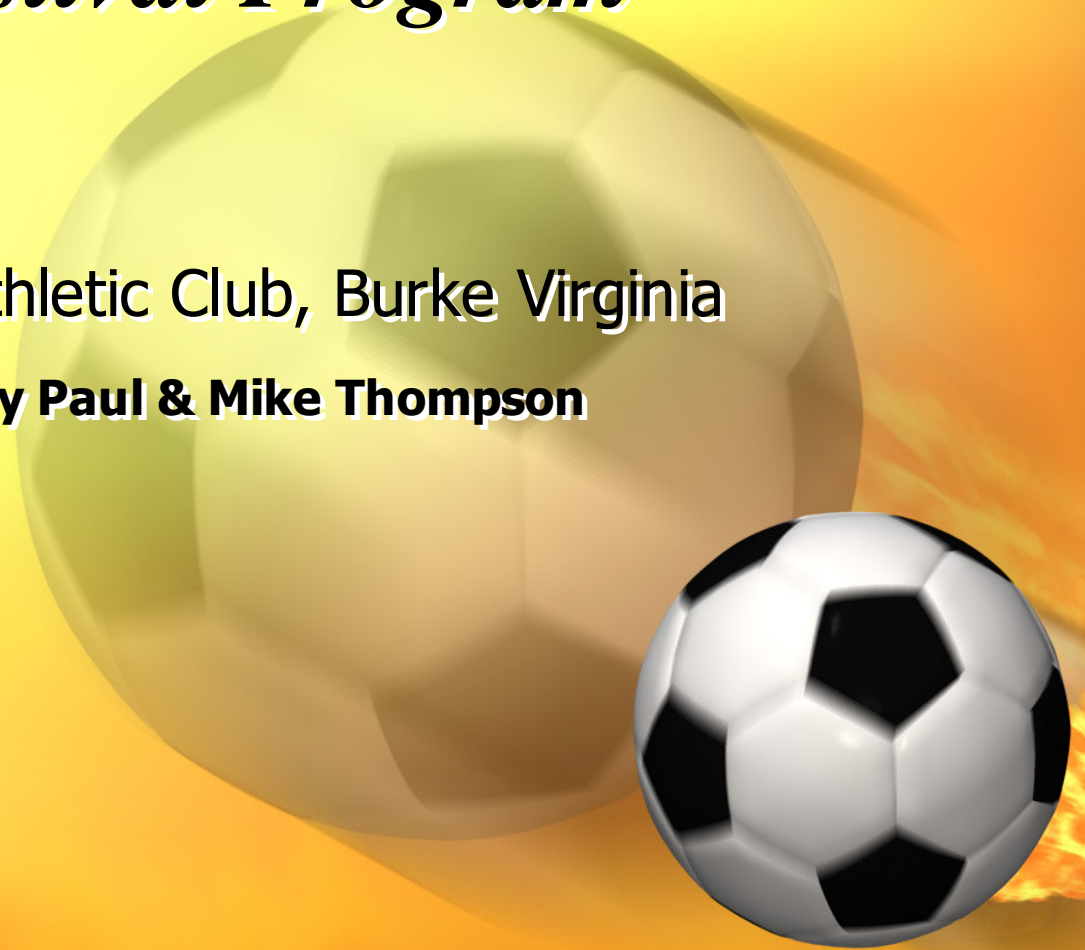


Building a Club Wide Free-Play Festival Program

Burke Athletic Club, Burke Virginia

Larry Paul & Mike Thompson



Festival Play

*“We over-coach and we over-organize.
Coaches, parents and administrators need
to take a step back and give the game
back to the players.”*

Sam Snow

Director of Coaching Education, U.S. Youth Soccer



Festival Play

- A growing international movement to give the game back to the kids;
 - ✓ Give Us Back Our Game – England
 - ✓ Gala Days – Football Federation Victoria, Australia
 - ✓ Festival Days – KNVB, Holland.
- A major component of US Youth Soccer's National Youth License.



