

TBAYS & NorthStar – The Rumors and the Facts

There have been a lot of stories making the rounds this spring regarding the girls premier program, NorthStar, and its' relationship to TBAYS. Here are the facts.

Since late last winter, the TBAYS Board of Directors and NorthStar have been discussing issues regarding what TBAYS expectations are for divisions and what NorthStar's needs are regarding independence in decision making and, most importantly, just how compatible the two are. During this process there has been a lot of debate, and, in all honesty, it has not always been as friendly as we all would hope for. That's just the nature of debate and should not be taken as an indication of 'irreconcilable differences'.

Since its' inception, NorthStar has operated as a division of TBAYS but with a fair amount of independence regarding operations. Recently, the TBAYS board began to feel that it might be better for the organization as a whole if the divisions were more accountable to TBAYS. Discussions were initiated that resulted in a 'Policies and Procedures' document that would require any division of TBAYS to submit their programs to TBAYS for review and approval. After the board's approval of that document, NorthStar began an evaluation process to decide if they wanted to continue as a division of TBAYS under the new guidelines or become an independent club. As a contingency, contract discussions were initiated that would allow an independent NorthStar organization to continue to use TBAYS fields and facilities. Both sides put a lot of effort into insuring that any contract we negotiated would be fair to everyone, especially the players.

Although a contract was eventually drafted that met the concerns of both sides, it was decided that NorthStar would continue as a division of TBAYS, at least for the time being. Therefore, there is currently **NO CHANGE** in the status of NorthStar and its' players with TBAYS. NorthStar's head coach, Darrell Rogers, has been re-appointed to the TBAYS Board of Directors. The new 'Policies & Procedures' continues to be in effect and discussion regarding the issues it brought up continues with NorthStar's input.

While there will no doubt continue to be some disagreement, it has always been the intention of both TBAYS and NorthStar to provide the best possible soccer options for our players. We all want the best for the players and debate over how to accomplish that will only strengthen our programs in the long run.