



**CALGARY WEST SOCCER CLUB
OUTDOOR 2008
COACH AND TEAM MANAGER
INFORMATION PACKAGE**

Welcome and thank you for volunteering with an Outdoor 2008 CWSC team. This page is intended to provide you with quick access to information that you will require on a regular basis. All of the information contained in this package can also be found on our website www.calgarywestsoccer.com Please check out the website – it contains lots of up-to-date information to help you have a smooth enjoyable season. You can also post comments, subscribe to news feeds, and take a look at the photo gallery.

Here's what is important for you to do NOW:

1. CONTACT YOUR TEAM - a recommended communication has been included under Getting Your Team Started below.
 2. Select a TEAM MANAGER. The team manager will coordinate various tasks that are essential for the operation of a successful team
 3. Complete the [Police Clearance](#)
 4. [Review CWSC Policies and Procedures](#)
 5. Review [CWSC Coach/Team Manager Handbook](#)
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The following recommendations are intended to outline steps to help you get started.

1. Receive and review list of team players.
2. Contact each of the players **by phone** to introduce yourself:
 - b. Indicate team name and division
 - c. Give indication of first team meeting/practice
 - d. Inform parents that there will be a team meeting at your first practice.
3. Email your team with a follow up “Welcome to your CWSC Team” with the following information:
 - a) Provide first practice/team meeting information
 - b) Restate your contact information as well as that of your assistant coach (if you have an assistant already selected)
 - c) Provide a list of required team volunteer positions including:
 - **Team Manager**
 - **Referee Liaison** (see “[Referee Information](#)” below)
 - **Call Out parents** – in case players/parents need to be contacted urgently
 - **Parent Referee Volunteers** (see “[Referee Information](#)” below)
 - **First aid person** - CWSC requires that someone on the coaching staff have first aid training. Each team must have a First Aid Kit, which is supplied by the club, at each practice and game
 - **Social Coordinator** - (Note: Teams are responsible for their own end of season party.)

- **Tournament/travel coordinator**
- **Equipment coordinator**
- **Uniform coordinator**
- **Club Wear coordinator**

4. Getting Your Team Started

At the first team meeting:

- Recruit an **ASSISTANT COACH** (if one has not already been assigned by the Head Coach)
- Recruit a **TEAM MANAGER** (see “Selecting a Team Manager” below)
 - Have your team manager submit contact information for yourself, your assistant coach and your team manager to your **Age Group Coordinator** **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE** so that you may be given team list and contact information. AGC’s will assist Team Coaches and Managers with all of the information contained in this Information Package.

Do not contact the Board or Head Coach for this support – please use your AGC.

Selecting a Team Manager

It is highly recommended that all teams have a team manager who coordinates the various tasks that are essential for the operation of a successful team. The role of the team manager is an extremely valuable one. The main focus of this position is one of administrative support to the coach/assistant coaches. The goal for the team manager and other volunteers is to support the coach in all administration and scheduling matters so that they can focus on coaching.

Duties include:

- Team Communication – keep parents/players informed of dates/times of games/practices throughout the season.
- Contact person for away games – contact home team manager/coach to get location of field and directions. Relay to team members/parents. Also involves rescheduling of games cancelled due to weather.
- Scorekeeping – Enter game scores into CMSA scoring system.
- Bench mom schedule - Create bench mom schedule for female teams
- Referee Liaison – Select one parent to act as the referee liaison for the season. (See “[Referee Information](#)” below)
- Tournaments - Determine possible tournaments, assess team interest, register team, provide details to players/parents, coordination of travel details for any out of town tournaments.
- Team Equipment Coordinator - Select a parent volunteer to coordinate pick-up and return of equipment with the CWSC Equipment Coordinator.
- Team Uniform Coordinator - Select a parent volunteer to coordinate uniform pick-up, distribution, and return of uniforms with the CWSC Uniform Coordinator
- Call Out Parents – Select one or two parent volunteer(s) to inform parents/players when games have been cancelled.
- Team Club Wear Coordinator - Select a parent volunteer to coordinate placing team club wear orders, liaise with CWSC Club Wear Coordinator, and distribute club wear when received.

