

Spring has been a difficult soccer season. Although soccer is an outdoor sport and players take the field in weather that sends baseball players home, it has been difficult to be enthusiastic from the sidelines while your feet are freezing.

The youngest players, the U6 or PeeWee division, have hardly had enough playing time to know whether they like this sport or not. It has been years since we have experienced such a wet, cold, reluctant spring and because of the drought conditions, none of us wants to complain much about getting moisture.

RCYSL has struggled to re-schedule games for the older divisions and has that information posted on the website. The league has proclaimed this Saturday as U6 Day at the Lower Valley fields. The games will follow the schedule from May 3 (the blizzard day) so come at the time your team was scheduled then for a game in the sun. If there are U6 teams that want to get an extra game, contact challenge@rcysl.com (Melanie Green) for some open field times.

- The South Dakota High School Activities Association voted to sanction high school soccer beginning in the year 2010-2011. They have split the seasons. Boys soccer will be a fall sport and girls will be played in the spring. If we have a spring like we've had this year, the game schedule will be impossible to meet and the problems of re-scheduling games, players missing more school, and the general logistics of traveling for mid-week games will be horrible.

South Dakota State Soccer Association has had a state high school soccer tournament for more than 10 years and they have learned a lot. The activities board did not consult the SDSSA High School Committee for any input despite the overtures from the committee.

Currently, because the schedule is set so that both boys and girls teams play the same season, teams can share travel expenses and plan for a single tournament where both sexes play simultaneously. Separating the seasons will add to the expense of schools that support soccer programs.

If you have concerns about this issue, you can contact the head of the SDSSA High School Committee, Rich Jensen at secondvp@southdakotasoccer.com to add your ideas to the

survey he is conducting. You can access the survey form at www.southdakotasoccer.com and follow the links. If there is enough concern and a good argument can be advanced, it might convince the SDHSAA to re-visit the issue.

- This weekend in Rapid City will see the Scheels Cup tournament. This is the first annual gathering and the soccer community is excited to have this new partnership with a local sponsor. Check in begins Thursday at 5:00 P.M. at Scheels store in the Rushmore Mall.
- You can plan next weekend to bike in the Fat Tire Festival before attending the Classic Cup and State Cup tournaments held in Rapid City May 30-June 1. All events promise a good family experience on many levels.
- Monday, May 19, is the deadline for registering for the Rushmore Soccer Club's new summer 3V3 league that will run from June 2 through July 10. There are evening games, one a week and it is offered fro U10 through U19. Check the website for additional registration information at www.rushmoresoccerclub.com.