Drop In Play

- A part of many club programs.
 - ✓ Darlington S.C. – Massachusetts
 - ✓ Wicomico S. F. – Delaware
 - ✓ Vancouver Drop In Soccer – Canada
 - ✓ St. Pauls Youth Recreation – Canada
 - ✓ Basin Recreation – Utah

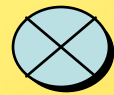


Benefits to the Club

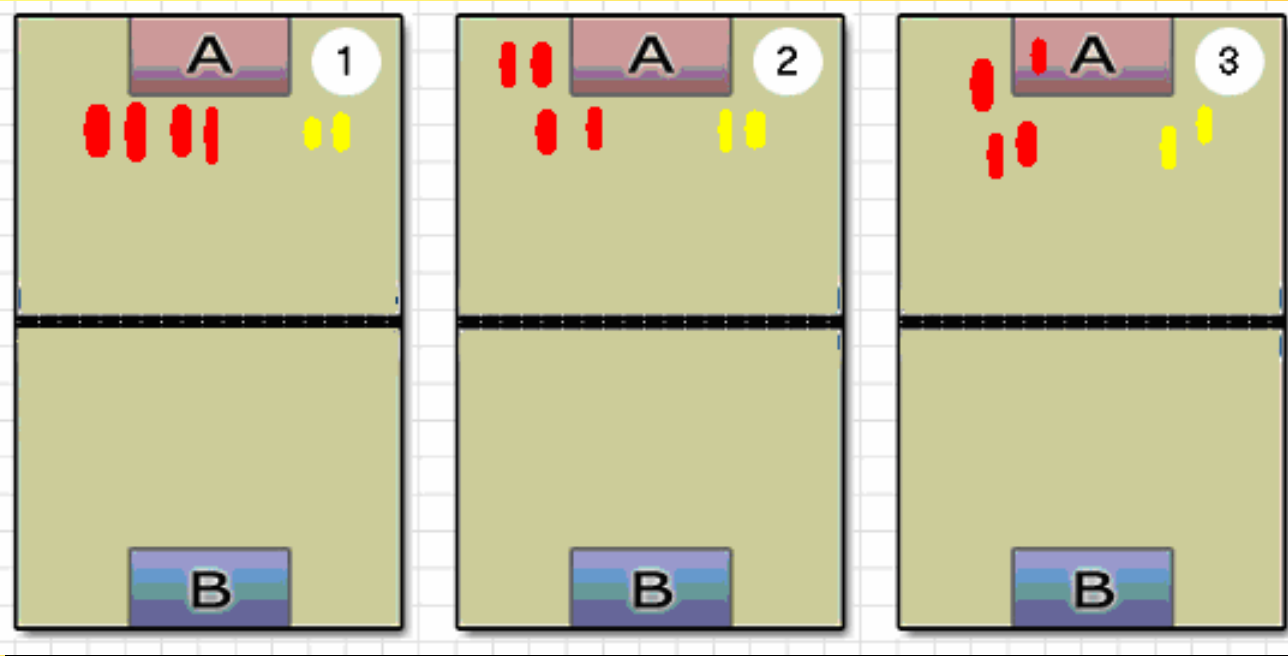
- Festivals provide an efficient use of resources.
- Festivals provide an effective tool for education.
- Controlled message.
- Mixed ages.
- Redefine “Competition.”



