

**GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER (U15-U19)
RECREATIONAL- TRAVEL LEAGUE
(THE BLACKMORE LEAGUE)**

Blackmore League Coordinator - Ken Hopp, Crystal Lake Soccer Association

In the spirit of the Mission of GLSA, we are very excited to offer the opportunity to High School aged females to play in a recreational league at the high school level (U15-U19). Volunteers will be needed to coach all teams. At this age level teams are formed opposite of the High School District Soccer Schedule season. Girls play recreational soccer in the late summer/fall each year. This coming year teams will begin to form at the end of June-July 2010. Please email Michael Zovistoski with questions, michael@glsa.org.

The teams play in the Northern Illinois High School Recreational Soccer Group (Now called the Blackmore League, named after one of the founding coaches Bill Blackmore). The league consists of local communities that participate in scheduling matches at this level. League matches are scheduled on Sunday's and teams will travel to opposing towns for play. Each team will be scheduled for 4 home and 4 away League matches. All home matches are played at Libertyville Township Soccer Complex on Sunday. The League kicks off the 2010 season with a back-to-school tournament in Woodstock at the end-of August, and end the season the last week of October with a tournament in Elgin under the lights. These are optional to the individual teams.

The League started over nine years ago with four teams in the entire league. This past season the league carried 16 teams (seven from CLSF). The League plans to retain all teams and is looking for any possible growth this coming season.

The teams also have the opportunity to participate in league-sponsored tournaments. These are scheduled and controlled strictly by the league and not any specific club. Some additional costs may be incurred to teams participating. The tournaments are:

- Woodstock Back-to School Tournament (End-of-August)
- Cary Sheppard-Schleisman Tournament (Mid-September)
- Elgin End-of-Season Tournament (Last Week in October)

Our registration occurs each year at the end of April through June. **Please check the GLSA web site for the exact registration dates.** If you miss this deadline, you can still register for the wait list and based on availability will be advised accordingly. There are no try-outs and teams are a combination of all age groups from all local High Schools. Teams will be formed based around the number of players that register.

The League has begun scheduling based on two levels (U16 & U19) when available; however, not all participating communities carry multiple teams. All efforts are made to provide age appropriate competitive matches for all teams. The communities that have regularly participated in our league are: (2009 had sixteen teams competing from these communities)

- Algonquin
- Barrington
- Cary
- Crystal Lake
- Lake Zurich
- Marengo
- Woodstock
- Harvard

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League Rules & Guidelines:

Below are some high-lights for review. We are an all volunteer group and the guidelines are just that, a set of criteria to follow, with our goal of playing soccer for the love of the game.

Player Eligibility:

We follow the standard IWSL age guide lines for girls in high School under the age of nineteen (U-19). Players can not participate that are IWSL travel players. The league is strictly recreational soccer.

Season of Play:

The season runs from August to-October. During this time period tournament are also scheduled for the league. Indoor soccer begins the first week in November, and indoor teams are not held to any specific Blackmore guidelines, yet many coaches continue to coach their teams during this time period, this is usually the norm for most teams.

Match Rules:

The Home teams are responsible for supplying an adult referee, ensuring appropriate field of play markings, goals, flags, etc.

The home team is responsible for uniform color conflicts and must accommodate a change if needed.

The length of the matches will consist of two forty-minute halves and five-to-fifteen minute half-times. (Varies by community/referee)

Unlimited substitution of players is allowed at the normal opportunities, with referee approval. Coaches (as necessary) coordinate with opposing coaches any referee/rules adjustments.

As needed, coaches will adjust level of play should an advantage become lopsided, while it is not a mercy rule enforcement, the goal is to play soccer and not run up a score. Again, coaches should discuss in advance their agreements to handle the situation if needed.