

PASC U13 Boys soccer team(s)
2003 Philosophy

The coach and team managers of the Palo Alto U13B White (class 3) "Thunderbolts" and Blue (class 1) teams, at the suggestion of the Palo Alto Soccer Club, have compiled this fact sheet for potential players and their parents. Please read it carefully, as we want you to understand what is expected of you and the team(s) over the course of the season. We believe that if everyone understands the team and club philosophies, policies, commitments, costs, who is coaching and managing, up front, then it will be easier to decide whether this team is the best placement for your son.

Goals

We intend to provide an environment in which players, parents, and coaches, as well as the larger club that supports us, are proud to be associated with our team. We believe in open communication and try to ensure that everyone has fun, works hard and enjoys each season. The object is to provide our players and parents with an extremely positive experience while building strong soccer players and playing competitive soccer.

For our players, the environment will be challenging, motivating, and fun. It will require a serious commitment on their part and parents must be prepared to support their son's commitment. Our goal is to prepare our boys for the future, both on and off the field. We teach them the critical fundamentals of soccer. Ball handling skills, passing, and positioning on the field is stressed over and over again, as these techniques are critical for success in all levels of play. Equally, if not more importantly, we reinforce non-soccer specific skills such as communication, teamwork, time management, responsibility, discipline and respect for all players. The goal is to grow each of our players both as individuals and as soccer players.

We also believe that, at this age, our players should not have to choose only one sport to play. We not only accept that they will play multiple sports, we encourage it. We offer a year round soccer program with seasons in the spring, fall, and winter for those interested. The expectation is that in the fall, soccer is the primary sport and that practices and games will be mandatory. In the spring and winter, we understand that other sports may take priority. For those playing other sports, a schedule can be worked out if they wish to play soccer as well. As a result, over 95% of our players continue to play year round.

We are a team that plays competitive tournaments as well as league play and we understand that many of our players have siblings also playing sports. Thus, we have reasonable schedules that do not dominate family life. Carpooling is always encouraged and families are encouraged to support each other. Finally, as a fairly new group, we fully understand that it will take time to build formidable teams. We have been able to attract a great group of individuals who have come together quickly and progressed regularly. Our coaches were quite pleased with the noticeable progress. Our quality of play surprised many as clearly evidenced by the 2nd place finish at the Fresno Halloween Tournament and 3rd place finish at the Tom Radesic Memorial Morgan Hill Tournament on Labor Day.

Our belief is that solid, committed players who benefit from positive coaching, an atmosphere of respect and teamwork, and strong parent support will ultimately result in a winning program. It is our team's belief that with strong commitments from our players and parents, we will be looking to move the team into Class 1 competition within the near future. An additional Class 3 team will be formed at that time.

Age Requirement

U13B - born between 08/01/90 and 07/31/91

Coach

Jorge Salazar has 17 years experience as a pro-soccer player, and 6 years experience as a pro-soccer coach. He played for the El Salvadorian national team among others in El Salvador and he played for the San Francisco Seals and Blackhawks in the U.S.A. He has run soccer camps and clinics in the Palo Alto area for teens and children. He puts strong emphasis on skills training, and often runs skills training sessions during the off-season. Another obvious plus for many of our players is that Jorge is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Managers

Once teams are selected, then a manager will be recruited from the parents of the players on each team. The team manager is an essential part of the PASC infrastructure. All of the team administration is handled by the team manager including: players' registration, fee collection, uniform coordination and ordering, tournament applications/registration and game-day arrangements. The team manager must also delegate specific duties to other parents on the team. Darice Koo and Kathleen Flynn were co-managers of last year's Class 3 Thunderbolts and are handling the registration for the tryout process.

Team History

This team was formed in the spring of 2001. Our first season in league play was fall 2001. As new players to CYSA, our team lost almost every game. The boys decided to keep working on skills over the winter and by spring they were beginning to really hone their skills and turn the team around. The team brought in Jorge Salazar in late summer of 2002 and added several new players. The fall 2002 season was more successful with three wins, one tie and five losses. The team also had great success in two out of four tournaments this season, taking 3rd place in the Tom Radesic Memorial Labor Day Tournament and 2nd place in the Fresno Halloween Tournament.