Field Set Up



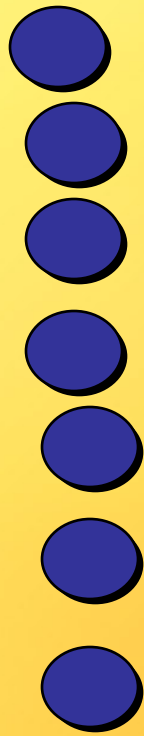
Control Center



Organizing the kids



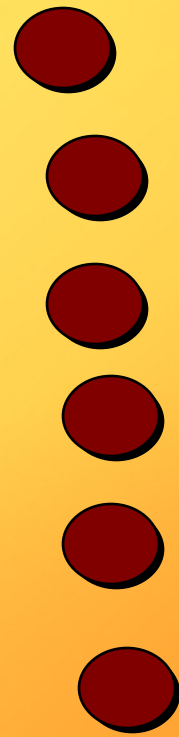
8 Year



9 Year



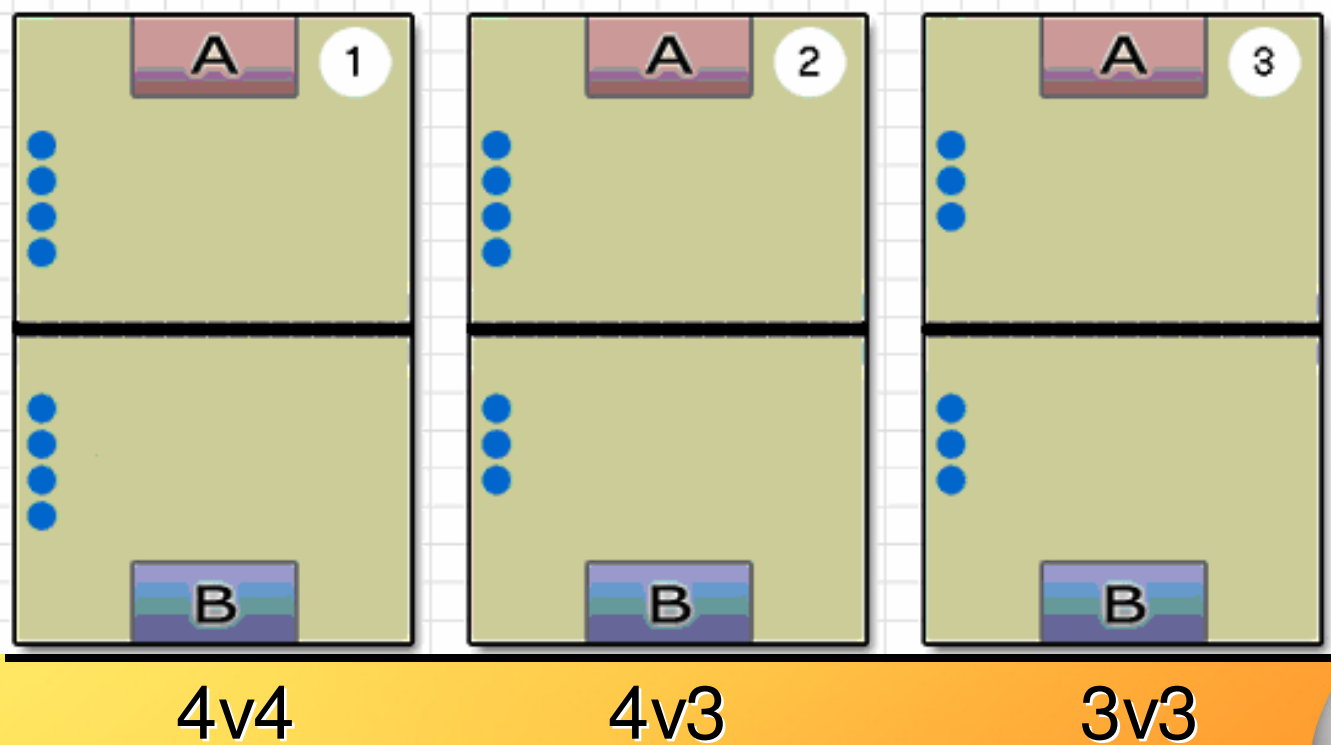
10 Year



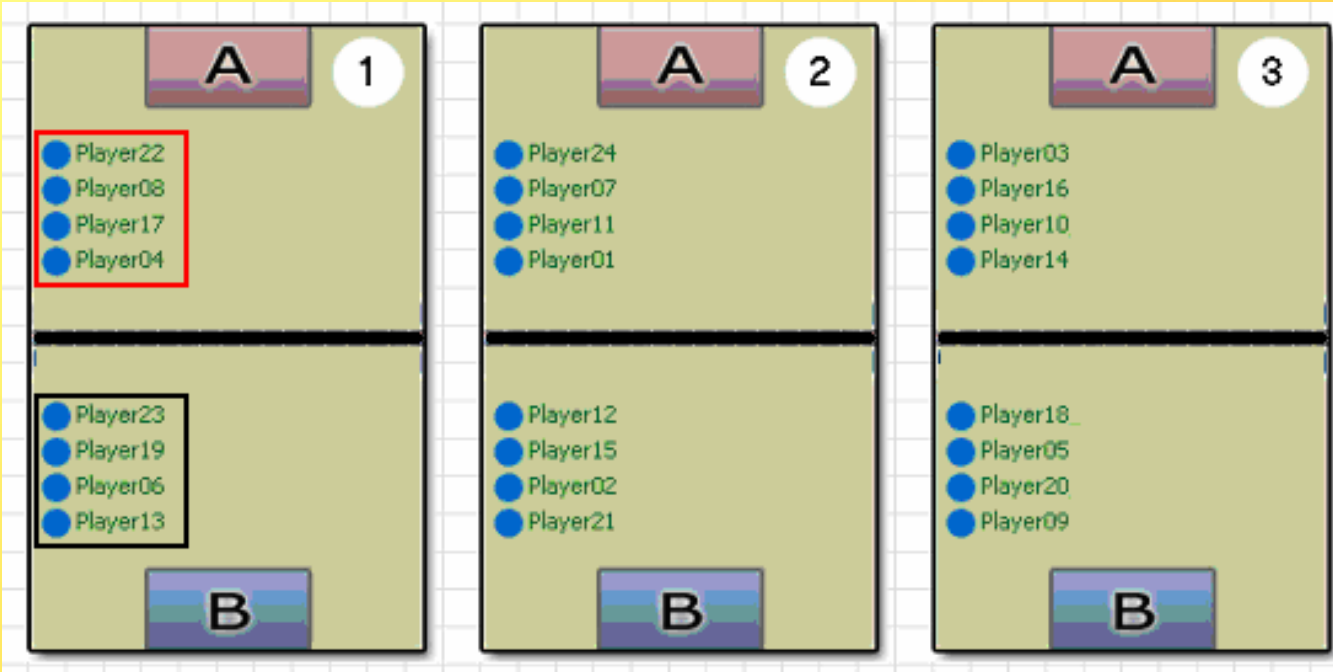
11&12 Year



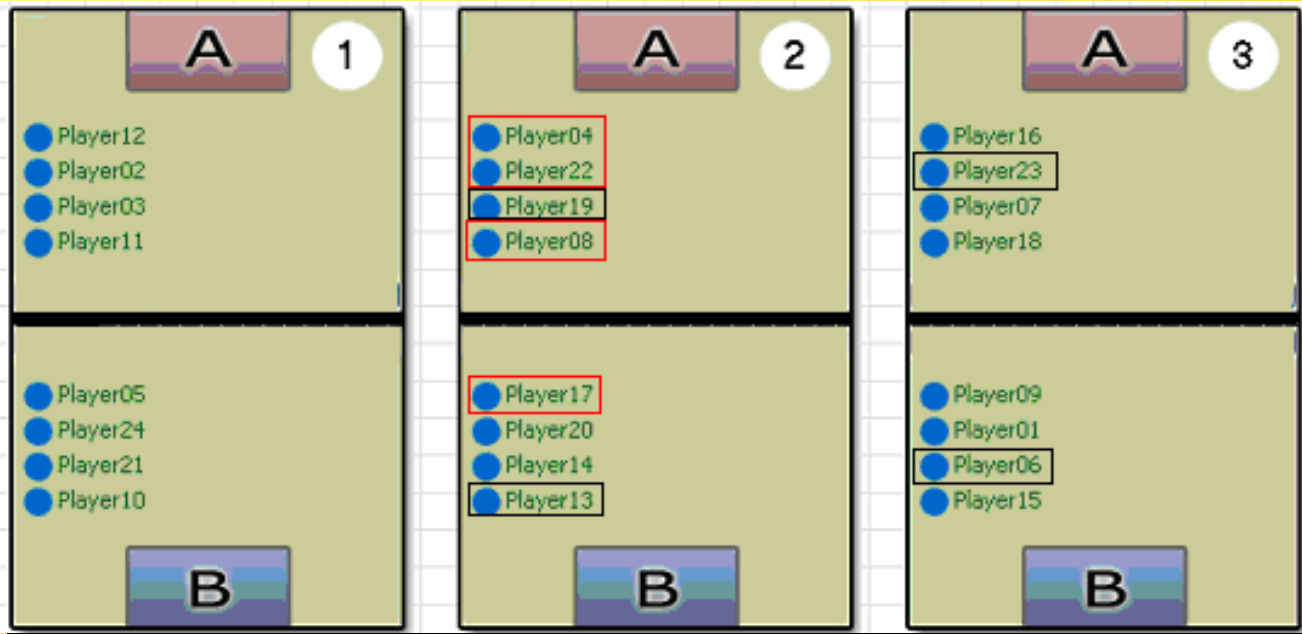
Uneven Numbers



