

# Perquimans People

## Soccer introduced to Perquimans County youth this spring

**By VAL SHORT**  
What does it take to make a soccer league? A few fun-loving boys and girls, a ball, a field, two goals, some parents and volunteers — and of course, a sunny Saturday.

Take all of the above and mix well with energy and enthusiasm and you'll get Perquimans County soccer.

New to Perquimans this spring, soccer was introduced by Peggy Rohrer of Winfall, who had been a

volunteer with a youth soccer league in Kodiak, Alaska.

She, with the assistance of Perquimans Parks and Recreation Director Bobbi Veon and many volunteers, has developed a four-team soccer league, which includes about 40 boys and girls in Perquimans.

The teams, ranging in ages from 7 to 12, play each Saturday morning at Central School in Winfall at 10 and 11. The final game of the season is scheduled May 28.

One of the advantages of soccer, according to Veon, is the fact that anyone can play and boys and girls can play together.

"It's more of a team effort when the boys and girls compete on the same level," said Veon. The participants knew very little about the sport in the beginning, explained Veon. "They have all learned together at the same time," she added.

"Soccer is one of the best sports available," Rohrer commented. "It's

very good for the body, because the children are constantly running. No child on the field stands still," said Rohrer.

Soccer is also very good for a child's self image, according to the soccer enthusiast. "You can take a very shy child and get him into soccer and he'll turn out very well-rounded," she said.

"It's amazing to see them progress — they build up confidence as they build their experience," she added. Rohrer said soccer is not as contact-oriented as football and less prone to accidents.

Volunteers, parental support and support of the Parks and Recreation department, have kept the soccer league going, according to Rohrer.

Thanks to the coaches, like — Paul Merritt, David Cain, Gail Whitehurst, Paul Tincham, Bryan Wood, Michael Reeve and David Evans — Rohrer says the season has been successful.

Parents and volunteers have also been on hand to offer support and encouragement for the program, as well as a few cheers for their favorite team.

The goals, which are usually purchased for around \$1,000, were constructed by volunteers with donated materials, according to Veon.

The \$7 fee paid by each participant helps cover costs of equipment and referee fees, said Veon.

"Soccer is one of the most inexpensive sports you can have," she said. "It's basically volunteer supported."

The program has had "tremendous community support," said Rohrer. "I feel the program will grow." Rohrer and Veon plan to organize a fall soccer season and both anticipate even greater participation.

"I hope it grows — I'd like to see a bigger league in the fall," commented Veon.

Rohrer said she would like to see more age groups get involved in the sport and she would like for it to be introduced in the school physical education programs.

The object of the game of soccer, according to Rohrer, is for one team to score a goal or point by maneuvering the ball into the goal of the opponents side of the field.

Each team consists of six players, who are forwards, fullbacks and halfbacks. Each team has a goalie who protects its goal.

Rohrer explains that the goalie is the only team member who may touch the ball with his hands and no restrictions are set on where any of the players can play.

Though soccer in Perquimans is just beginning, the enthusiasm and interest for this "up and coming sport" are prevalent. It has already proven to be a sport which can involve the entire family and has already taught the boys and girls the value of team spirit and cooperation.

Rohrer encourages anyone who would like to become involved in Perquimans soccer to contact her at 426-9217 and to attend the games at Central School.



Peggy Rohrer, who introduced soccer in Perquimans County, gives

team members some encouraging words during Saturday's game at Central

School in Winfall. (Photo by Val Short)



The object of the game of soccer is to maneuver the ball into the net of the opponent's side of the field. The goalie,

who is the only team member who can touch the ball with his hands, protects the goal. (Photo by Tony Short)

"Try not to become a man of success but rather try to become a man of value." — Albert Einstein

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