



## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Winter Training
- Soccer Culture
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- Technical Staff
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- Special Discounts

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## Winter Training

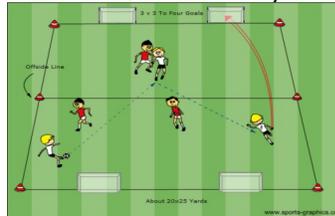
As we approach the end of the 2011 winter trainings, I wanted to re-cap our intentions and objectives:

- Sharpen up the players technically.
- Improve their game awareness and decision making.
- Raise their fitness level.
- Enhance their frame of mind, attitude and approach to the game.

Every session includes a technical box, focusing on the players' foundation, ball control and pass-

ing/receiving. This is the easy part. The hardest part is to help the player turn the technique into skill and apply it to the game.

Watching us work, you might think or ask, "what are they do-



### Creating better and smarter soccer players

creative recruiting of players in order to find 'winning' solutions.

There is a big difference between coaching to win and coaching to develop. A good coach is able to do both. I don't want to be caught in a contradiction here. Every team should 'try to win'. That is why the game is played. But this should not be the focus of any training session or player motivation. As the players get older, a careful balance between winning and development must be considered.

Development is a very long and endless process that must be undertaken patiently by both the adult (coach, parent and administrator) and the player. But we still evaluate coaches/clubs only

ing"? Everything we do is calculated and done for a reason, for a purpose and always for the players' benefit, and I might add, very successful.

The game is arbitrarily divided into four components:

- Technical
- Tactical
- Physical
- Psychological

Everything we do includes the four components/pillars of the game.

## Soccer Culture

A successful club must have and maintain a soccer culture, which includes but not limited to, a Clear Mission Statement, a Progressive Player Development Curriculum, a Continuous Coach Development Program and a Constant Parent Education Program.

In the club soccer circles today, an over emphasis is being placed on winning. In sports, we are obsessed with the 'outcome' rather than the 'process.' It seems that as long as we win, we are happy. Many Clubs and coaches often coach game to game, trying to solve the problems from the last game that will produce a win in the next match. Quite often this translates into

on their win-loss record. What about enjoyment of the process, the journey, the experience and its ultimate influence on us as people, coaches, parents and athletes? What about evaluating coaches/clubs on the improvement, growth and development of their players? After all, we can't control the 'outcome', but we can control the 'process.'

Finally, we must work together in this 'journey' and collectively let's spread the word to everyone about our 'process' and our 'success'.

# Spring Season



The spring season 2011 is due to start April 3rd and runs for 7 weeks skipping April 24th which is Easter.

However with the amount of snow still on the ground, we might have a number of cancellations. The league is very

stern on make-up policies. Please be flexible and supportive in case we have to re-schedule.

Make-up games could be scheduled during a week night, Saturday or double-header on Sunday. At times the league might move games to different locations and different times, due to field closures. This can occur on Sunday mornings (but not after 10:00 am). Please be flexible!

The spring season is always shorter than the fall season with many things happening. i.e. Memorial tournament, qualification tournaments, promotion/relegation games, State Cup games, etc., etc.

Your coaches, team managers and I will keep you informed in a timely fashion.

*Benfica USA is a  
non-profit 501 (c) 3  
organization*

## Priority Guidelines

Mass Youth Soccer, the governing body in MA, and the leagues endorse "dual" roster for players up until U14.

Benfica USA wants their players to play town soccer also. We feel it helps in their soccer development as well as their social skills. In the town environment the game is slower and gives the players the opportunity to practice and refine new skills. However careful monitoring must be exercised not to form bad habits which will hinder in their overall development.

"Dual" rosters create conflicts with scheduling and prioritizing the player's time. Mass Youth Soccer have a set of "priorities rules". These can be found at [www.mayouthsoccer.org](http://www.mayouthsoccer.org)

We at Benfica USA view club soccer as an investment in the child's future in soccer. Therefore our policy is as follows: For the players on

teams that play Div I & II, club will take precedence over town soccer. The age groups that have two teams: For the players on the top team, club will take precedence over town soccer. Development is a huge responsibility that takes discipline and commitment from both the coaches and players.

We are not in the penal business so we'll not punish a player for missing a practice. We are in the reward business and players will be rewarded by getting better with a high attendance rate.

Most clubs do not allow their players to play town soccer for the following reasons:

- To avoid the constant battle of conflicting scheduling.
- To avoid the manifestation of bad habits.

- To avoid injury.
- To avoid fatigue.

We believe town and club should coexist. Each offers the player unique experiences and I like to compare it with school.

