



Summer 2026

Newsletter



Mission Statement

To provide lifelong opportunities to play soccer by modifying the game from running to walking, allowing soccer players of differing abilities, ages and fitness to continue to play the game they love in a healthy, dynamic and safe fashion.

Bigfoot Walk Soccer Club Board

President: Janet Charnley

Vice President: Dawn Blomberg

Secretary: Pat Walker

Treasurer: Karen Newell

At Large Members: Karen D'Ewart, Jimmy Dunn, Virginia Gleason, Tricie Hunter, Roberta Reardon & Julie Thomer

Advisory Members: Joy Cooper, Chris Hass, Jerry Lustofin, Kate O'Malley, Ted Over, Kelly Thompson & Roland Rice

Where and when we play:

- **Starfire Monday** 10:00AM Currently on hiatus - Site Manager: Don Piquette
- **Starfire Wednesday** 10:00AM - Site Manager: Don Piquette
- **Grass Lawn Friday** 10:00AM - Site Managers: Janet Charnley, Pat Walker, Chris Hass & Joy Cooper
- **Steel Lake Friday** 10:30 AM - Site Managers: Roberta Reardon, Roy Pasbrig & Jimmy Dunn
- **Eastside Sunday** Currently noon in Bellevue at Robinswood Park moving to 2:00 PM at Wilburton Park in June – Site Manager: Pat Walker

Check the schedule on the website for times & locations near you!

Welcome to the Summer 2026 Bigfoot Walk Soccer Club Newsletter. BWSC was formed as a 501(C)3 non-profit in 2025 and is driven by volunteers with the goal of promoting, organizing, and providing walk soccer opportunities in the Greater Seattle Area.

Letter from the President

Started in January of 2025, Bigfoot Walk Soccer Club has built upon its predecessors to where 300 players took part in at least one of our events across our five sites in our first full year! And we continue to receive tremendous support on TV (Fox13), in articles and with co-promoters like the Seattle Parks Department and the West Seattle Rhodies FC women semi-pro team. To sustain then grow this player base, we need volunteers like you. See "Call for Volunteers" below to choose how you can help!

Janet

A Call for Diverse Recruitments

"I find it so inspiring to play the sport I love in such an inclusive environment that's supportive of all abilities, ages, and health status. I think it's just as important for us to recruit and encourage younger players in their 30s and 40s who have had one too many injuries to play the full-contact game anymore, as well as older teammates with new bionic joints that need to be protected. We can all be competitive together, adjusting the level of our play as needed to make sure we all stay safe and have fun playing the beautiful game for as long as we can walk!"

Chrissy Vaughn Grass Lawn Friday & Eastside Sunday

Organization Update – Call for Volunteers

Bigfoot Walk Soccer Club continues to make progress towards the transfer of responsibilities from Stay Fit Soccer. We are looking for detail-oriented volunteers for the following roles to help the Club make the transition.

If you are interested in joining BWSC team, contact Pat Walker at plwalker521@gmail.com

Field Reservations Coordinator

What You'll Do:

- Work with Board, Site Managers & Coordinators to maintain seasonal calendar
- Work with field organizations to reserve fields that match seasonal calendar
- Distribute reservation permits and invoices as appropriate
- Maintain dates, times and locations in game management system

Expected Time Commitment:

- 90 to 100 hours/year in alignment with field organizations' calendars and before the start of each site's season

What We Are Looking For:

- People who love the game and want to share it!
- Excellent organization and communication skills

Why You'll Love Being the Field Reservations Coordinator:

- As a volunteer you will have free access to any game within the BWSC system

Referee Scheduling Coordinator

What You'll Do:

- Work with Site Managers & Coordinators to coordinate referees as required
- Monitor and confirm assignments and recruit to fill openings
- Process referee game forms and forward as appropriate

Expected Time Commitment:

- 100 hours/year mainly concentrated before the start of each site's season

What We Are Looking For:

- People who love the game and want to share it!
- Excellent communication skills and a patient demeanor

Why You'll Love Being the Field Reservations Coordinator:

- As a volunteer you will have free access to any game within the BWSC system

Player Registration Coordinator

What You'll Do:

- Work with Board, Site Managers & Coordinators to maintain seasonal calendar
- Create and maintain registration incidences by site in game management system
- Send out season registration notices with locations, dates, times and costs
- Monitor season and drop-in registrations and maintain player registration status
- Maintain contact list

Expected Time Commitment:

- 40 to 90 hours per season, mainly during the pre-season registration period

What We Are Looking For:

- People who love the game and want to share it!
- Excellent organization and communication skills

Why You'll Love Being the Player Registration Coordinator:

