



Henderson United Youth Soccer

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To: All HUYS Coaches
From: HUYS Board of Directors
Subject: League Uniform Policy effective December 1, 2006

The HUYS Board has voted to implement the following Uniform Policy effective December 1, 2006:

- 1. For the Spring 2007 season, returning teams that purchased their own uniforms for the Fall 2006 season may continue to wear them for the Spring 2007 season. New teams or teams that wore league-issued uniforms in the Fall 2006 season are required to wear league-issued uniforms for the Spring 2007 season.**
- 2. Starting with the Fall 2007 season, all HUYS teams will be required to wear the league-issued uniform.**

RATIONALE

Over the past couple of seasons there has been a significant proliferation of teams that have chosen to purchase uniforms other than those provided by the league. League officials have identified the following problem areas related to HUYS teams purchasing their own uniforms:

- 1. League verification of player registration** - HUYS distributes to coaches one jersey for each registered player on the team. If a team has fewer players than the roster maximum, we pull the extra jersey(s) and hold them in inventory. We use this procedure so that a coach cannot give an extra jersey to an unregistered player and allow that player to participate. By allowing teams to purchase their own uniforms, we lose this layer of protection to ensure that only registered players are participating. Control over the distribution of uniforms is an important way for HUYS to be sure that only registered players are actually allowed to play, which is an important liability issue for the league.
- 2. Active or passive coercion of parents to purchase uniforms** – If a team decides to purchase their own uniforms at the players' expense, some parents on the team may feel pressure to purchase the uniform, even though a full uniform set is included in their HUYS registration fee.
- 3. Rostering issues** – HUYS is a recreational league, and reserves the right to form teams and approve final rosters. We have had problems with teams attempting to reject the addition of a new player on their team because they had already purchased uniforms for only those players they expected to be on their team.
- 4. Club team perception** – HUYS does not allow club teams to play in our recreational league. Allowing teams to purchase their own uniforms may create the perception that there are club teams playing in the recreational league or receiving special consideration.
- 5. Sense of community within the recreational program** - We believe that having all HUYS Recreational teams wear the same uniforms creates a sense of community within our recreational league. This is an important factor in emphasizing that the focus of the recreational program is on individual player development, not on the building of competitive teams within the program. All recreational players wear the same style uniform, regardless of the team they are assigned to, and no one team is favored over the other.

We realize that some of our teams may not be pleased with the Board's ruling; however, we hope you can understand the reasoning behind the decision. Teams may continue to express their identity by placing their team name on the uniform, or by purchasing warm-up suits, soccer backpacks or other accessories. We thank you for your cooperation and your continued support.