You will also be the main contact person for parent questions/concerns throughout the season. If you are uncertain of CMSA rules, regulations or processes, including contacts for other teams, please ask for help first from your Age Group Coordinator. If the Age Group Coordinator cannot help, she/he will contact the overall CMSA Coordinator. Contact information for the Age Group Coordinator can be found on the CWSC website.

Quick Links

The following are intended to provide you access to information that you may use throughout the season:

1. [CPIC Clearance Information \(Police Checks\)](#)
 2. [Photo ID Information](#)
 3. [Getting Your CMSA #](#)
 4. [Important Dates](#)
 5. [League Play Set Date Schedule](#)
 6. [Getting your Team Schedule](#)
 7. [Practice Schedule](#)
 8. [Fields](#)
 9. [Field Closure Information](#)
 10. [Technical Academy Sessions](#)
 11. [Coach Development Program](#)
 12. [Coaching Curriculum](#)
 13. [Referee Information](#)
 14. [Scorekeeping](#)
 15. [Fitness Program](#)
 16. [CWSC Club Wear](#)
 17. [CWSC Contacts](#)
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1. Police Checks

In accordance with CMSA, CWSA and CUSA policy all coaches and managers are required to submit a CPIC before she or he is permitted to coach or manage. Police Checks are required for CHL and ICL coaches as well. **CWSC supports coaches to obtain CPIC Clearance and incurs the cost of doing so if submitted to CWSC. An authorized volunteer will contact you to complete your police check before the season start or when renewal is required.**

If you do **not** obtain CPIC Clearance through CWSC procedures, you must obtain a Police Clearance on your own. To do this, you must visit the CMSA office at the Calgary Soccer Centre during regular office hours (it can not be done at the police station or Administration building). However you must notify CWSC that you have completed this. If you live outside City Limits you must visit your local RCMP office.

To complete the CPIC at CMSA, you must bring 2 pieces of Identification with you including:

- One of: Driver's License, Passport or Citizenship Card **and** One of: Birth Certificate, Social Insurance Card, or Personal Alberta Health Care Card.
- There is a \$5 charge to complete a CPIC and this must be paid via cash or cheque when you complete the application.
- The normal processing time is 6-8 weeks.
- The result of the CPIC comes back to the CMSA office where it is kept on file and not mailed back to the applicant.
- We only return copies or results of CPICs to individuals upon request.
- For CMSA and CWSC purposes CPICs are valid for 36 months from the Clearance date.

- If you have a current CPIC through another organization and can bring the original down to our office for us to photocopy that will be sufficient. Please Note: We must see the original CPIC, a photocopy is not acceptable.
- If you are unsure of your CPIC status with CMSA please contact the CMSA office at 279-8686. Please note you must be CPIC cleared in order to be named as a Team Official on Provincial Rosters as well as Travel Permits.

2. Photo Identification Cards

All players from U12 to U18 require a valid CMSA Photo ID card. The referee may ask that these cards be handed in individually to the referee at the start of the game. If a player does not have their Player Card, that Player will not be allowed to participate in the game.

At least one Team Official for U10 to U18 teams requires a valid CMSA Photo ID but it is recommended that each team official on the roster have a CMSA ID card.

All registered U10 players, playing-up in a U12 League require a registered movement pass, signed by one of their team officials or Club Board of Directors. This pass is to be given to the team the player is playing-up with. The pass, along with the game sheet is to be submitted to the Referee.

All Player Photo ID cards are valid for 4 years from the date of issue. All team official Photo ID cards are valid so long as their CPIC is valid. No team official cards will be issued until such time as the individual team official has applied for the CPIC. Upon expiry, Cards will be revalidated and re-issued at no cost to the Player/Team Official, should they still require and desire a valid CMSA Photo ID card.