Team Selection

Selection of players for both the Class 1 team and the Class 3 team is made by the head coach, Jorge Salazar. Candidates will be evaluated and selected according to their performance at try-outs. The team roster will comprise no more than 18 players. All players trying out for the team (whether successful or not) will be contacted via telephone, during the evening, following the last try-out session. Since the PASC goal is to field the most competitive team(s) at each age level, there is no guarantee that a returning player will automatically make the team again this year. By the same token, should a selected player show disdain or laziness during the course of the season, that player may be dropped from the team (with no financial refund) and replaced by another player.

Playing Time

Playing time during each game is probably the most beneficial means of growth for a player. However, unlike AYSO, playing time in CYSA is not mandatory. Playing time will be determined by a player's work ethic (during practices and games), attendance at practice and games, timeliness, and general progress and attitude. The coach will make this determination.

League Schedule

Class 1 games are played on Saturdays and Class 3 games are played on Sundays. Spring play (both teams play spring soccer) runs from early April through early June and is optional, although strongly encouraged. Fall season for Class 1: practice starts in early August with the first tournament in late August and second tournament on Labor Day weekend. League play

begins the first Saturday after Labor Day. For Class 3: practice starts in mid-August with the first tournament being Labor Day weekend. Play begins the first Sunday after Labor Day.

Practice Schedule

The team(s) will commence practice (at least two days per week) immediately following the tryouts. Starting in August, Class 1 players will be required to practice three times per week. Class 3 players will be required to practice twice a week. Practices will be held in the late afternoon and last approximately two hours.

Travel & Tournaments

The teams will apply to play in 2-3 tournaments in the spring. In the fall, will apply to play in 3-5 tournaments during the league season (the last weekend of each month), including the district cup. Where possible, we will attempt to enter local tournaments. However, if we do need to travel to tournaments that require an overnight stay, there will be additional costs associated with transportation and accommodation.

Estimated Expenses

Fees vary from team to team based on the playing level of the team, the number of tournaments played and any travel fees associated with those tournaments, and the fees of the coach (coaching experience and record determines these fees). The PASC will not exclude a player from its program because of financial reasons, and offers partial and full scholarships for club, league and coaching fees to any family requiring financial assistance. Scholarships are handled confidentially on an individual basis.

Coaching Philosophy

Jorge Salazar will be the coach for the class 1 and class 3 BU13 teams for the 2003 spring and fall seasons. His coaching philosophy is outlined here.

Jorge thinks the most important requirement for a boy playing competitive soccer is that the *youngster* really loves soccer and wants to play soccer. After love of soccer, Jorge requires the following from his players: discipline, determination, respect for everyone else on the team, showing up on time, regular attendance, and working hard with the intention of improving one's skills. This final requirement calls for setting individual and team goals. Jorge tries to develop a relationship with each player so that the player feels comfortable coming to him to ask for help and guidance and so that he can help each player set personal goals. He also develops a relationship with each of the teams, and helps them to collectively set goals for their team.

In terms of developing a player, Jorge believes that ball-handling skills require constant attention. Jorge works first and foremost on skills, how to play with the ball, how to control the ball, how to touch the ball, pass the ball, everything with the ball. With his experience in playing, he has learned that ball control is what makes the difference between good players and great players.

The first time Jorge sees a player, he watches him pass the ball, trap the ball and kick the ball. From this he begins to determine what position a boy will be good at playing on the field. For some players, ball handling skills come more naturally than to others. But even still, a player who really wants to play and is very devoted to the game can develop these skills with commitment and hard work.

In terms of strategizing on the field, Jorge believes the best defense is to push forward, so he teaches the kids a very offensive game of soccer.

Jorge does not believe in over-emphasizing physical training. He feels that young kids are born physically fit. They play and run and “work out” all day in their activities. As they get older and start to develop, some kids will become stronger and faster than others. In soccer, especially at this age, so many games are won just because one team has bigger or faster players than another team. However, as the kids grow and develop, eventually these size differences will even out. Jorge believes it will be the boys with the better ball handling skills who will win the games. He aims to keep the kids as fit as possible with scrimmages, games, and tournaments during the season, and by offering skills training even in the off-season. But even if a boy is ultimately not as strong as another boy, if a boy has excellent ball handling skills, he will be able to out-manuever the stronger, more athletic player.