

***Cambridge Youth Soccer
Coaches Survey Results (Fall 2007)***

March 2008

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Survey Overview

- The objectives of the Cambridge Youth Soccer (CYS) Coaches Survey were to:
 - Determine if coaches enjoyed coaching in the Fall 2007 season.
 - Understand some of the challenges / frustrations that coaches faced.
 - Determine how CYS can help coaches have a better experience.
 - Determine how CYS can better support the development of our coaches, and in turn, the development of players in CYS.
- The survey contained a total of 20 questions across three categories listed below.
 - Overall Coaching Experience
 - Coaching Education / Resources
 - Coaching Challenges / Issues
- Out of 63 teams in CYS, a total of 46 coaches responded to the coaches survey (73%) [2006: 72%]
 - In-Town: Out of 42 teams, 36 coaches responded (86%) [2006: 70%]
 - BAYS: Out of 21 teams, 10 coaches responded (48%) [2006: 76%]
 - Respondents represented all age groups (U8-U14)
 - 48% of respondents coached girls teams; 50% coached boys teams; 2% coached a co-ed team

Survey Results – Overall Coaching Experience

- The survey results indicate that most coaches and players had a good experience during the fall season.
 - 98% of respondents rated their overall coaching experience as “excellent” or “good” [2006: 98%]
 - 93% of respondents rated the CYS program as “excellent” or “good” for players [2006: 94%]
 - 57% of coaches indicated that they enjoyed coaching “always” [2006: 59%]; the remaining 39% enjoyed coaching “most of the time” [2006:41%]
- There were varying levels of support for coaches in terms of assistant coaches and team managers.
 - While 74% of coaches had assistant coaches helping “always” or “most of the time” [2006: 76%], 9% of coaches had help from assistant coaches “sometimes” [2006: 10%]and **17% “never” had help from assistant coaches [2006: 14%]**
 - **27% of respondents did not have team managers supporting them [2006:20%]**
- Most coaches will continue coaching in the spring season.
 - 96% of respondents indicate that they will volunteer in the spring [2006: 88%]
 - However, **4% of respondents indicate that they will not continue (2 coaches)**
 - Some of the reasons include not being able to make the time commitment and perception of not being skilled enough as a coach as players move up

Survey Results – Coaching Education / Resources

- There is a wide range in coaching experience across CYS, from less than 6 months to over 3 years.
- **44% of respondents had at least a U.S. Soccer Federation (USSF) “G” License [2006: 65%]**
- 15% of respondents had a USSF “F” license or higher [2006: 26%]
 - There were varying levels of interest among coaches in terms of taking more coaching courses.
 - **40% of respondents did not have a coaching license [2006: 35%]**
- 38% of respondents found the CYS Coaching Binder to be “very useful” or “useful” [2006: 61%]
 - 34% of respondents found it “somewhat useful” [2006: 22%] and 7% found it “not useful” [2006: 2%]
 - **However, 20 % of respondents did not know about the coaching binder [2006: 16%]**
 - Suggestions to improve the coaching binder include:
 - More detailed practice sessions with drills by age and skills
 - More ideas on drills for U8 - I like the focus on dribbling but I would like more drills that focus on passing
- 25% of respondents found the Novice Coach DVD to be “very useful” or “useful”
 - 11% of respondents found it “somewhat useful” and 9% found it “not useful”
 - **However, 55 % of respondents did not know about the DVD**

Survey Results – Key Coaching Challenges / Issues and Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggested by CYS to address two key challenges and issues that were identified by coaches.

Coaching Challenge / Issue	Description	CYS Recommendations
<p>1. Player behavior issues</p>	<p>Some responses about players not taking practices seriously.</p> <p>34% of respondents indicated that they had to deal with behavior issues with their players “almost at every practice or game” or “often (once every 2-3 weeks)”.</p> <p>[2006: 28%]</p>	<p>Last year, CYS outlined steps to address player behavior issues in the Coaches FAQ section on the CYS website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please do not hesitate to reach out to your age group coordinator and CYS to help address players behavior issues. • It is strongly recommended that coaches hold a pre-season Parents Meeting and communicate your expectations of appropriate player behavior with parents. • It is strongly recommended that coaches hold a pre-season Players Meeting and communicate your expectations of appropriate player behavior with your players. • If there is a need to address a player behavior issue, the recommended process for addressing player behavior issues is outlined below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Coaches should try to work out the behavior issue with the player. 2. If not successful, the coach should ask for help from the player’s parents. 3. If still not successful, coaches should contact their age group coordinator for assistance. He or she may get involved, or ask another member of CYS to help address the issue. <p>In addition, CYS brought in a guest speaker to talk about player behavior issues at the Spring 2007 Coaches Meeting.</p>

Survey Results – Key Coaching Challenges / Issues and Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggested by CYS to address two key challenges and issues that were identified by coaches.

Coaching Challenge / Issue	Description	CYS Recommendations
<p>2. Parent behavior / education</p>	<p>“Overactive” parents on the sidelines; some responses concerning coaching from sidelines</p> <p>Some responses indicating that there is an opportunity to educate parents on what they should expect from their players at a given age and level</p>	<p>CYS is working on developing a “Code of Conduct” for parents</p> <p>CYS will consider developing some educational material regarding expectations based on age and level</p> <p>Last year, CYS outlined steps to address parent behavior issues in the Coaches FAQ section on the CYS website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is strongly recommended that coaches hold a pre-season Parents Meeting and communicate your expectations of appropriate sideline behavior with parents. • Coaches should send reminders to parents throughout the season about appropriate sideline behavior. • If there is a need to address a parent behavior issue, the recommended process for addressing parent behavior issues is outlined below: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do not confront the parent during the game or after the game as emotions may be high in the heat of the moment. 2. Arrange a time to talk to the parent later (at least 24 hours after the incident). 3. If you need help addressing a particular issue, please do not hesitate to contact your age group coordinator <p><i>(A sample meeting agenda for the Parents Meeting developed by Mass Youth Soccer is contained in the CYS coaching binder)</i></p>

Survey Results – Additional Coaching Challenges / Issues and Recommendations

The following recommendations are suggested by CYS for coaches to address some additional challenges and issues.

Coaching Challenge / Issue	Description	CYS Recommendations
3. Referees	Some respondents indicated that referees did not show up timely for games.	Coaches should contact the CYS referee coordinators, Larry Ward (BAYS) or Aaron King (In-Town) if a referee does not show up 10 minutes before the scheduled start of your game.
4. Lack of equipment	Some respondents indicated that they did not have some required equipment during the season (balls, pinnies, etc.)	Coaches should contact their age group coordinator for any equipment needs. They can also contact Susan Ruff (susanruff@aol.com) if needed.

Note: Additional challenges and issues identified by coaches can be found in the detailed survey results on the website

Next steps to be taken by CYS

- Develop Parents “Code of Conduct” and parent education materials
- Distribute Coaching Binder and Novice Coach DVD to coaches prior to or during the Spring season
- Continue to host coaching clinics for players (Instructors from Mass Youth Soccer will be conducting two coaching clinics for CYS players in the Spring)
- Continue to host coach licensing courses (USSF “F” course in the Spring)
- If you have any questions about this survey, please contact:
 - **Andy Farrar, President:** af@handsontoy.com
 - **Susan Ruff, Executive Director:** susanruff@aol.com
 - **Roni Mansur, Coaching Director:** rmansur@deloitte.com