



GLSA Competitive Program Information

Club Overview

The Greater Libertyville Soccer Association is a not-for profit volunteer based organization designed to offer soccer programs to players of various levels of abilities and interests. The GLSA offers a recreational program and a competitive program. In addition, our organization has a cooperative agreement with the Eclipse Select Soccer Club to provide a select program. Our organization has been uniquely able to coordinate three comprehensive soccer experiences, allowing us to meet the needs of players at all levels.

Competitive League - the GLSA Premier is a community based soccer program, which offers opportunities for U8 to High School aged players in a more competitive environment. The GLSA competitive teams play in the Illinois Women's Soccer League and the Young Sportsman Soccer League. Players receive training from professional coaches and travel to compete with other area soccer clubs in season games and tournaments. A greater level of player/parent commitment is required in our Premier program.

Recreational Program - Our recreational program provides opportunities for children ages 4-16 to experience the game of soccer at the house level. The majority of participants in our recreational league are under the age of 11. Our recreational program plays a six game season in spring and an eight game season in fall. This program utilizes volunteer parent coaches who participate in the GLSA's comprehensive coaching education curriculum. Recreational players interested in a higher level of competition often move on to our Competitive League.

Select Program - The Eclipse Select Soccer Club offers opportunities for the most committed and talented players to participate in a highly selective competitive soccer environment. The Eclipse is dedicated to fostering competition at the national level through the training and development of exceptional soccer players. More information about the Eclipse organization can be found on their web site at www.eclipseselect.org. Eclipse has named GLSA as its youth development affiliate for U8-U11 teams in the North.

Competitive Philosophy

"The mission of the Greater Libertyville Soccer Association is to provide and promote a positive soccer experience for every participant appropriate to his or her level of interest and ability." Our goal for the Competitive Program is to provide excellent instruction and coaching, in

addition to focusing on essentials critical to the healthy development of character in its participants. This format is designed to assist players in developing confidence and self-esteem by continuing to improve their skills and abilities. Emphasis is placed on reinforcing values such as honesty, respect, and responsibility by being a member of a cohesive team.

The focus will be on developing skills and techniques that create a foundation for each player to build on as they advance through our program. The emphasis will be on learning, rather than on winning. While it may be fun to win games, it is far more rewarding to learn and become a competent soccer player. Winning will be a result of hard work and dedication during this learning process.

Competitive Staff

The GLSA has contracted with the Eclipse Select Soccer Club to provide coaching services for the Competitive Program. This competitive staff consists of a group of exceptionally qualified and licensed professional soccer coaches. Each coach has extensive experience as both a soccer player and as a coach. This staff is a group of dedicated individuals who are committed to teaching our players the game of soccer.

Coaching Staff Structure

The staff structure the Eclipse has put in place is designed to clarify roles and offer more personalized team training on a consistent basis for GLSA Teams.

Eclipse North Director - oversees the GLSA program

Program Director - Groups, and on occasion by gender, will have a leader who will supervise, direct, and oversee the coaching staff for the group. The Director will be responsible for ensuring that the age appropriate curriculum and goals are being met as well as overall supervision of that aspect of the program.

Primary Coach - Each team will be assigned a Primary Coach who will be responsible for organizing, managing, and implementing administrative and operational aspects of running a team.

Secondary Coach - Other staff coaches shall serve as backup in the event that the Primary Coach cannot attend a practice/game.

Communication

Communication is the key to providing a positive soccer experience for our players, and it is integral to the overall success of our program. The best way to obtain up to date program information is to check the GLSA website at www.glsa.org. Program changes and updates will be posted under the competitive link.

In addition, the GLSA maintains an open door policy and invites feedback through several channels. We ask that you **first** speak with your child's Team Primary Coach. If your issue or concern is not resolved, please contact the age appropriate Program Director and/or North Director in that order. If you feel that your issue still requires resolution, you may contact the GLSA Competitive Board Members by email or by contacting the office at 847 367-1035. Members are welcome to attend monthly GLSA Board meetings, scheduled on the second Tuesday of each month and held at the GLSA office.

Fees

Failure to pay fees on time will result in the player being suspended from play with the GLSA for all practices, games and tournaments. Upon receipt of payment, including any late fees, the player will be reinstated.