Each high school offers different level classes. The more serious student takes AP classes to be better prepared for college. All students attending are serious and responsible. They welcome the challenge and work load. They cannot choose to show up or study whenever they want and expect to get good grades and be able to stay in the AP class.

Similarly in soccer there are many levels. From recreational to elite and each comes with its set of responsibilities.



# Summer Camps

**George O’Neill making a move with John Amorim in goal and Arthur overlapping.** arranged for different dates and locations. More details and registrations can be found at our website,

[www.BenficaUSA.org](http://www.BenficaUSA.org)

We’re also excited about offering special discounts to our Benfica USA families along with sibling and volume discounts. We’ll be sending detailed information shortly.

The camp staff are dedicated pro-

fessionals and will be onsite working and not just attractive names on the brochure. We are proud to provide a week full of soccer.

Some of our camp staff, including Camp Directors– Arthur Dimitrakopoulos and Mario Prata, are John Amorim– GK Director, George O’Neill, Efrain –”Chico” Chacurian, and many more...



We’re excited to offer two Camps and High School Team Prep Clinics this summer:

- July 18-22 in Lowell
- August 8-12 in North Reading
- HS Team Prep Clinics can be at the above dates or can be

## Technical Staff and coaches

The pride of our club, the Coaches, have the experience, licensure and soccer knowledge paired with the ability to coach it. Especially, they have the charisma and personal characteristics needed to work with young players.

The Technical Staff consists of:

Director of Coaching– Arthur Dimitrakopoulos

Technical Director Jr. Teams– Mario Prata

Technical Director Sr. Teams– Alvaro Amaral

GK Director– John Amorim

Boys Co-Directors– Norris Gibson & Humberto Calle

Girls Director– Tom Curley

Technical Advisors– George O’Neill & Efrain “Chico” Chacurian

Check the full bios at the website!

In the background the coaches and technical staff are busy getting coaching licenses, attending seminars and professional development meetings, both theoretical and practical. Many hours are spent in finding ways not only to improve

ourselves but also to implement the latest methodologies in improving our players’ abilities and knowledge. This includes (coaches’ team) playing indoors and using it as a learning tool by setting objectives and lessons for each game. We are also constantly monitoring and reviewing the needs of the players and the teams and placing them in the right learning environment.

This past December coaches, technical staff and some administrative staff were certified or re-certified in First Aid and CPR.

**Benfica USA operates on a shoe-string budget. Your cooperation and support is greatly appreciated.**

## Tryouts

According to league rules, the first dates that tryouts may be held for the 2011-2012 soccer year are as follows:

U10 and U11: June 1st

U14 thru U18: June 15th

U12 and U13: June 21st

The first tryout will be on the dates above and we’ll be working out the details for a second. We will post and open registrations as soon as

possible. All players are required to tryout. If a current player cannot attend but still wishes to be considered, please tell your coach and we’ll evaluate by past performance.

Current players are all invited to attend. If we believe a player has been struggling during the present soccer year, we will have a private conversation with the player and family.

We understand tryouts are a trying time for all and we’ll make our best to make it as painless as possible.



**BUI3 team**



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Creating better and smarter players

BENFICA USA is a non-profit, educational organization whose mission is player development for all ages. We will be working closely with the towns of the Northeast to form a collaboration to create a soccer culture for the youth. We will dedicate ourselves and adhere to the following objectives.

We will strive to:

- ✦ Develop players at all levels, from non-competitive (developmental), premier to elite.
- ✦ Make players soccer smart, creative and love the game.
- ✦ Promote and offer continuous education for the coaches through licensing courses, clinics and constant feedback.
- ✦ Keep open communication with parents and town officials.
- ✦ Offer educational seminars about child development and the game.

BENFICA USA maintains an active membership in Massachusetts Youth Soccer Association and participates in the Massachusetts Premier Soccer League (MAPLE), Massachusetts Soccer Conference (MASC) and New England Premiership (NEP).



## FREE Junior Academies

Keeping up with our community partnership, starting this spring we will be offering free participation in our Junior Academy. We will offer two 5 week sessions, the first at the Marshall in Billerica and the second at the Gage in Lowell. We will have to cap each session and therefore it will be on first come first serve basis and must be pre-registered.

Junior Academy is open to both boys and girls of 9 and 10 years old.

For more information and registration please visit our website: <http://clubs.bluesombrero.com/default.aspx?tabid=75452>

All sessions will be run by our technical staff and coaches.

Please help us in spreading the word to anyone you think could benefit from this program. In addition if you

know your town program would be interested in us coaching a session, let us know and we will work out the details.



**Junior Academy**