



## 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 the Secretary for current month's meeting info.

### Club Officers:

Chad Peterson	President	chad@ptrson.com	218-343-0444 (cell)
Nic Bacigalupo	Vice-President	nicbacigalpo@gmail.com	218-348-1210 (cell)
	Treasurer	treasurer@gitchigummissoccer.com	
Daniel Moore	Secretary	ggsboard@gmail.com	218-590-8632 (cell)

### Board Members:

Barry Chastey	Director of Coaching	bchastey@css.edu	218-310-6018 (cell)
Scott Anderson	Coach Representative	sbande25@gmail.com	218-390-0089 (cell)
Andrea Bakk	Coach Representative	andreaperrizo@msn.com	218-343-8622 (cell)
Brandon Stemwedel	Girls 9U-12U Representative	bjstemwedel@gmail.com	218-360-0158 (cell)
Seth Eklund	Boys 9U-12U Representative	tigerse4@gmail.com	218-310-9012 (cell)
Shawn Pagnucci	At-Large Representative	smpagnucci@gmail.com	218-349-0590 (cell)
Greg Spoelhof	At-Large Representative	gregspoelhof@gmail.com	218-340-9074 (cell)
Sandy Kolasinski	Tournament Director	sandyk@grccorp.com	218-591-3285 (cell)

## Ex-Officio Board Members:

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

### Minnesota Conference Qualifier (MNCQ)

Division I (DI)

Division II (DII)

Division III (DIII)

## 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 *Duluth 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 2023 Minnesota Statutes, Education Code - Chapter 121, Section 121A.37 YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS & Section 121A.38 CONCUSSION PROCEDURES in regard to head injuries and concussion procedures.
- 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 training no later than February 1 with twice weekly trainings. By April teams move to a 3X/week (combination of 1 game/2 practices or 2 games/1 practice). Teams that begin practices earlier than February 1 **may** need to collect additional \$\$ to fund the cost of additional field rentals.
- **Tournament Teams:** Expected to begin training no later than March 1. Teams that begin practices earlier than March 1 (or train more often than 1X/week) **may** need to collect additional \$\$ to fund the cost of additional field rentals.
- **League Play:** season begins in April. Season ends in July. # of games and game sites TBD.
- **Tournament Play:** 2-4 weekends (Friday-Sunday) between April and July (tournament selection is a team decision). Traditionally is 3 in-town events and 1-2 events in the Twin Cities.
- **Volunteer Hours:** Each family is expected to offer at least 4 volunteer hours per player during specified events such as the *Duluth 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 GGSC Board of Directors. For current fees, please see website. (<https://www.gitichigummisoccer.com>)
- \$200 payment is required with online registration for ages 10U and up: \$100 payment for 9U teams. Registration is required before participation in team assessment 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.
- 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.
- Transfer fee of \$200 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.

### Refunds:

- \$200 registration fee for 10U and up; \$100 registration fee for 9U teams. This payment is **non-refundable** after the applicable age team assessment date for that player, unless GGSC is unable to place the player on a team.
- No refunds after team announcements; 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.
- Any family entered into payment plan are financially committed to GGSC and are expected to complete these payments once teams have been announced.
- Players that drop from GGSC after teams are announced 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 \$200 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. (15U and below can attend the *Duluth 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.

**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; 9U-12U: size 4. 13U-19U: 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 *Duluth 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 *Duluth 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 adjust 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.

### Code of Conduct Violations:

Players failing to follow the club's code of conduct will be sanctioned accordingly by the Head Coach, Director of Coaching (DOC) or GGSC Board of Directors. Violations could result in suspension or dismissal from the program. Consequences include:

- Verbal warning from the Head Coach
- Reduced playing time, removal from the tournament roster
- Suspension of playing privileges for a determined amount of time
- Dismissal from the club or team

All serious violations will result in a meeting with the club Director of Coaching prior to any disciplinary action being taken. Red cards will be reviewed by the DOC. All suspensions are the responsibility of the player. Continued red card offenses will be considered a serious violation of the player code of conduct.

### **Useful Soccer Links:**

- Gitchi Gummi Soccer Club: [www.gitchigummisoccer.com](http://www.gitchigummisoccer.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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