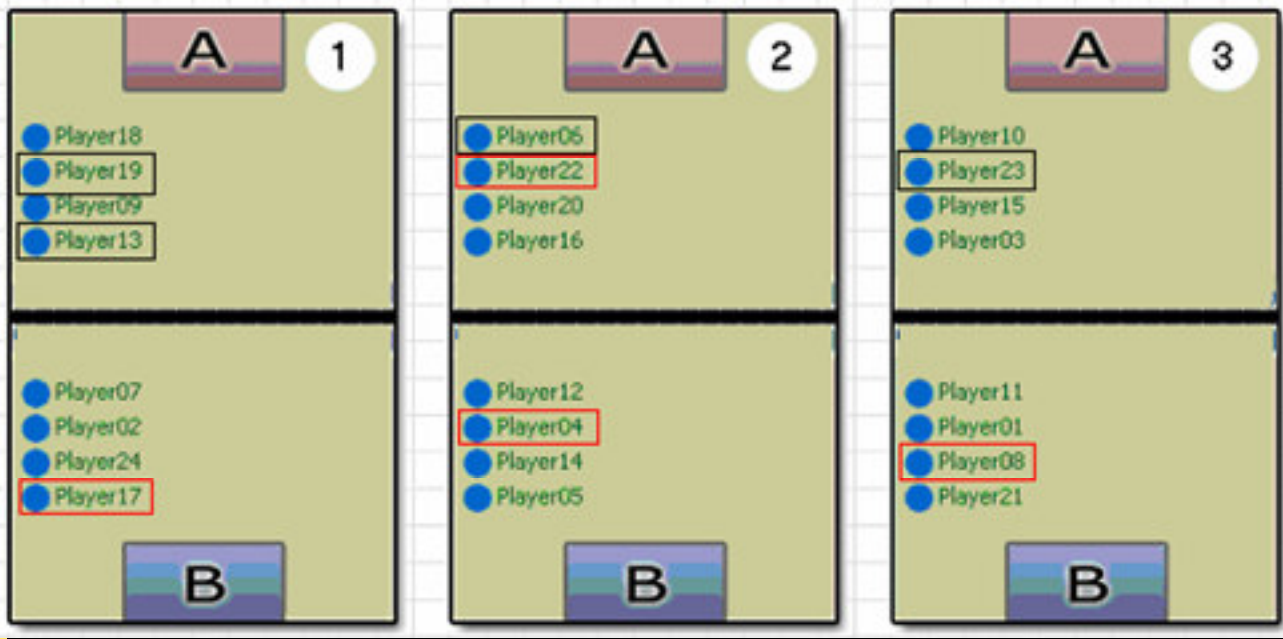
Round 1



Round 2



Round 3



Club Control

- Different games.
- Goalkeepers.
- Rules.
- Permanent players.
- A bridge between select and rec.