Fees cover the following expenses:

- Staff salaries – including the Program Directors, Primary Coaches, Secondary Coaches, Goalkeeper Coach, and the Competitive Administrative Assistant.
- Field Rental – for games and practices at LTSC
- Administrative operating expenses
- Indoor Training – space rental
- Training Equipment costs
- League fees
- Tournament fees

Individual players will be required to cover the cost of their own uniforms and the cost of attending tournaments beyond those covered by the program fees. Please see Tournament section (additional) for more information.

The GLSA runs two large tournaments that help to defray the actual cost for each member. We estimate the funds earned from our tournaments subsidize the cost of soccer for each participant by about \$200. The success of our tournaments is an example of the commitment of our Tournament Director, Tournament Committee and the hundreds of volunteers our program families provide.

The GLSA requires that all outstanding fees be paid in full prior to the child participating in tryouts for the next soccer year.

Financial Policies

Requests to have any late fees waived must be submitted in writing to the GLSA Treasurer prior to payment due date.

The GLSA Treasurer must be notified in writing in the case of financial/family hardships preventing the fulfillment of fee or volunteer commitments. Alternative arrangements will be considered on a case by case basis.

The GLSA Board reserves the right to hold a player's league pass until fees are current preventing them from participation in league or tournament games. The child is considered ineligible for play until the financial issues are resolved.

Fee specific policies

Competitive Registration Late Fee

Failure to attend Competitive Registration on one of the designated dates will result in a \$150.00 late fee. This fee must be remitted in addition to a minimum of the first installment to complete the registration process. The late fee must be paid at the time of registration.

Competitive Installment Late Fee

A \$30 per month late fee will be applied to all accounts that are not paid by the date due. **This fee is cumulative, meaning if the account is two months late, the fee will become \$60 (\$30 for each month).** Any requests for this fee to be waived must be submitted in writing to the GLSA Treasurer.

Tournament Exemption and/or No-Show Fee

The GLSA Tournament Committee together with the GLSA Board reserves the right to suspend a player's pass until outstanding volunteer commitments are fulfilled or no-show fees are remitted. The child will be considered ineligible for play until the account is settled. Volunteer exemption (buy-out) fees must be paid at registration. Any family choosing to opt out after the completion of Competitive Registration process will be expected to pay the NO-SHOW fee of \$150.00. (Per registered child/per tournament)

Financial Scholarships

Individuals requesting financial assistance must complete a Financial Scholarship application and submit it along with the required documentation to the GLSA office with their registration forms prior to or at the GLSA Competitive Registration nights to be held on June 17-18, 2009. Funds are limited and will be awarded based on financial need. Failure to submit the completed application on time may result in the denial of the request. All requests will be kept confidential and assistance decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. Scholarships are available only

for GLSA Competitive Fees and do not include any additional expenses such as uniforms, additional tournaments, and indoor league fees.

The GLSA Board will review all requests for players **new** to the GLSA program and respond in writing to the parent or guardian by June 26, 2009.

Games

The league generally schedule games for boys on Saturdays and games for girls on Sundays. However, due to coaches' schedules and other factors, games may also be played on other days.

GLSA Goalkeeper Program

GLSA continues the Goalkeeper initiative that began in 2005. Specialized training will be offered to those interested in and dedicated to this position. At the U11 age level and above, children who are interested in playing goalkeeper have the opportunity to tryout for Goalkeeper positions on teams.

U8/U9 - Coaches will ask that all players try the goalkeeper position at least once and then allow those that have an interest in the position to continue rotating through the position throughout the remainder of the year.

U10 - Coaches look for no more than four goalkeepers to participate in a rotation of the position to give them an opportunity to learn more about the position.

U11-above - Through the tryout process, typically two goalkeepers will be selected per team to allow them the opportunity to play approximately 50% of the season's match time in the goalkeeper role.

(Staff reserves the right to place more or less goalkeepers on teams)

Goalkeeper Field Playing Time

Goalkeepers at U8-U10 will be given a fair amount of field playing time in the half when they are not in goal. U11 and above will be given playing time based upon their ability to compete on the field.

Goalkeeper Training Expectations

U11 and above players must tryout for the Goalkeeper Position

Goalkeepers (U10-HS) will be asked to train once a week in a separate goalkeeper specific training session with a goalkeeper coach. Goalkeepers are expected to attend one team session and one goalkeeper session each week. If the goalkeepers wish to attend the additional team training, they may. Goalkeeper training sessions are usually scheduled to allow players to attend both Team Training Sessions and the Goalkeeper training if the player desires.

