



## GITCHI GUMMI SOCCER CLUB HANDBOOK

**GITCHI GUMMI SOCCER CLUB**  
**1346 W. ARROWHEAD RD; PMB #301**  
**DULUTH, MN 55811**

### Mission:

Gitchi Gummi Soccer Club strives to be the Northland's premier youth soccer program, driven to educate players and coaches about the game of soccer. The Club aspires to develop players capable of competing at the highest level of play. Throughout this process we aim to teach understanding, sportsmanship and the skills of soccer.

### Board Meetings:

The GGSC Board of Directors (generally) meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month. Any GGSC member is welcome to attend. Please contact Secretary for current month's meeting info.

### Club Officers:

Dave Robinson	President	drobinson2@css.edu	218-391-5460 (cell)
Nic Bacigalupo	Vice-President	nicbacigalpo@gmail.com	218-348-1210 (cell)
Martin MacLean	Treasurer	mmaclean02.mm@gmail.com	218-343-2571 (cell)
Daniel Moore	Secretary	ggscboard@gmail.com	218-590-8632 (cell)

### Board Members:

Barry Chastey	Coaching Director	bchastey@css.edu	218-310-6018 (cell)
Scott Anderson	Coach Representative	sbande25@gmail.com	218-390-0089 (cell)
Wells McGiffert	Coach Representative	wells1213@gmail.com	218-341-0165 (cell)
Tim Thorson	Girls' U13 & Up Representative	bikothorson@gmail.com	218-341-4539 (cell)
Scot Zentz	Boys' U13 & Up Representative	esoxesox@hotmail.com	218-590-1446 (cell)
Maribeth Mark	Girls' U9-U12 Representative	maribeth.mark@yahoo.com	612-816-5421 (cell)
Seth Eklund	Boys' U9-U12 Representative	tigerse4@gmail.com	218-310-9012 (cell)
Joey Moore	At-Large Representative	joey.moore1818@gmail.com	218-341-5580 (cell)
Steve Kramer	At-Large Representative	kramstev@yahoo.com	218-491-0516 (cell)

## Ex-Officio Board Members:

**Greg Cane – Gitchi Gummi Soccer Club Founder & Youth Development Director.**  
**Len Albrecht – Former GGSC President & Coach.**

## Structure:

GGSC teams play under the jurisdiction of the Minnesota Youth Soccer Association (MYSA) and the United States Youth Soccer Association (USYSA). All boys and girls soccer teams in the state of Minnesota have a classification; and they play other teams with the same classification to ensure that games are competitive. For more information, please visit: [www.mnyouthsoccer.org](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org) and [www.usyouthsoccer.org](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org).

### Team Classifications:

- **Premier**
- **Classic 1 (C1)**
- **Classic 2 (C2)**
- **Classic 3 (C3)**
- **Rec. Plus (Tournament-Only Teams within GGSC unless otherwise registered)**
- **Recreational Soccer (AYSA teams)**

## Volunteers & Fundraisers:

GGSC is a volunteer-run, cooperative, non-profit organization that depends on the support of parents to operate many of the events and activities. Approximately 10% of GGSC's total revenue comes from two fundraising sources: the *Essentia Health Head of the Lakes Tournament*, and ongoing sales of GGSC branded apparel/merchandise.

## Code of Conduct:

GGSC expects coaches, players, and spectators to represent GGSC with honor and dignity on both the playing and practice fields. Expectations of families involved in competitive soccer through GGSC include treating all involved with respect, arriving on time to games & practices, and being fully prepared to play/practice.

## Safety Concerns:

- Players that are licensed drivers may **NOT** transport themselves (or other players) to away games or tournaments. Transportation must be by an adult.
- Hotel arrangements must have an adult chaperone.

## Head Injury Policy:

- GGSC follows 2016 Minnesota Statutes, Education Code - Chapter 121, Section 121A.37 YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS & Section 121A.38 CONCUSSION PROCEDURES in regards to head injuries.
- Every GGSC coach is **required** and GGSC officers **should** receive training on head injury prevention and treatment.

