



CLUB NEWSLETTER/April 2009

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Plan now to ATTEND the Spring Kick-Off (May 4th, 730 pm, in the Ryder Room at Red River High School)

- In the past, the spring Kick-Off has not been well attended. As a board, we considered eliminating the meeting. However, we decided to make the meeting more useful to you and more fun to attend. Our completely new and revised agenda will include:
 - Give-aways to those in attendance!
 - Meet and hear from our new Director of Coaching and Player Development – Marcelo Campoverde – and hear some of his exciting new ideas!
 - Sign the team roster! The team roster needs to be signed for each player – if you aren't there to sign off, then you have to go to your team manager's house and sign it (so this will save you some running around)!
 - Parents and family members can order sportswear with GGFSC logo and designs
 - Q & A re: league play!
 - Uniform swap: Bring and, or trade for or buy used soccer uniforms and equipment.
 - Additional announcements and other information will also occur.

We have a new Website!

- Check it out – we have transformed the old website into a newer, more exciting, better organized and more pleasant website. We are using the same address: www.ggfsc.com We hope to continue upgrading the website in the future! Any problems observed with the website should be reported to Renee Axtman, who will be coordinating maintenance of the site.

We have a new DOCPD

- Earlier this month, following a diligent search and a review of many applicants, the board decided to offer the position of Director of Coaching and Player Development to an East Grand Forks resident. Marcelo Campoverde brings years of successful soccer experience to the club and he is filled with creative ideas and a strong commitment to building the soccer community here in the Greater Grand Forks area. We are very excited about his commitment to join our club as the DOCPD.

League Play

- League play is NEW for this year. Adding league play will almost double the number of games that member of the GGFSC get to play in a season. It will also spread out the time between games played (compared to tournaments only), so

that players have time to recover physically, and many times to have a practice in between the next game, so that enhanced player learning and development can occur.

- League play has been introduced without raising club fees by reducing the number of tournaments attended by one.
- Tentative dates and locations have been established for 10 league games for all teams, except our U11B team. Each team tentatively has 5 home games and 5 away games. HOWEVER, some of the teams that we play live over 150 miles away, making travel on weeknights problematic. For these games, the team managers have the option to attempt to schedule 'neutral site games' – games that would be played approximately ½ of the way between the two distant teams. Each team should have decided what games they would like to attempt to schedule as neutral site games and arrangements for these games and well as other games with 'conflicts' were hopefully resolved in a meeting over the weekend in Detroit Lakes. You team managers will have the most up-to-date information on this – so please keep in contact with them.
- The decision to participate in league play was not taken lightly by the board, as some may have mistakenly assumed. In fact, we (the board) have had a lot of discussion on this topic. It is also not an idea that has never been considered before. In fact, the previous President of the GGFSC specifically mentioned the idea to me and suggested the board consider it. After careful consideration, the board felt that the potential advantages of league play far outweighed the potential disadvantages and we made the commitment to try it out this year. We realize that league play entails travel on weeknights and that this can and will pose new and different challenges when compared to travel for tournaments. We are confident that teams, team managers, and coaches will work cooperatively to find creative solutions to these new challenges. As always, the board is working very hard to create and implement opportunities that enhance and extend soccer opportunities for benefit of youth in our area. Following the season this year, we fully intend to evaluate the positive and negative aspects of league play and will then consider what is in the best interest of the club moving forward. For now, we encourage all members of the club to meet this new opportunity with a resolve to capture its benefits and work through its challenges.

Tournament Dates and Locations have been determined

- Please see our NEW WEBSITE for information on tournament dates and locations. Not all teams are going to all the same tournaments this year. For several reasons, it became impractical to send all teams to all of the same tournaments this year. The board recognizes that this puts a strain on families with multiple children involved in soccer (in fact, about ½ of the board members fit into this category). However, after careful discussion, the board came up with a series of tournaments tailored to best meet the needs of individual teams and balanced with the needs of families. Please note that the individual player's families need to make hotel reservations as soon as possible, in order to have the greatest flexibility in rooms and rates.

Team Selection

- This year, we have larger teams. Most teams have the maximum (or near the maximum) number of players. The decision as to how many teams to have, at which age groups, and who goes on which team is often complex and challenging. The decisions this year were no different in that respect. After substantial discussion, the board determined the number of teams and the players on teams that would best meet the needs of the most players. This year, we were under increased pressure to determine the number of teams and the membership of teams earlier than ever – in order to meet deadlines for planning for tournaments and for league play – to secure spots for all of our teams in tournaments and league play, and to secure discounted pricing for early tournament registration – which saves the club substantial money! Next year, we are looking to register players earlier, to help alleviate some of the problems and challenges that we experienced this year and to maintain maximum benefits and savings to the club. While the solution we came up with (the number and composition of teams) is not perfect, we do believe that in general, the solution is in the best interest of the greatest number of players.

Board Membership Changes

- We would like to thank Teri Holt for her service as Treasurer for the club and her service on the Board of Directors.
- We are pleased to announce that Judi West will be serving as the Treasurer.

Coaches

- Our new DOCPD is working diligently to assure that we have the best coaching team in place for each team. This year, we are moving back to having a head coach and an assistant coach for each team. We are making changes to assure that the quality of our coaches is improving even beyond what it has been in the past. We are also excited that the player contact with coaches will be substantially enhanced with a qualified team of coaches for each team. Added coaching contact will help enhance player development and skills building, by providing greater individual attention to each soccer player. It will also provide for greater consistency in training and management of players and teams.