- As a volunteer you will have free access to any game within the BWSC system

We have amazing Site Managers and Assistant Site Managers across all our sites. Some are pulling double duty and more! In support of these tireless individuals and as we grow into more sites, we are looking for volunteers to help the games run smoothly:

Site Manager / Assistant Site Manager

What You'll Do:

- Work with Board, Site Managers & Coordinators to maintain seasonal calendar
- Pre-game prep including monitoring and maintaining game management system for RSVPs & Drop-ins
- Game day duties including assigning teams, setting up field(s), announcements, taking down fields, checking in with referees, etc.
- Post-game communication as appropriate

Expected Time Commitment:

- 20 hours/season (approximately 45 minutes on game day)

What We Are Looking For:

- People who love the game and want to share it!
- Excellent organizational and communication skills

Why You'll Love Being the Site Manager:

- As a volunteer you will have free access to all games at site you manage

If you are interested in joining BWSC team, contact Pat Walker at plwalker521@gmail.com

In the News!

BWSC and the **Lifelong Recreation** program of the **Seattle Parks and Recreation** put on two introductory walking soccer clinics earlier this month with 16 participants at the first and 24 at the second! We are now working with LLR / SPR with the goal of opening a mid-week session in Seattle starting as early as this coming Fall.



BWSC teams with the **West Seattle Rhodies FC** for a cross-promotion event May 24th. BWSC will run a mini game at half-time to promote the club and our beautiful game. See flyer sent separately this week! www.wsrhodiesfc.com



Washington Senior Games - Unfortunately, there were not enough players to field teams for a Walking Soccer tournament this August. We'll try again next year!

Videos - Mike Blakey, high school alum with Dawn Blomberg, former player and retired from KING 5, came to Grass Lawn three times to video our scrimmages. He also taped interviews with players about Walk Soccer. He is editing his footage now and will send it to us for use to promote BWSC. We may also find footage to use to help train the players and referees."

How games are structured

- BWSC offers adult co-ed play serving players from 30 to 90+ years of age
- Players can sign up for a season, or for single games as a "drop-in"
- Each site is run by Site Managers who set up the fields & facilitate play
- There are no established teams, rather Site Managers create competitive teams weekly from the players who have RSVP'd.
- Games are typically two 25 to 30-minute periods with a 5-minute break
- BWSC rules are based on international norms customized for our club i.e. our rules allow for play without goalies. Visit our website for complete copy of rules
- Games are often officiated by Club provided referees

Rules Highlight - Play safe!

ATTACKING FROM BEHIND

Excerpt from BWSC Official Rules - Fouls and Misconduct

6. Tackling from behind or attempting to kick a ball from behind an opponent with possession of the ball is not allowed. See diagram below from the Federation of International Walking Football Association, Laws of the Game.



Thank you!

Randy Devitt

Roberta asked me to write a little something to you, my walking soccer friends, as I won't be on the pitch with you all anymore. My Parkinson's has progressed to the point that I was becoming a part of the pitch itself with all the falling down I am an excellent faller, but my falls are more frequent and since I have implants in my chest and brain, I am risking damage to this carefully implanted equipment.

I fell in love with soccer when I started college. I loved the Saturday morning pickup game in my neighborhood as much as the out of state tournaments. I was a soccer junkie. But in my mid 40's I gave it up due to several health problems including Parkinson's. I would play the occasional guest role on several organized teams but not very often. Then Ric Flotlin turned me onto walking soccer back before COVID hit.

I can't thank you all enough for the kindness and support you sent my way all these years. Walking soccer was the absolute best treatment for my type of Parkinson's. My mental health improved as well. But most of all, when I stepped onto the field to spend that golden hour with you all, I felt normal again. Healthy and whole.

I will try to stop by and heckle you all from the sidelines every now and then. but I will dearly miss the connections I had with all of you. But I will always remember the patience and love you sent my way every time we gathered to play the Beautiful Game. - **Randy**

In Memoriam

Ric Flotlin

Walking Soccer teammate Ric Flotlin died on January 1st from Acute Myoblast Leukemia. He leaves behind his wife, Mindy, and 3 children who had this message to share:

Our dad loved soccer so much that he would never let it not be a part of his life - from age 8 he was either playing or coaching soccer. He found a fantastic group of people who participated in walking soccer - that was just his speed. He always looked forward to playing and it was a bonus when his kids came to watch or participate. He just wanted to be out there with his people - he didn't care too much about his ability to perform at a high level. He was accepting of Parkinson's Disease slowing him down and he was OK with that. He was truly an inspiration to everyone that knew him.



Make your tax-deductible donation to Bigfoot Walk Soccer Club at <https://www.stayfitsoccer.com/donate>