

The Rapid City Journal's editorial board could not have made it more clear in last week's statement calling on the City Council to remove all roadblocks to the designated soccer complex land. If the land deed is not accepted by the city, the project continues in limbo and no one gives money to a project in limbo. Soccer is willing to work on raising the additional money but cannot move forward without all the legal issues resolved. This wrangling process has already eaten 4 years of the time allocated for fundraising. Contact your council person as well as Sam Kooiker and Ron Weifenbach (the most obstructive members) with your concerns at [www.rcgov.org](http://www.rcgov.org).

We are half-way through February. Rapid City Youth Soccer League registration is open but if you are interested in securing your child's place on the team he or she was part of last fall, your deadline is February 20 or one week from tomorrow. Register online or download the forms today to avoid higher fees.

If you have a child who is interested in moving up to the Challenge level in RCYSL, you should email the coordinator about openings. Challenge teams form after tryouts in the fall and will add players only if there are roster vacancies. Check with [challenge@rcysl.com](mailto:challenge@rcysl.com).

Everyone is thinking about where they spend their money this year. Sometimes the choices are quite difficult but the value of a sports experience for your child is very high. Children learn much more than the sport when they become part of a team. They learn to share the wins and the losses. They learn to encourage others and to push themselves to their best. They learn cooperation, dedication to a goal, persistence, and empathy for others. Can you think of better skills to be teaching in tough times?

On a brief personal note, I want to thank the local soccer community for the great honor of being named to the South Dakota State Soccer Hall of Fame last week. This award should be shared with the Rapid City Journal for their willingness to take a chance on this column more than 10 years ago. Serving on the local and state boards has been an honor and writing about all levels of soccer has been truly energizing. I am grateful.