If a coach cannot make a game for any reason, they may give their team official card to a responsible adult for presentation to the referee if no other team officials will be present at the game. In the event that none of the Team Officials for a specific team show up to a game with a valid ID card, one Team Official will be allowed to remain on the bench (and a bench Parent if required) and the game will be played. The Referee will note that no cards were presented on the game sheet.

The ID cards are property of CMSA and must be given back to the Member at the end of each season or when requested by CMSA. The cost for the card is \$10 unless turning in an old or expired card, which then the card will be free.

Any player found using more than one-(1), player ID card shall be suspended from all soccer activity until a CMSA Discipline hearing is held.

To obtain a CMSA Photo Identification Card, players and coaches must follow CMSA procedures. You must sign up ON LINE via the [CMSA](#) website to book an appointment. This will not be up and running until March. Make sure players and coaches have their CMSA ID# when they are setting up their appointments.

CMSA Photo Dates

Photo Identification - By Appointment only dates:

Tuesday, April 15 to Thursday April 17	Calgary Soccer Centre	5 pm to 8 pm
Saturday, April 19	Calgary West Soccer Centre	10 am - 4 pm
Sunday, April 20	Calgary West Soccer Centre	10 am - 4 pm
Tuesday, April 22 to Thursday, April 24	Calgary Soccer Centre	5 pm - 8 pm
Sunday, April 27	Calgary Soccer Centre	1 pm - 4 pm

Coach & Team Manager Information

last updated Mar 31, 2008

Tuesday, April 29 to Thursday, May 1 Calgary Soccer Centre 5 pm - 8 pm

Saturday, May 3 Calgary Soccer Centre 10 am - 4 pm

Appointments can be made **after March 1** online at CMSA

3. Getting your CMSA Number

If you have played in the CMSA league before, CWSC can access your CMSA ID #. Please e-mail Sheralyn at admin@calgarywestsoccer.com to ask for your ID number. If you have not played in the CMSA league before, CWSC will not be able to access a CMSA ID # until we register teams and players with CMSA, sometime around March 25, 2008. Please contact Sheralyn **after** this time and she will be able to send you your ID # then. You need this number to get your CMSA Photo ID Card.

4. Important Dates

League Play and Schedules

- **Week of April 7** – Teams formed and Coaches notified.
- **Week of April 13** - Equipment distribution (you will receive an e-mail from the Equipment and Uniforms Coordinators with specific dates and location for pick up)
- **Week of April 14** - Teams start practices. You will be contacted by Sheralyn to schedule your regular practice location, day and time.
- **Monday, Apr 20** - Team packages (schedules) are available. Sheralyn will send an e-mail with specific pick up instructions.
- **Saturday, Apr 26** – Developmental and Competitive A & B games commence
- **Saturday, May 3** – Premier games commence
- **Thursday, Jun 26** – Developmental and Competitive games end
- **Thursday, Jul 31** – Premier games end

Post Season Play

Wednesday, July 2 – Thursday, July 23 – Intercities qualifying

Thursday, Sept 4 to Sunday, Sept 14 – Fall Cup

September 13 & 14 - Inter-City Championships – Boys – Edmonton, Girls – Calgary

Provincials: **July 25, 26, 27** – Tier IV
 Aug 8,9,10 – Tier III
 Aug 21-24 – Tier I U14, U16, U18
 Aug 22-24 – Tier II U18
 Sept 5-7 – Tier II (except U18) and U12 Tier I

Outdoor Tournaments

Calgary West Soccer Club Outdoor Tournaments
Sunday, June 8, 2008 – CWSC 3 vs. 3 Tournament

Coach & Team Manager Information

last updated Mar 31, 2008

Calgary Minor Soccer Association 2008 Outdoor Tournaments

Friday, May 16 to Monday, May 19 – 12th Annual President's Cup (U12-U18 Tier IV and below)

Friday, July 25 to Sunday, July 27 – Annual Girl's Tournament (U12-U16 Tier I, II, III)

Friday, Sep 5 to Sunday, Sep 7 – Annual Boys Tournament (U12-U18, Tier I, II, III)

5. League Play Set Date Schedule

U10

U10 Tier A will be scheduled on any day of the week.

