

**AYSO Region 277 4th of July Event Recap**

Our 4th of July event was a struggle to put on, won't even sugar coat it. In region 277, we use school property that we pay to maintain for our fields. Getting approval was difficult. Our athletic director was on board with the event, but it had to meet ever changing guidelines from the MHSAA/MYSA. We started planning the event when outdoor group activities of up to 100 people were allowed. Our state currently doesn't allow competition, and participants have to have a filled out COVID survey and a temperature check before they participate. After presenting the plan to the AD, and he felt good about it, but the school board shot the idea down. After following all the rules and still being told no, I consulted my fellow village trustees and presented my idea. They felt I had sufficiently planned for a safe event, so I found a municipal park with enough space, submitted an event permit, and approved it.

For the event, we had a registration tent with an A/C unit because another MHSAA regulation is relief from high heat index (95 degrees or higher). Kids were checked in via the SmartWaiver App, which I'll touch on in a bit (Thanks Rick). Once the waiver was confirmed, temperature checks and verbal COVID surveys were performed by volunteer medical professionals using non-contact thermometers. Once completed, kids were moved to the field for five activity stations. First, we had soccer golf, where kids were guided through a four-hole course using hula hoops and corner flags. Next, we had the "Bozo the Clown Bucket Game" which was an oversized version of beer pong for your yard, courtesy of Aldi's. Station three was a soccer skee ball game. One of my parent volunteers is an established carpenter and built us a skee ball ramp and target sized for soccer balls. The fourth and fifth stations were combined - soccer bowling (another Aldi yard game that adapted well to soccer balls) which was done in front of a full-size goal; and hula hoops zip tied in the corners for target practice after the bowling pins were knocked down.

Maintaining sanitation proved to be pretty easy. The local hospital, Spectrum Health Pennock, donated hand sanitizer stations that were located at the entrance to the event and at every station. For the actual stations, I picked up an outdoor bleach sprayer from Home Depot for $20 and washed stations down between groups. And thanks to Dick's Sporting Goods in Grandville and our new AD Pete McKinney, every kid that participated was given a new soccer ball to keep.

Now to touch more on SmartWaiver, I have a write up from my coach admin/web guy:

"Smartwaiver worked great for what we needed. Easy for parents to fill out, even on mobile.

Kiosk via a tablet was easy and checked the player in immediately. The Kiosk is only an iOS or Android app, so no website on a laptop or Surface tablet. Searching for a player while checking in is smooth. At a glance, you can see how many players signed the waiver and how many are checked in. We didn't use the barcode feature, but in a high traffic situation it would make checking in a player even faster. With this feature, a 2D barcode is sent via email when a waiver is signed. One downside is that to use the barcode to check in you have to use a computer with the attached reader. It would be nice to be able to use a phone app to read the barcodes of players. The exporting of data is not instant, but fast enough. We pulled an excel sheet of the waivers for the archives.”

* Jason Holzhausen, Coach Administrator

We had two other sponsors that helped out, Buist Electric donated the cost of the generator and Bradford White Corporation donated most of the tent rental fee. Pete also found us a local printer to make event signs and T-shirts for the volunteers. Overall with sponsors the event cost our region a little over $1200. We had roughly 40 kids, and signed up two new volunteers, possibly three. I'm hoping to do this event next year on a larger scale - preferably without a virus and its unreasonable list of demands putting a damper on the fun.