Guest Player Policy

Please be advised that guest play and training with other club teams is prohibited. The Greater Libertyville Soccer Association participates in leagues that are members of the IYSA (Illinois Youth Soccer Association) and by doing so must abide by the rules.

Illinois Youth Soccer Association's Policies and Procedures as posted on their web site state under DEFINITIONS states:

- (16) "Tryout" – a soccer tryout in which a player tries out for a roster spot with a club/team for the current soccer year. A player registered with an Illinois Youth Soccer Association/US Youth Soccer team must obtain written permission from his/her registered club team coach granting permission for the player to participate in any soccer activity including but not limited to tryouts, practices, **indoor league play or any other soccer related** event before participating in the activity with another IYSA/USYS club. Failure to obtain written permission from the player's currently registered team coach can result in the player being denied transfer to the club/team with which the player participated without permission.

Guest Player/Participation within GLSA - on occasion a Program Director and/or Primary Coach may invite a player from another GLSA team to play as a guest for a GLSA team other than his/her own in a tournament in which the player's team is not a participant or in a league game.

Guest Player/Participation outside of GLSA – Players will **not** be allowed to participate as a guest player in a program not affiliated with GLSA. Signing the roster indicates that a player is committed to the GLSA program for that soccer year, which is August 1– July 31. This includes indoor play during the winter – players signed with GLSA may not play on non-GLSA teams in indoor leagues or tournaments.

Home Fields

Home games are played at the Libertyville Township Soccer Complex, which offers some of the best playing fields in the Midwest. Daily field schedules can be found at www.ltscnet.org

Indoor Soccer Leagues

Team/Player participation in an indoor winter soccer league (games) is OPTIONAL. Decisions to participate in an indoor league are left up to each team and each individual player. Professional staff will coach indoor games for those teams electing to participate. If a team chooses to participate, GLSA will offer guidance on the registration process, including placement requests within the indoor league. The deadline to register for leagues will be posted early September.

Indoor Training

The Libertyville Sports Complex and local gyms will be used for the indoor sessions. Due to space constraints, a team's training nights for the indoor season may differ from their outdoor nights.

The indoor training season for U8 – U14 will be scheduled to begin in January and run in tandem with the indoor league season. The Professional Staff will conduct the training sessions. U8-U14 will train two sessions per week during this season.

All HS teams will train during indoor training sessions as determined by the Coaching Staff during the winter months and may begin earlier than the younger age levels. All players are required to attend their team's indoor training sessions.

Outdoor Leagues

The GLSA girls' teams will play in the Illinois Women's Soccer League (IWSL) www.iwsl.com. The GLSA boys will play in the Young Sportsman's Soccer League (YSSL) www.yssl.org. All U8 – U14 teams will participate in two outdoor seasons, fall and spring.

Outdoor Training

All players are required to attend a minimum of two team-training sessions each week during the fall and spring seasons. Each team's training schedule will be established by the Primary Coach. The majority of training sessions will take place at the Libertyville Township Soccer Complex. Inclement weather affecting closure of the LTSC complex will be posted on the GLSA web site. Coaches will make individual decisions to move practice to alternate locations.

Communication regarding practice will likely come through your Team Administrator once they receive the information from the teams coach.

Generally GLSA attempts to have practice for Boys on Monday and Wednesday and for Girls on Tuesday and Thursday. Due to outdoor space, indoor space and the scheduling of the club as a whole, occasionally a team may train on different nights. This is most likely to occur at the HS level.

Practice for the fall season will begin in August. If a team will be participating in a tournament over the Labor Day holiday weekend, practice will begin roughly two weeks prior.

Practice for the spring generally begins the Monday after District 70/128's spring break. Specifics will be communicated to you by your coach through the Team Administrator prior to that time.

Practice is generally not conducted during the GLSA club tryout nights. Children who are not trying out for the next year should not attend.

Parent Volunteers

Volunteer involvement will always remain an integral component of our philosophy and allows us to offer outstanding programs at a very reasonable value. In addition, parent volunteers play a vital role in the GLSA's continued ability to manage and maintain smooth running soccer operations.