U10 Tier B will play on Mondays and Saturdays (except for May 19th – games will be played on the 20th).

U10 Tier C will play on Thursdays and Sundays.

U12

Competitive A's will play on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Competitive B's will play on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

U14

U14 Competitive A's will play on Tuesdays and Saturdays.

U14 Competitive B's will play on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Premier

U12 Premier will be scheduled on any day of the week.

U14 Premier will be scheduled on any day of the week.

U16 Premier will be scheduled on any day of the week.

U18 Premier will be scheduled on any day of the week.

6. Game Schedule

You can access your CMSA game schedule on our website at www.calgarywestsoccer.com. Please let your parents know that they can access this through our web site under "SCHEDULES" if they lose their hard copy. **Note:** this does not provide the practice schedule which is referred to below. Game Schedules can also be accessed through the CMSA Website www.calgaryminorsoccer.com under "Schedules and Standings".

7. Practice Schedule

One 1.5 hour weekly practice – Sheralyn will send out a spreadsheet with available times and days. Please reply to Sheralyn to request your preferred day/time slot. First come first serve, with earlier times reserved for younger age groups, and larger gyms reserved for older age groups.

Extra practice gym time will be available on a weekly basis – please view the Practice Schedule on our website and send a request to Sheralyn for those available times.

The practice schedule for all teams can be viewed under [Schedules](#) on our website. Please let parents know this, as it may reduce e-mails asking for clarification of practice schedules.

8. Fields

CWSC **outdoor** home games are played on **city fields**, or on **community fields**.

City Fields

- Who:** U-14 Premier Div 1&2, U-16 (all divisions) and U-18 (all divisions) teams use city fields.
- What:** City fields are designated F-x, G-x, O-x, R-x, S-x, FM-x, W-x, FL-x, OG-x, and SL-x.
- Where:** Use <http://www.compusim.com/soccer/fieldmaps/> for field maps and locations
- Conditions:** Call 268-2300 and enter code 9855 for conditions of these fields. Use <http://www.calgaryminorsoccer.com/index.php?submenu=Schedules&src=gendocs&ref=field%20info&category=Main> to access the specific city field closure numbers

Community Fields

- Who:** U-10, U-12 and U-14 teams Premier Div 3 and below use community fields.
- What:** See website to access field names <http://www.calgarywestsoccer.com/outdoorcmsa-league-game-fields/>
- Where:** See website to access field maps and locations <http://www.calgarywestsoccer.com/outdoorcmsa-league-game-fields/>

CWSC provides the location and maps of all Community Fields and City of Calgary fields on our website, under [Game Fields](#).

Our field system will link your team to your game field. Opposing teams can access your field location and map from the CMSA game schedule and our website which should reduce team management work. Please note: CMSA does not let us input field locations to all of our games. If you see a designated COMM field, please contact Sheralyn to find out your game location.

9. Field Closure Information

For games played on Community fields:

Home coach can decide to call off a game due to poor field conditions. Home coach must contact the visiting team coach before the game. If teams arrive at the field to play, only the assigned referee can call off the game.

For games played on City of Calgary fields:

The only official source for field closures information is the City of Calgary Rain-Out Line (268-2300 code 9855).

During May and June, if both fields at Fran McCool are closed, then Andrew Sibbald and Fred Seymour fields are closed. For July, if both fields at Woodbine are closed, then these fields are closed.

During May and June, if Optimist is closed, the Patina is closed. For July, if all of Shouldice is closed, then Patina is closed.

If both fields at Renfrew are closed, then Bottomlands and Monroe are closed.

During May and June, if Forest Lawn is closed, then Valleyview is closed. For July, if all of the Soccer centre fields are closed, then Valleyview is closed.

For Okotoks, Cochrane and Strathmore, you will need to contact the coach of the home team to see if the field is open or closed.