## Estimated Time Commitment:

**GGSC competitive soccer is for more committed soccer players. If your child will miss more than 10% of practices and games; competitive soccer is probably not for them.**

- **League Teams:** Expected to begin weekly practices no later than March 1 and increase to twice weekly in April. In May, teams move to a 3X/week (combination of 1 game/2 practices or 2 games/1 practice). Teams that begin practices earlier than March 1 **may** need to collect additional \$\$ to fund the cost of additional field rentals.
- **Tournament Teams:** Expected to begin weekly practices no later than April 1. Teams that begin practices earlier than April 1 (or practice more often than 1X/week) **may** need to collect additional \$\$ to fund the cost of additional field rentals.
- **League Play:** season begins in May comprised of 12 games, ½ of which are located at an away visitor's site (primarily the northern suburbs of Minneapolis/St. Paul). Season ends in July with State Tournament (if team makes it through section play).
- **Tournament Play:** 2-4 weekends (Friday-Sunday) between April and July (tournament selection is a team decision).
- **Volunteer Hours:** Each family is expected to offer at least 4 volunteer hours per player during specified events such as the *Essentia Health Head of the Lakes Tournament* and *Jim Moore Jamboree*. (1) \$100 check/family made payable to GGSC will be collected by team managers at initial parent meeting and will be held until volunteer hours have been fulfilled. Checks remaining will be cashed in July.

## Estimated Financial Commitment:

### Player Fees:

- Annual fee changes are approved each year by the Board of Directors. For current fees, please see website. (<http://www.gitcsoccer.com>)
- \$200 payment is required with online registration for ages U12-U18; \$100 payment for U9-U11. Registration is required before participation in team placement dates. This payment is **non-refundable** after the applicable age team placement date for that player, unless GGSC is unable to place the player on a team. Refer to fee schedule.
- Final payment is due December 1 for U12-U18 age groups. Final payment is due January 31 for U9-U11 age groups.
- Payment in full is required for a MYSA player pass to be issued. Player passes are **required** for all league game and tournament game play. Full payment may be made at time of acceptance for team placement.
- Transfer fee of \$100 will be assessed to any player who transfers to another soccer club.
- If different payment accommodations need to be made, please contact GGSC Treasurer.
- Refund policy stated below. Direct any questions to GGSC Treasurer.
- Tournament-only teams have an allotted budget that covers (2) tournaments before any additional tournament fee expenses occur.
- Member players participating in the WIAA Wisconsin high school season are exempt from tournament fees & participation during the calendar season to comply with WIAA regulations.

### Refunds:

- \$200 registration fee for U12 and up; \$100 registration fee for U9-U11. This payment is **non-refundable** after the applicable age team placement date for that player, unless GGSC is unable to place the player on a team.
- Final installment payment for the player fee balance is **refundable** up until February 1.

- No refunds after February 1; with an exception for partial refunds (not to exceed \$150) in cases of injury or family relocation. These refunds are solely computed on a case by case basis per the timing of the event and the expenses incurred by GGSC on behalf of the player.
- Players that drop from GGSC after February 1 that have not paid player fee balance are **financially obligated to pay remaining balance**. Balance will continue to be billed and settlement of balance must be discussed with the GGSC Treasurer prior to a later season registration and team placement.
- If player transfers to another soccer club, the \$100 transfer fee (as afore mentioned) is applicable.

#### **League Team Participation in Tournaments:**

- GGSC standard is for league teams to participate in 1-2 weekend tournaments in addition to league play. Typically a “pre-season” tournament before league play begins and one additional tournament during or after league play are selected. (U14 and below can attend the *Essentia Health Head of the Lakes Tournament* in Duluth, MN; a GGSC hosted tournament.)
- These tournament expenses are **NOT** part of the Club registration fee and each player will be assessed a fee (~\$30 per player per tournament.) Tournament selection is a team decision.
- There will be cases where a league team elects to participate in more than 2 tournaments. Only players who elect to participate in additional tournaments will be assessed a fee for that tournament(s).

#### **Uniform:**

- Up to \$150 for new GGSC players. Uniforms are intended to last for +/- 3 years.
- **Optional** team warm-ups/apparel. Prices vary.

#### **Personal Equipment:**

- Soccer cleats, approved shin guards, water bottle, bag, tape, etc.
- MYSA-approved soccer ball size; U9-U12: size 4. U13 and up: size 5.

