

Time To Register Youngsters For Fall Soccer

With the fall soccer season quickly approaching, it's time to register your child for soccer. In the southeast Denver area, *Skyline Soccer Association* has been providing youth with the opportunity to play soccer since 1967, making them one of the oldest clubs in Denver. Skyline Soccer is a community-based organization that thrives on providing a quality experience for all children of all ages.

Skyline currently provides soccer for kids ages three to 18, from very beginners to some of the best players in the state. Skyline has more than 1,100 kids enrolled each season to play soccer in the southeast Denver area. Registration is open for all programs and it is time for parents and children to decide if they want to play soccer this fall. Registration will be open until early August, but early registration is always recommended as programs fill up quickly.

It is Skyline's goal to nurture each player so that they can advance to the highest level of play that they desire. Besides fall and spring league soccer, Skyline offers numerous summer camps and free clinics during the season. Being new to soccer can

be difficult for players and parents, trying to decipher what all the different programs are and where each child belongs. Here is a list of programs currently offered at *Skyline Soccer Association*:

Grasshoppers — For very beginners, Grasshoppers is a program designed specifically for three-year old boys and girls. It teaches kids the very basics of soccer and gets them out on the soccer field, having fun and meeting new friends. Each player receives a jersey and all the soccer balls are provided by Skyline. Volunteer coaches are utilized in this league.

Munchkins — Very similar to Grasshoppers, but a step up in age group. Munchkins is designed for four-year old boys and girls. With the strategy of showing kids the fun side of soccer, Munchkins teaches the kids how the game of soccer is played and gets them out, gets them active and introduces them to other kids. Each player receives a jersey and all the soccer balls are provided by Skyline. Volunteer coaches are utilized in this league.

Developmental — A recreational program for boys and girls ages five to 10.

Teams are formed and a once a week practice is held. This is a non-competitive format that gives kids the opportunity to get involved with a team and build lasting friendships. Games are played on Saturdays at a nearby soccer complex. Volunteer coaches are needed at all levels in the Developmental league.

Intermediate — A step up from Developmental, Intermediate soccer is for kids ages 10 to 14 that want a little more competition. Starting at age 10, teams are formed and games are played against neighboring clubs in the Metro Denver area. Practices are usually two nights a week and almost all games are played on Saturdays.

Metro League — A great league for older kids to still participate in recreational soccer. This league is for 15 to 18 year old boys and girls. It is played on a full size field, but in an 8 versus 8 format. Girls play in the fall

and boys play in the spring.

Competitive — The highest level of soccer in the Denver area. Competitive soccer is for kids ages 10 to 15 looking to really develop their soccer skills and play at the highest level of competition in Denver. Competitive soccer does take a bit more of a commitment, but kids get to experience a whole new level of play. Practices are two to three nights a week and games are on Saturdays and a couple of Sundays against neighboring clubs.

Interested parties should get in touch with the club early if you'd like to form a brand new team. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Skyline Soccer Association at 303-691-5662 or by e-mail at administrator@skylinesoccer.org. Register online at www.skylinesoccer.org. You can also stop into the office at 2370 S. Colorado Blvd., Denver, CO 80222.

Renovated Gates Tennis Center Gears Up For Spectacular September

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Additionally, Rose and Hitman have added many new components to the Colorado Open which include it being the last big tournament of the outdoor season, September 11-20. Tournament events include the "Tennis For Kids" day event; recognizing former champions by having a Grand Champions Party; inviting local tennis clubs to be part of the event; increasing the total purse to attract top players from around the country; and selling tickets to

raise money for the "Tennis For Kids" Outreach Program.

For a complete look at the new Colorado State Open please see next month's issue of the *Chronicle*.

The *Gates Tennis Center* is open every day from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m. It is a "pay as you play" facility with no residency requirements. Courtesy reservations can be made 24 hours in advance. Court prices are \$6 per court for an hour of playing time for singles or doubles or \$8 per court for an hour of playing time during prime-time hours which are: Monday through Friday, 5-10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information call 303-355-4461 or visit www.gates.tenniscenter.info.

Bringing People Together To Solve Common Problems

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One of the most effective ways to create good jobs is to invest in the "New Energy Economy." That's why we passed measures to speed Colorado's transition to the clean technologies of tomorrow. "Solar Ready Homes," which ensures that new homes are pre-wired for solar energy use or have solar panels installed as part of their home-financing agreement, is just one of those measures.

We also recognized the need to prepare our workforce for the new jobs we pledged to create. This legislative session, we took an innovative program statewide that had been pioneered by Aurora Community College and Aurora Public Schools, whereby students can be concurrently enrolled in college while still in high school, earning both their high school diploma and two-year associates' degree at the same time.

Another bill, Senate Bill 171, expands job training programs at community colleges to include new energy companies and specialized training for "green-collar" jobs. We believe these programs will be important in furthering our goals of keeping kids in school and promoting workforce development.

The state budget was the single most important topic of the session. I heard many veteran legislators say it was the worst year they had ever seen. We revised the 2008-09 budget three times during the session, then made numerous revisions to the 2009-10 budget as it was going through the process. Depending on the economy, we may make further reductions during our next fiscal year that starts July 1, 2009, even as we plan for fiscal year 2010-11.

During this session, we dealt with the harsh realities of these tough economic times. Just as most families have been doing, we were forced to make some very difficult financial decisions. While nobody at the Capitol is happy with all of the decisions that had to be made, we know that we did our best to produce a balanced budget, which at its core works to expand the circle of opportunity for every Coloradan.



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