

In just 3 weeks the kids take the fields back from the geese and the dog walkers. Soccer games begin April 1. If you have not yet registered, go to Scheels this Saturday to get a big break. RCYSL will be there accepting registrations and not scolding anyone. If you're feeling too guilty to wait, download the forms from www.rcysl.com and send them in or fill them out online.

The RCYSL Classic (Challenge) teams will hold tryouts for the available spaces next Tuesday, March 11 from 7:30-9:00 PM at the Black Hills Workshop gym. If you are interested, fill out the registration indicating your interest in Class/Challenge level and be ready on Tuesday evening with your gear and a bottle of water.

Now is a good time to get those cleats out and check the size. This game is played with the feet and the shoes need to fit correctly. Not too long (to grow into) and not too short but just right to feel the ball, direct the ball, and juggle the ball. You wouldn't ask a baseball player to play with the wrong size glove. Don't ask your child to learn a game with the wrong size shoes.

Find that bag of things you kept in the car last fall and check to make sure you have a couple of large garbage bags for makeshift raincoats, a blanket, a towel or two, some grocery bags for wet cleats, hats and gloves, extra soccer socks, a sweatshirt or turtleneck, sunblock, and at least one bottle of water. You can add bug spray later. Check your sideline chair for wear and tear and promise yourself to be in it.

While you plan for the equipment, plan also for your participation in this activity. Offer to help when the coach calls. Promise to be on time to deliver and retrieve your child from practices and games. Begin now to practice positive things to say at games and afterward. If you are new to soccer, learn the game. Watch players' feet not their heads. Be positive or quiet at games. You may believe you are encouraging your child but when you call your child by name, you distract him or her from the play at hand. Cheer for good plays and creativity. Introduce yourself to the other parents and be supportive of all the kids. This is their game.

The spring recreation season ends with the Kohl's American Cup June 6-9. The tournament was scheduled for Sioux Falls but Sanford Health is holding a mega event and has booked most of the motel rooms

in Sioux Falls. The South Dakota State Soccer Association voted last Sunday to move the Kohl's American Cup to Rapid City. RCYSL will assume planning responsibility and you can help. Contact the office at www.rcysl.com with your offer.

Rushmore Soccer Club welcomes 136 teams to the Presidents' Cup this weekend. Games begin Friday evening at the Civic Center and community gyms. This is an excellent chance for young players to watch many levels of play and for parents to get an impression of different coaches. Stop in and check out fast and furious soccer.

Referee classes have been scheduled. George Lee has set a Bridge Class for Sunday, March 16 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM for those who want to move from Grade 9 to Grade 8. The class will be at the RCYSL office. You can earn your Grade 9 in Hot Springs on Saturday March 22 with Bill Leinbach (605-673-3673). Recertification class is set for Tuesday, March 25 and Thursday, March 27 from 7-9:30 PM at the RCYSL office. Spearfish will host a Grade 9 class on Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM likely at the Young Center. If you need more information, contact George Lee at 430-6103 or George.Lee@k12.sd.us to get answers.