



March 15, 2010 - (Updated July 28, 2010)

**Dear Members and Prospective Members**

Welcome to Barcelona California Soccer Club “BARCA”, our ninth year as a competitive club. We appreciate your interest in joining our California Non-Profit Corporation doing business as Barcelona California Soccer Club, <http://www.barcelonaca.com>.

This past year was a difficult one for us as it was for most other Clubs, evidenced by the significant changes in the landscape of competitive youth soccer in Southern California. Some Clubs have folded and others have merged in an attempt to cope with the severe strain placed on Clubs by the faltering economy.

We had to overcome the usual obstacles and challenges faced by Clubs in general as well as those unique to “boutique” community clubs such as ours. The biggest challenge was collection of dues and lack of sponsorship dollars attributable to what has become known as the Great Recession.

Despite this lack of financial support, we were still able to provide scholarships to players and we also maintained our level of support to the local competitive youth soccer community. These are great accomplishments and a tribute to the many volunteers that serve this Club. We continue to accept Volunteer support from within the Club, as this will allow the Club to reach new heights in this coming season and for years to come.

This correspondence represents an update of the many developments concerning the Organization and its teams. Barcelona California “BARCA” has a unique philosophy in youth Club Soccer, which is outlined in the accompanying Player/Parent Agreement.

Our organization wants to welcome all returning Members. Our growth and success is once again attributable to your membership participation and support. As you are no doubt aware, the competitive stakes are increasing each season for returning teams. In competitive soccer, a successful season is inevitably defined based on wins and losses. As our experience has shown, all members have an expectation to have a successful season. This expectation in turn translates into more competitive teams and a bigger commitment to practices, tournaments and games! While the club gives priority to all returning players, there is no guarantee that all returning Members will make a team.

**The Upcoming Fall Season and Your Commitment**

Our program is designed as a year-round program beginning April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011, depending on the age group and/or success of the team in state, regional or national competition. The season can be extended based on the success of the team in these season ending tournaments.

The 2010/11 season officially kicks off with team training sessions which are held at least twice weekly beginning April 2010 and ends on March 31, 2011, unless extended due to State, Regional or National competition. Once accepted to a BARCA team, you will receive a financial policy letter that will explain our policy as regards membership dues and the installment plan available to our members.

**Summer Training Camp** - Each team is expected to attend a four-day team camp from August 18 to August 21. The traditional Barca weeklong camp will be followed by entry into a selected tournament(s) prior to the official CSL league campaign, which begins in early September, runs into November/December, and includes a league and cup schedule. **This has been cancelled for 2010.**

**Galaxy Outing** - We also plan to continue our tradition for a Barca outing to the Home Depot Center, to attend a Galaxy sponsored clinic followed by attending an evening Galaxy MLS game. The tentative date for this outing is Saturday August 28, when the Galaxy will host the Kansas City Wizards. Parents and friends are welcome. **This has been cancelled for 2010.**

**To qualify for initial player selection, we require your commitment in the form of a \$525 deposit and a signed Player/Parent Agreement that which accompanies this correspondence. The deposit is refundable only if your child is NOT selected to one of the BARCA teams.**

Additional team try-outs will generally be held weekly on Tuesdays and Thursdays until we have filled all open positions. Team Rosters will be submitted to the Director of Coaching by July 1, 2010.

If you have any questions regarding the BARCA program please contact a club representative for more information. Alternatively, you can e-mail representatives for each team by going to our website at [www/barcelonasc.com](http://www/barcelonasc.com).

**Key Dates in 2010:**

- Month of April - Sign-up period for new and returning teams
- April 1-30 - Deadline for first club dues installment
- May 15 - CSL deadline for Club applications (including individual teams).
- July 1 - Second club dues installment due
- Aug 16 to 19 - BARCA team training camp
- Sept 1 - Third and final club dues installment due

**Calendar of Barca Soccer Program**

- Apr '10 - Mar '11 - Local and regional soccer tournaments as determined by each team
- Apr '10 - Jun '11 - Spring league play and/or scrimmages and tournaments as determined by each team
- July '10 - Two weeks summer vacation
- August - Team training camp - **This has been cancelled for 2010.**
- Sept - Nov '10 - CSL fall season league play
- Nov - Dec '10 - CSL League Cup
- Dec 15 to Jan 2 - Winter vacation
- Feb '11 - State or National Cup tournament (U9 to U13)
- Apr '11 - State or National Cup tournament (U14 and older)

**Home Venue**

We are still the envy of many competing clubs due to our amazing venues including A.C. Stelle, A.E. Wright, and Calabasas High. Consistent with last year, we expect Saturday home games to be played at A.C. Stelle and Sunday home games to be played at Calabasas High. Our short-sided teams (U9 and U10) will play home games at a local short-sided field.

### Coaches and Teams

Many of you are aware of our fine core of professional coaches, many of whom have been at the Club for several years. Each team will be assigned a professional coach. Please join us in welcoming all our professional coaches to another successful year of BARCA soccer.

### Player Fees and Refund Policy

Our player fees for the upcoming season will remain unchanged from the prior year and are \$1,325 for U9 and U10 teams and \$1,525 for all other age groups. These fees are exclusive of uniform costs, the team camp and other individual team expenses such as tournament costs and referee fees, which are paid by team members out of a team fund to be established and controlled by the team manager. These fees will be due in three installments beginning with an initial sign-up deposit. Fees can be paid either by check or by credit card. Any checks returned by the bank for insufficient funds will cost those members a recovery of NSF bank charges plus a \$35 administrative fee by the club.

Club Refund Policy – The Club does not refund player fees for ANY reason. You are obligated to pay full club fees in accordance with your registration you set up once you accept a position on a team. ONLY EXCEPTION: Payment will be refunded to player's that are not offered a position on a team.

Despite known and expected cost increases, as a not-for-profit enterprise we remain very cost sensitive and will strive to keep the costs contained for our members. However, if costs increase beyond our budget, we reserve the right to increase the player fees by no more than \$100 per player for this season.

### Sponsorships and Fundraising

Our Player Fees have been determined assuming \$1,500 per team is raised from various donations and corporate sponsorships. The uniqueness of our program includes the relatively low cost, which we believe provides an incredible value to each and every BARCA member. However, this value proposition relies upon Sponsorship contributions and fundraising efforts by all BARCA Members, as well as the volunteer work of many people including the Board of Directors.

### Scholarship Players

This season will require changes to policies and procedures as regards awarding scholarships. To answer a question posed by many, there is no rule of thumb for the number of scholarships per team. It will now be determined on a case-by-case basis and will consider among other factors the usual merit conditions for financial assistance as well as the team situation and sponsorship pledges. Significantly, all players including scholarship applicants will be required to pay the first installment of dues, which will remain at \$525. Individual scholarship requests will be considered only after the team situation is understood as regards the number of registered players on the team.

### Sign-ups

**Finally, as noted above, we require a commitment in the form of a \$525 deposit and a signed Player/Parent Agreement by April 30, 2010 for initial player selection. Please take these dates seriously as in addition to affecting your child's chance to play, it could also impact the decision regarding possibly adding a team, or even the viability of a returning team.**

Again, we appreciate your interest in the Club and we hope your membership experience will prove to be both productive and positively memorable!

Sincerely,

Barcelona California Board of Directors