10. Technical Program

Information on the Technical Program can be found on our website at:

<http://www.calgarywestsoccer.com/outdoor-player-technical-progr/>

- All players are offered 3 Drop-In Player Development sessions delivered by our Head Coaches. See <http://www.calgarywestsoccer.com/player-technical-schedule/> to see the schedule for these sessions.
- All players are also offered 3 Drop-In Preseason Fitness Training sessions.
- All teams will also receive 2 team support sessions with our Head Coach who will contact each Team Coach to schedule.
- All team goal keepers will be offered 3 Drop-In Goalie Training sessions with Darrol Graham.

Academy

- U12+ Premier Tier 1, 2 and 3 teams will attend mandatory Team Academy which encompasses 10 technical sessions with the CWSC Head Coach at extra cost.
- U10 A teams will attend mandatory Team Academy which encompasses 5 technical sessions with the CWSC Head Coach at extra cost.

Note: Academy sessions will only be rescheduled due to game conflicts but not practices, so please plan your practice schedule accordingly. Team Coaches are asked to advise our Head Coach of game conflicts.

All schedules for the Technical Program can be found under <http://www.calgarywestsoccer.com/player-technical-schedule/>.

Note: changes in the Technical Schedule may be necessary after seeding rounds. Please check back on our website for schedule changes <http://www.calgarywestsoccer.com/player-technical-schedule/>

11. Coach Development

CWSC has organized **NCCP Technical “Youth” (10-14) Courses** for all CMSA coaches.

Please plan to attend one – you must attend both days to receive certification. You may sign up at:

coachdevelopmentsignup@calgarywestsoccer.com and provide:

Name

Team/Age Group/gender you wish to coach

Course

E-mail

Phone Number

CWSC has also organized **House League mini-courses for HL and ICL** coaches. If you want to attend, please let Mary Liao know at president@calgarywestsoccer.com as we will have to check on space.

CWSC has also organized a **fitness training coach development** session for Sunday April 27th 4-6 pm at Ranchlands DQ fields. Please sign up as above.

CWSC will also be organizing in-house coach development sessions during the season. You will be notified by e-mail when these sessions will be.

Please expect to be involved in exercises in all coach development sessions and dress accordingly.

All coach development schedules can be viewed at <http://www.calgarywestsoccer.com/coach-development/>

12. Coaching Curriculum

CWSC has subscribed to a number of coaching curriculum data bases to help coaches plan their practices. You will need to login on our website [Login - Coach Curriculum Resources](#) to access these resources. Coaches will be sent the login name and password at the beginning of the season. Within this section we also have subscribed to the Byte Size Coaching Curriculum. You need a separate login and password for this system. Again, coaches will be e-mailed this access code at the beginning of the season. If you forget the codes, please contact Sheralyn.

13. Referee Information

Referee Coordinator (Milan): referee@calgarywestsoccer.com

Payment Coordinator (Bindya): bindyar@gmail.com

Calgary West Soccer Club, like many other soccer clubs in Calgary, has experienced in a decline in the number of referees that it is able to recruit and retain from year to year. One of the common reasons for this is the abuse suffered by the younger referees especially. In order to increase the number of referees that are available and in order to better support our referees, Calgary West Soccer is implementing some new initiatives this year.

1. Coach - Referee Awareness Workshop - All coaches must attend a referee awareness workshop.
2. Parent Referee Liaison Volunteer - Each team must also select one or more persons to become the Referee Liaison person who is responsible for:
 - Attending one **Parent Referee Liaison Workshop** that is organized by CWSC.
 - Wearing the green armband that is provided with your team equipment so that you are visible to the referee and other parents.
 - Talking to the referee after the game and making note of any concerns or compliments.
 - Filling out a report after each game and email it to cwscpsparentliaison@gmail.com the necessary coordinators. The report can be found on our website under the referee section.
 - The Referee Coordinator (Milan) will be checking to see if there are any reports of concerning behaviour by coaches or parents
 - The Payment Coordinator (Bindya) will be checking to see if the referee was a “no show”
3. Parent Trained Referees – We are trying to recruit parents to be trained referees.
 - ICL parent referees will be trained by experienced referees in a 1 day classroom workshop, with a second day on the field.
 - CMSA parent referees will need to take the ASA Referee Education Courses to become fully certified to referee community level games.