#### **Additional Expenses:**

- Hotel and travel costs associated with out of town tournaments.
- Buses to away league games. (\$40-60/game; up to 6 away games) This is a team by team decision. Some team families decide to carpool/rideshare to away league games.
- Field rental costs in excess of team allotment (up to \$150/family – depends on team).
- Game forfeiture penalties assessed by MYSA (up to \$400 team fine depending on circumstances) and split evenly among members of the penalized team.

#### **Financial Aid:**

- Multiplayer discounts of \$50 for each additional player in a family (beyond one) with a maximum discount of \$100 per family.
- GGSC Player Assistance Fund: A needs-based assistance fund for families. Direct questions on assistance to GGSC Treasurer and they will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

#### **District/Regional/State Tournament Withdrawal Penalties:**

**After League team registration for this sequence, inability for participate for any reason incurs team specific penalties. Team families share in paying this penalty.**

#### **Team Manager Duties & Expectations:**

Each team has a manager (or co-managers) who assist the coach with team logistics, but not coaching. They can also enlist assistance from other team parents. The team manager receives a \$100 reduction in player fees (or \$50 per co-managers). Duties will include but are not limited to:

- Meet with team coaches in February to determine who will do team tasks.
- Hold a team meeting by the end of February to discuss tournament plans and distribute an initial practice schedule.
- Act as primary communications liaison between GGSC, coaches, and families to handle practice schedules, tournament schedules, and later changes throughout the season.
- Distribute maps and/or directions to away game fields & hotels.
- Assist coaches with tournament selection and registration, including the *Essentia Health Head of the Lakes Tournament* and for league teams in the District/Regional/State Tournament.
- Secure hotel room blocks for tournaments.
- Ensure practice field reservations are booked at least one month out. Practices to start no later than March 1 for a league team, no later than April 1 for a tournament-only team.
- Distribute uniform information and assist completion by families.
- Oversee MYSA hard-copy & digital player passes to ensure integrity.
- Maintain a team handbook with player passes, medical release forms, team roster, and competitive match reports that go to every practice/game/tournament.
- Report game scores directly to MYSA; if coach does not report.
- Collect \$\$ for additional team expenses (buses, tournaments, practice field rental fees, etc.)
- Manage team allocated budget for practice field rental, equipment, and tournaments if a tournament-only team.
- Attend managers meeting hosted by GGSC and assist in recruiting parent volunteers for the *Jim Moore Jamboree* and *Essentia Health Head of the Lakes Tournament*.
- Assist GGSC Treasurer with collection of player fees.

### Coaching Staff Duties & Expectations:

- Assist with team placements.
- Meet with team manager in February to determine who will do which team tasks.
- Schedule team meeting by the end of February if there is no established team manager.
- Have open communication with managers and parents.
- Select 2-4 tournaments for team and plan to coach those dates.
- Set expectations for and monitor assistant coaching staff.
- Ensure medical kit is present at all practices/games/tournaments.
- Attend GGSC hosted coaches meetings and mandatory state MYSA coaches meeting (or arrange proper substitute representative).
- League team coaches are to complete **at least** 30 hours of practice between March and July.
- Tournament-only coaches are to complete **at least** 25 hours of practice throughout season. Ensure fields are reserved at least one month out at a time.
- Team Planning:
  1. Practices for team emphasizing individual player development in both the tactical and technical areas of the game.
  2. Formations and game plans for each match. Rotation of players within games and make adjustments as needed.
- Coach team at District/Regional/State competitions in July if team qualifies.
- Update team equipment as needed with allocated equipment budget.
- Constantly evaluate players and give feedback throughout the season. Conduct year-end individual evaluations and set goals for following season.
- Focus on individual continuing education by attending clinics, camps, and coaching license exams.

**Useful Soccer Links:**

- Gitchi Gummi Soccer Club: [www.gitchsoccer.com](http://www.gitchsoccer.com)
- Minnesota Youth Soccer Association: [www.mnyouthsoccer.org](http://www.mnyouthsoccer.org)
- United States Youth Soccer: [www.usyouthsoccer.org](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org)
- Arrowhead Youth Soccer Association: [www.arrowheadsoccer.com](http://www.arrowheadsoccer.com)

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