A Real World Case Study

The Burke Athletic Club's Festival Program



Fall Season 2005

What We Did

- 16 U8 Girls
- 2 Fields
- Discs
- Cone Goals
- Shared field with teams practicing

What We Learned

- Don't over complicate
- Stay off the field



Spring Season 2006

What We Did

- 32 U8 Girls
- Four fields
- Discs
- PUGG Goals
- Shared field with teams practicing

What We Learned

- Having a core group from the prior season is a good thing
- You don't need a lot of coaches/parents to make it work
- Coaches begin to see significant difference in players
- Changing teams a lot helps limit parent yelling /"coaching"



Fall Season 2006

What We Did

- 60 U9 & U10 Girls
- 7 fields
- Discs
- PUGGs, cones, stakes as goals
- Shared field with teams practicing

What We Learned

- Age groups playing together works
- Kids want to play
- Numbers will change dramatically during each session
- Communication to parents across the various age groups became more important
- We needed to store equipment at the field



Spring Season 2007

What We Did

- 140 Players Across Multiple Age Groups
 - Limited U5 Coed, U6 & U7 Coed
 - U8 through U12 Girls with limited U8 through U12 Boys
- Dedicated Space (no longer sharing space)
- PUGG Goals
- Discs

What We Learned

- Age groups playing together works
- U6 & U7 players need a little more attention and direction from coaches/parent volunteers
- Have to watch and balance when girls and boys play on same team
- Set up was taking a lot of time
- Began to reduce requests from parents to play up



Summer 2007

What We Did

- 40 Players Across Multiple Age Groups
 - Limited U5 with U6 through U12 boys and girls
- Dedicated Space (no longer sharing space)
- PUGG Goals
- Pre Marked Fields
- Friday evening & Saturday morning (avoid the heat)

What We Learned

- Players will bring their friends who play with other clubs
- Have to have more medical paperwork and more controlled check in
- Numbers varied session to session
- Players varied far more than during the fall and spring seasons
- Began to hear more from players at other clubs
- Older players began to attend



Fall Season 2007

What We Did

- 220 players U6 through U16
 - U6 & U7
 - U8 through U12 Girls
 - U8 through U12 Boys
 - U14 & U16 Girls and Boys
- Dedicated Field Space
- Two separate nights, multiple groups
- First “Festival” Tournament
 - Columbus Day Weekend
 - Grouped in pairs of age groups: U7 & U8; U9 & U10; U11 & U12
 - 90 kids played

What We Learned

- Players started bringing their friends who play with other clubs
- Parents who would drive by would start bringing their kids
- Coaches from other clubs wanted their players to participate
- More coaches within club promoted the program as they saw players improve
- Fewer issues with boys and girls playing together at older ages



Spring Season 2008

- U6 through U16 Boys and Girls
- Dedicated Field Space
- Registration for players that are not playing on Club Teams
 - Allows players from other clubs
 - Gives opportunity to kids that sign up late or where we don't have room in an age group
 - Addresses any insurance issues



Key Learnings

- Go Where You are Wanted (Don't Force It)
- Flexibility & patience is key
- Determination is required
 - There is always someone that tells you why it can't work and who will sue
- Numbers vary for variety of reasons
- Players get better & enjoy the sport more



*Festival With an
Individual Winner*



Forms for control











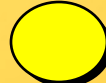



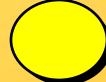







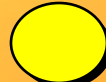


Tournament and Festival Score Sheet
 Win - 10 points / Draw - 5 points / Loss - 0 / Each goal - 1 point