Each family participating in the U8-U14 age group is responsible for fulfilling two 4-hour tournament volunteer commitments per year for each player in the program. High school participants/parents are responsible for fulfilling a 4-hour obligation during their season of play. This commitment is completed by working during each of the GLSA's sponsored tournaments, *regardless of team participation in those tournaments*. Volunteers are essential in successfully hosting our home tournaments. Revenue generated from these tournaments helps to offset program costs.

Failure to fulfill a volunteer commitment may result in an interruption of your child's (children's) participation in tournament or league play.

If you are unable to volunteer, you may opt to pay the volunteer exemption fee. This fee is \$100.00 for a one tournament exemption, and \$200.00 for a two-tournament exemption. Please keep in mind these exemptions are per player. All exemption fees must be paid in full at registration. **Volunteers not able to fulfill their commitment after registration has taken place will be assessed a no-show fee of \$150.00 per season/per player.**

Parent, Player, and Coach Conduct

The Greater Libertyville Soccer Association takes great pride in the quality of its players, facilities and broad community involvement. Youth sports programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social, and emotional development of children. Therefore, it is essential for parents, coaches, spectators, and officials to encourage youth athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. Furthermore, parents, coaches, spectators, and officials involved in youth sports events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect, and self-control.

In order to ensure that the principles of sportsmanship, fair play, and mutual respect among players, coaches, officials, and spectators characterize all competition sponsored by our organization, GLSA has established parent and player Codes of Conduct. It is the obligation of all program administrators, coaches, parents, and players to create an environment that promotes this objective. Those who willfully violate these codes jeopardize their participation in the GLSA Competitive Soccer Program.

GLSA reserves the right to release a player per the IYSA rule 006 pertaining to the involuntary release of players from a club. For further information on Rule 006 please see www.iysa.org

Playing Time Guidelines

At the U8-U10 level, the GLSA's recommended guideline for playing time is a minimum of 50% *over the course of the season*. At U11, the guideline is a minimum playing time of 30% *over the course of the season*. Playing time at U12 and beyond is at the discretion of the professional staff, and will depend on the commitment and ability of the individual player.

Referees

GLSA encourages children age 12 and up to consider becoming a referee. Clinics are offered in August and March to those interested in participating. Youth referees are paid to officiate games. More information about becoming a referee can be found on the GLSA web site by clicking on the Referee link.

Refund Policy

Refunds will only be issued for relocation or medical circumstances, whereas the GLSA has the right to request a physician's note. Approved refunds will only be issued for the seasons (fall, winter, or spring) in which a player did not participate. Requests must be made to the GLSA office in writing, via email or mail by the end of the current season.

Any requests by a player to be released from The Greater Libertyville Soccer Association will be honored only following full payment of all program fees and any other outstanding fees. The GLSA follows this policy in accordance with the rules established by the Illinois Youth Soccer Association.

Optional Indoor league fees are not refundable for **any** reason once calculated and paid.

Registration

Attending registration for the competitive program is ***mandatory***. A registration schedule will be posted on the GLSA website. Registration and volunteer forms must be completely filled out and submitted at registration, along with payment. New players *must* provide proof of age (copy of birth certificate). *Roster spots will not be held for children who have not registered by the conclusion of Competitive Registration dates as listed on the web site.*

If your child is trying out for the Competitive Program, DO NOT register for the GLSA's recreational league. Any player who attends tryouts, but is not placed on a competitive team will be guaranteed placement on a recreational team.

Soccer Academy and Summer Camps

The GLSA Soccer Academy offers a variety of clinics designed to offer additional training in specific areas of interest to compliment the program. More details and registration forms for these programs can be found on the GLSA website at www.glsa.org.

Team Administrators

Each competitive team has one Team Administrator. This assignment fulfills a multi-child volunteer commitment. The Team Administrator is responsible for all team communication and assisting the Primary Coach in organizing and managing administrative aspects of the team. In addition, this position serves as the primary liaison between the team and the GLSA administrative office. More specific information on this role is available on our web site. If you are interested in being a team administrator, please indicate this on your Volunteer Commitment Form.

Team Selection

Players

The Professional Coaching Staff will place players on the appropriate teams. On occasion there are circumstances in which a player may be placed on a team in a higher age group.

1. Inability to form a team due roster size requirements

In the event GLSA is unable to form a team due to a disproportionate number of players in an age group, the Program Director in consultation with the Primary Coach, may offer roster spots at the older age group to the affected players, if those spots are available, and if placement is appropriate.

