The value of competition is the chance to compare your skills against others and see improvement. Placing strong, developed and experienced teams in a situation where they easily beat all competitors does not give the team a chance to see improvement and it is very deflating to other teams to have one or two very strong teams who always win. As we have stated on our website, the HC Storm Soccer Club is committed to developing our players and our coaches and supporting their drive for excellence. We are proud of every single HC Storm team and support their efforts to grow and develop.

#### **Volunteers Are Needed**

The HC Storm Soccer Club is a wonderful example of how a volunteer organization can come together and build something important for our kids and our community. At the core of this success is the need for many hands to help operate the club. We are constantly looking for those who can volunteer their time to help with the club. We still need a Director of Fields, someone who can organize and oversee the care and upkeep of our playing fields. Every year we need to find new coaches for our youngest teams and additional coaches to help with our older teams. If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering please send me an email at [mtippets@aol.com](mailto:mtippets@aol.com) and we will get you involved.

Thank you,  
Mike Tippets  
President, HC Storm Soccer Club