- For both ICL and CMSA games, parents will be paid the going rates or can work off their volunteer fee.

Please see the website under <http://www.calgarywestsoccer.com/referees/> to access the schedules for these workshops and courses and for sign-up instructions.

Referee Information Tips:

A little reminder for all coaches and managers: The referee's word is FINAL. In the spirit of being good role models for our players, let's reserve our comments (even if it is a bad call) until after the game. To our coaches, please give reassuring and positive feedback to the referee. In fact you may consider having all your players go over after the game and thank the referee - this creates a real sense of respect for referees on the part of the players.

IMPORTANT: ANY TEAM RECEIVING A BAD REPORT FOR REFEREE ABUSE WILL NOT HAVE A REFEREE SCHEDULED FOR THEIR NEXT GAME. THERE WILL BE NO WARNINGS DURING THE SEASON, AND NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

CWSC only provides referees for **home games only**.

If a referee does not "show up" for one of your games it is important that the referee liaison parent on your team email the referee coordinator and payment coordinator on the same day.

It is also important that you let us know if you have cancelled a game so that this information can be passed onto the scheduled referee. If we are not told of the cancellation and the referee shows up to the field, he/she will have to be paid. (This can become very expensive for the Club).

When you reschedule a cancelled game please email the referee coordinator as soon as you can so that there is enough time to find a referee.

Please remember that many of our referees are new refs and are youngsters themselves. This is a new learning experience for them as well. All of the referees have taken a 2 day classroom based training course. The new referees have not yet had a chance to practice what they learned.

13. Scorekeeping

Scores need to be entered into the CMSA scoring system as follows:

CMSA Website – www.calgaryminorsoccer.com

- Go to "Club and Team Officials Area"
- Click on "**Score Games and Club Schedules**"
- Find Calgary West Soccer Club and click "**Score Games**"
- Click **Launch Member Area**
- An ITSportsnet window opens, and you are able to enter your email and password information. All coaches, assistant coaches and team managers are set up with scorekeeping access by CMSA.

- If this is your first time in ITSportsnet, you will need to "**Setup Login**"
- If you had access previously, just enter your **email** and **password**

The **WHITE** copy of the score sheet must be deposited in the drop box located at The Calgary West Soccer Centre (11014 Bears paw Dam Road N.W) or The Calgary Soccer Centre (7000 48 St. SE).

Alternatively, score sheets can be mailed to the CMSA at

Calgary Minor Soccer
7000 48 St SE
Calgary, Alberta
T2C 4E1

14. Fitness Program

This outdoor season we are piloting a new pre season FITNESS, AGILITY AND COORDINATION program. Each player will have access to three 1.5 hour sessions while Premier players will have an additional four sessions as part of their Academy fees. If the pre-season sessions are well attended and in high demand, we will run additional sessions during the season, at minimal extra cost, for all players.

The fitness program will focus on the performance related fitness components of speed, endurance, coordination, agility, balance. The Fitness schedule can be found on the CWSC website under "Player Development". <http://www.calgarywestsoccer.com/player-technical-schedule/>

15. CWSC Clubwear

Once again, CWSC is happy to offer CWSC Club Wear. Photos of the Club Wear can be seen on the website under [Club Wear](#).

CWSC Club Wear is going to KICKS Sporting Goods!
4625 Varsity Drive NW 288 0287

All Club wear items will be available for sizing and purchase at the store.

CWSC members will also receive a 10% discount card on all other Kicks merchandise.

16. Contacts

Important contacts for CWSC can be found under [Contacts](#) on our website.