2. Grade appropriate placement

In most cases, players will be placed in an age group according to *grade in school* even if the placement results in playing in a higher age group.

Team placement will be determined by the Professional Coaching Staff. Player assessment will be dependent on a variety of factors including, but not limited to, skill, age-appropriate knowledge and understanding of the game, and athleticism. Emphasis will be placed more on player's performance in practices and games throughout the season. Players who are new to the competitive program will be evaluated on their performance during the tryout period.

Team placement is a sensitive process. The professional staff attempts to create a balance, and provide the placement that will most positively benefit both the individual player and the age group as a whole. While our program strives to meet the needs of all of our participants, we realize that certain roster placements may result in disappointment for a player or parent. Please keep in mind that an individual decision to leave the program after roster formation is complete will have a negative impact on the individual team, and the balance of the entire age level. We ask that you take this into consideration *prior* to the tryout/placement process.

Competitive Program Placement Policy

The GLSA strives to offer the community a “no-cut” program for competitive soccer. In the event that the number of children interested in the program exceeds what we can accommodate, and only in that event, the following parameters will be followed:

1. Currently Registered Competitive players and currently Registered Eclipse players who played for GLSA immediately prior to playing for Eclipse, regardless of their place of residence.
2. Currently Registered Recreational players and currently Registered Eclipse players who did not previously play for GLSA or who played for another club between leaving GLSA and playing for Eclipse, regardless of their place of residence.
3. New players that reside within the boundaries of High School District 128 consisting of Libertyville, Vernon Hills, Green Oaks, and Mettawa.
4. Siblings of current members or children of staff.
5. All other interested players.

Tournaments

The registration fee includes the expense of entry for 3 tournaments for U8 – U14, 2 for High School Girls and 1 for High School boys. Every U8-U14 team will participate in the GLSA’s Libertyville Cup Tournament in the spring. In addition, the Primary Coach, in consultation with the director of coaching will select two additional appropriate tournaments during the course of the year. One of these tournaments may include the GLSA’s Octoberfest Tournament.

GLSA Home Tournaments:

Octoberfest Tournament - Columbus Day Weekend. An area Fall Classic! The GLSA’s smaller, invitational tournament, drawing a more selective group of teams from Illinois and the Midwest.

Libertyville Cup Tournament - Memorial Day Weekend. Presently the largest single site tournament in the Midwest with over 400 teams from the Chicago area, and surrounding states, enjoying the festival atmosphere. All GLSA teams will participate.

Additional Tournament Participation

Upon the recommendation of the Team Primary Coach, teams may attend more than those included in the Program Fees. Eclipse Staff travel and accommodation costs for additional tournaments will be paid by the players attending the tournament. This fee will be billed prior to the tournament. All tournament fees must be paid by due date or players will not be allowed to attend.

Because these additional tournaments will result in increased costs for the GLSA players/parents, at least 2/3's of the team must agree to any additional tournaments. No more than a total of six total tournaments will be scheduled for any team during the soccer year.

Tryouts

The Illinois Youth Soccer Association mandates that all soccer organizations hold open tryouts once a year for all players (new and current). GLSA will hold tryouts for the upcoming competitive soccer season (fall, winter, and spring) in accordance with the state association rules.

GLSA begins its competitive program at the U8 age level. The U8 division is comprised of children who will be in 2nd grade during the upcoming school year. Tryouts will be held at the Libertyville Soccer Complex. Specific dates are posted on the GLSA website, at www.glsa.org

Results of the tryout placements will be posted on our web site by tryout number.

Pre-registration Deposit

Current and new players are required to submit a \$150 pre-registration deposit prior to tryouts. This deposit will apply to the fees due at registration.

This deposit is not refundable except for these specific reasons:

- a player opts out from the team selection process no later than the conclusion of the second session of tryouts for their age group.
- a player elects to play for the GLSA's affiliate, Eclipse Select Soccer Club.
- a player is not placed on a team.

Uniforms

Parents are responsible for purchasing the required uniform. Uniforms may be ordered at registration. After registration, they may be ordered through the Uniform Coordinators for each age group.

Uniform Coordinators

Uniform coordinators are responsible for collecting orders for a number of teams, receiving the merchandise, delivering the merchandise to the players and assisting in resolving problems between the player and the supplier. This commitment satisfies a single child volunteer commitment for the soccer year.