Teams	Score	Game 1	Points
AvB	-	A-	B-
CvD	-	C-	D-
EvF	-	E-	F-
GvH	-	G-	H-
IvJ	-	I-	J-
Game 2			
AvB	-	A-	B-
CvD	-	C-	D-
EvF	-	E-	F-
GvH	-	G-	H-
IvJ	-	I-	J-
Game 3			
AvB	-	A-	B-
CvD	-	C-	D-
EvF	-	E-	F-
GvH	-	G-	H-
IvJ	-	I-	J-
Game 4			
AvB	-	A-	B-
CvD	-	C-	D-
EvF	-	E-	F-
GvH	-	G-	H-
IvJ	-	I-	J-
Game 5			
AvB	-	A-	B-
CvD	-	C-	D-
EvF	-	E-	F-
GvH	-	G-	H-
IvJ	-	I-	J-
Game 6			
AvB	-	A-	B-
CvD	-	C-	D-
EvF	-	E-	F-
GvH	-	G-	H-
IvJ	-	I-	J-

4x4 Festival Schedule		Game 1		Game 2		Game 3		Game 4		Game 5		Game 6		Tot. Pts.	Fin.
#	Name	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.		
1															
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															
9															
10															
11															
12															
13															
14															
15															
16															



Organizing the kids

1		7		14		20	
2		8		15		21	
3		9		16		22	
4		10		17		23	
5		11		18		24	
6		12		19		25	
		13					
8 Year		9Year		10 Year		11&12 Year	



Scoring

4v4 Tournament Schedule		Game I		Game II		Game III		Game IV		Game V		Total	Finish			
#	Name	Team	Points	Team	Points	Cum.	Team	Points	Cum.	Team	Points	Cum.	Team	Points	Points	
1	Jack	A	13	C	7	20	B	12	32	D	13	45	A	1	46	4
2	Mima	B	2	A	13	15	B	12	27	C	2	29	D	12	41	6
3	Graham	C	6	A	13	19	D	12	31	B	12	43	B	13	56	1
4	Coby	B	2	C	7	9	C	1	10	C	2	12	C	0	12	16
5	Fred	A	13	B	0	13	A	1	14	A	0	14	D	12	26	10
6	Larry	D	6	D	7	13	A	1	14	A	0	14	D	12	26	10
7	Roger	C	6	B	0	6	D	12	18	B	12	30	D	12	42	5
8	Chris	C	6	A	13	19	B	12	31	C	2	33	A	1	34	8
9	Gene	B	2	D	7	9	C	1	10	B	12	22	A	1	23	13
10	Dave	A	13	B	0	13	C	1	14	D	13	27	A	1	28	9
11	Mike	D	6	C	7	13	D	12	25	D	13	38	B	13	51	2
12	Brian	C	6	C	7	13	B	12	25	A	0	25	C	0	25	12
13	Pat	D	6	D	7	13	A	1	14	C	2	16	C	0	16	15
14	John	A	13	A	13	26	D	12	38	A	0	38	B	13	51	2
15	Keith	D	6	B	0	6	C	1	7	D	13	20	C	0	20	14
16	Ezra	B	2	D	7	9	A	1	10	B	12	22	B	13	35	7



1st



2nd



3rd



Organizing the Teams

4-4 Festival Schedule		Game 1		Game 2		Game 3		Game 4		Game 5		Game 6		Tot.	Fin.
#	Name	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Pts.	Pts.
1															
2															
3															

U8's

4-4 Festival Schedule		Game 1		Game 2		Game 3		Game 4		Game 5		Game 6		Tot.	Fin.
#	Name	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Pts.	Pts.
1															
2															
3															
4															

U10's

4-4 Festival Schedule		Game 1		Game 2		Game 3		Game 4		Game 5		Game 6		Tot.	Fin.
#	Name	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Team	Pts.	Pts.	Pts.
1															
2															
3															
4															
5															
6															
7															
8															
9															
10															
11															
12															
13															
14															
15															
16															

U12's



Questions