17. Kids Want to Have Fun! Just Let the Kids Play

In the wake of referee abuse, and problems with parents and coaches taking the game just TOO SERIOUSLY, CWSC would like to promote an environment in which kids have fun while learning the sport of soccer.

Here is what the literature is saying about how we as parents are affecting the experience of our children playing sports.

In a 2002 Canadian Public Opinion Survey on Youth and Sport, Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, it reports that:

Most children play sports to have fun, get fit, and belong to a group. They drop out when there is too much pressure and they stop having fun. Children play sport because a) they want to have fun, b) they want to socialise and c) they want to learn. They all need to feel wanted and valued. Children just want

to play. Most children really do not care if they win or lose. They would rather play on a losing team than sit on the sidelines of a winning team.

Coaches and parents are developing the child's life-long attitude towards soccer and all sports. If you provide a negative experience, it may stay with that child for life, possibly preventing them from wanting to be involved in sports at all. Children all develop at their own pace, in growth, athletic ability, and mental aptitude. A child, who is small and awkward at age 8, may develop into a tall, competent athlete at age 14 or 15. All children should be given the same chance to play, and be encouraged at all times by their coach. As a coach or parent, you may really enjoy winning, but this is really of less importance to children.

One of the main reasons cited by youth in why they did not enjoy the sport they were playing, and one of the main reason they quit, was "too much emphasis on winning".¹

In **Just Let the Kids Play** authors Bob Bigelow, Tom Moroney and Linda Hall discuss how the modern sports systems have affected young children.

What is happening on the fields and the courts? Parents are screaming and yelling. They yell at their children -- try harder, do better, take the shot, catch the ball. They yell at the coaches -- put their kids in and take the other "losers" out. They yell at the officials -- bad call. And worse, they fight, literally with fists flying, sometimes escalating in brawls. Officials have to be escorted off the fields for their own safety.

All this over youth sports -- games that are supposed to be fun for the children while they socialize, develop skills and build their bodies. Funny thing is, the kids don't care nearly as much. They just want to have fun!

Opponents of these ideas believe it will take the competitiveness out of the games and water down the prospects for high school varsity, college and pro teams. The authors believe it puts youth sports in perspective and also allows children to develop skills more naturally, without the pressure or fear of making mistakes or being cut. They believe the less intense atmosphere of sports at a younger age will keep more children in the game and develop better players.

CWSC has attached an excerpt from a Parent Education Guide developed by *SoccerParent.Calm*. (www.soccerparent.com). To access the excerpt, go to our website under [Players and Parents](#).

It provides a wealth of knowledge to help parents learn about the finer points of the game, and to reflect on our parental roles in enabling our children to play - learning while having fun with no pressure to perform according to our adult expectations.

CWSC encourages you to read the excerpt or download the full document from our website, found under [Players and Parents](#).

Or click here to access the direct link: <http://www.calgarywestsoccer.com/storage/resource-documents/Parent%20Education%20Handbook.pdf>

We also encourage coaches to review the LongTermAthleteDevelopment website, including the following documents available at: <http://www.ltad.ca/Content/Resources%20and%20Downloads/Downloads.asp>

Information for Parents

<http://www.ltad.ca/groups/ltad%20downloads/english/Info%20for%20Parents%20Sept.%202012.pdf>

NEW! A one-pager with advice and information for parents

¹ 2002 Canadian Public Opinion Survey on Youth and Sport, Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport, July 2002.

A Sport Parent's Guide

http://www.ltad.ca/Groups/LTAD%20Downloads/English/Parents_Guide_ENG.pdf

NEW! A supplementary document that introduces the stages of the CS4L model and provides guidance for parent's of active children

Competition is a Good Servant, but a Poor Master

<http://www.ltad.ca/Groups/LTAD%20Downloads/English/Competition%20V4.pdf>

NEW! This document addresses the issues associated with the current structure of competition.

This document is particularly useful for Coaches who put too much emphasis on winning and competition and forget the ultimate development objective of playing soccer or any sport. Coaches too need to remember that development goes hand in hand with fun.