

# State of the Club Address

*By Randy Brown, Surf Soccer President*



We all live in a world demanding change . but yet I am proud to reflect on this past year as a year of stability for the Surf Soccer Club. A clear signal of that stability is the unprecedented fact that registration fees are not increasing for the upcoming 2009-10 soccer season. It is a tribute to the strength of the Club that we can follow through with this plan which will be appreciated by our members this year.

As everyone has come to expect, Surf continues to excel on the field. That excellence starts at the top with our Director of Coaching, Colin Chesters. Colin has a unique ability to bring out the best in others, whether players, administrators, coaches, or volunteers. This Club is very fortunate to benefit from his knowledge, experience, organization, and his passion for the game and all the young athletes.

The excellence of the Club continues to shine with a State Cup Championship for the GU9. The excellence can also be seen with the older boys teams in the US Soccer Federation Academy competing against the finest soccer clubs in the country. In addition, Surf sent four teams to regionals in Hawaii in 2008. This marks 16 straight years that Surf has sent teams to Regionals. Truly the benchmark for consistency and excellence. I challenge any of you to remember what you were doing in June 1992, the last time Surf was not represented at the Far West Regionals. The most impressive thing to me as a measure of the Club's excellence is the diversity of Surf Soccer. This month the Club has experienced the best turnout in history for the U8 and U9 boys and girls teams due to the grass roots efforts of the Club. At the same time, 14 Surf players competed for the US National teams in international competition. In November, the Division I College Women's Final Four was highlighted with Surf alum on each of the four teams. Remarkably, each team advanced to the Final Four with three of the four game winning goals or assists from a Surf alum and the fourth victory was a shutout with two Surf alums on defense. It also marked the fourth consecutive year the Division I Women's National Champions included Surf alum in the starting line up. If that wasn't enough, the USA Women's Olympic team won the gold medal in Beijing with Surf alum Rachel Buehler on the roster, reminding all Surf players to always continue to dream.

It is hard to believe as we close the book on 2008 we can recognize Surf teams advancing to Regionals or Nationals in 2009. The GU14 have already qualified for Regionals in 2009 and the GU15 are one win away from Nationals in 2009. The Club Thanksgiving Tournament continues to grow and provides great competition on local fields for our younger teams. The inaugural Soccer in the Sand event this Memorial Day is expected to offer a special day of soccer and fun for Surf families.

But most importantly, in closing I want to recognize the volunteers and people that make Surf Soccer what it is. I am honored to serve on this Board and appreciate what each member brings to the group. I believe we are offering a special environment for our athletes and providing opportunities to prepare them to meet the challenges of the future.

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