



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. Our organization has been uniquely able to coordinate three comprehensive soccer experiences, allowing us to meet the needs of players at all levels.

Recreational Program – Our recreational program provides opportunities for children ages 4 – 18 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 an eight game season in the fall and a six game season in the spring. 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 Program.

Competitive Program - 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. The GLSA now also offers an under-23 College Developmental Program during the summer months which will help enhance our total player development for the club.

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 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. The staff credentials include: 2 USSF A Licenses, 1 Brazilian A License, 2 USSF B licenses, 3 USSF C licenses, and 4 coaches with 15+ years college coaching experience. Overall 150+ years of youth soccer experience.

Coaching Staff Structure

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

Director of Coaching - The Director of Coaching Position is a Senior Position with Operational and Technical Responsibilities. Operationally, the DOC position is responsible for all Coaching Staff, coordinating schedules to optimize training and games within the club, the player evaluation, movement and tryout process and developing and promoting club programs. On the Technical side, the DOC handles Staff and Coach Education and is ultimately responsible for curriculum development, and the development of club players and teams.

Program Director - The Program Director Position is a Mid Level Position who report directly to the Director of Coaching. There are three Program Directors within GLSA - Youth (u8-u11), Juniors (u12-u14), and Seniors (u15-u18). The duties include curriculum development within their age groups as well as being sure the curriculum is followed by Staff coaches for optimal player development. In addition, they are responsible for overseeing player evaluations, skills testing, player movement, coverage of trainings, games, and meetings with their respective age groups.

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

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 Staff Coach. If your issue or concern is not resolved, please contact the age appropriate Program Director and/or Director of Coaching in

that order. If you feel that your issue still requires resolution, you may contact the GLSA Competitive Board Member or Executive Director 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 Executive Director, Director of Coaching, Program Directors, Staff Coaches, Goalkeeper Trainer, 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
- Referee 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 14 – 15, 2010. 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 25, 2010.

Games

Games for Girls are generally on Sundays. Games for Boys are most often on Saturdays but depending on the league may be on other days as well.

Games for the GLSA Recreational Program are at LTSC and are generally played on the weekends.

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 - At this age, the coaching staff will look to transition players interested in the goalkeeper position so they gain more experience in and knowledge of this crucial role on the team.

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 (U11-HS) will be required to train once a week in a separate goalkeeper specific training session with a goalkeeper trainer. 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.

Goalkeeper training will also be offered to those U9 and U10 players who are interested in the position.

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 Staff 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 competitive club program not affiliated with GLSA. Effective August 1, 2010, this also includes the Eclipse Select Soccer Club. 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 club 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, with recommendations from the coaching staff. Professional staff will coach indoor games for those teams electing to participate, although teams may not have their assigned staff coach for these games. If a team chooses to participate, GLSA will offer guidance on the registration process, including decisions regarding which league to participate in and placement requests within the chosen indoor league. Information on indoor leagues will be provided in early September. All

fees associated with indoor league participation (league registration, coach's pay, etc.) are above and beyond the GLSA registration fees. Only players registered on an indoor team will be allowed to participate on any indoor team – no guest playing by players who are not registered specifically on an indoor team.

Indoor Training

The Libertyville Sports Complex 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. See Program Details for age and team specific details on indoor training requirements. All players are required to attend their team's indoor training sessions, even if they are not plying in an indoor league.

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. HS Girls play league games only in the fall; HS Boys play league games only in the spring.

Outdoor Training

All players are required to attend a minimum of two team-training sessions each week during the fall and spring seasons. See Program Details for age and team specific details on outdoor training requirements. Each team's training schedule will be established by coaching staff. Scheduled 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 team's coach.

Generally GLSA attempts to have U8-U14 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. Please note that the HS teams do not follow the same Monday/Wednesday ~ Tuesday/Thursday training schedule as U8-U14, so plan accordingly. Training schedules are announced in early August.

Practice for the fall season will begin in early to mid August with a week-long (4 team sessions) preseason training program.

Practice for the spring season generally begins the Monday after District 70/128's spring break.

Practice is generally not conducted during the GLSA club tryout nights, except for current U14 and HS players. U8 – U13 children who are not trying out for the next year should not attend tryouts.

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.

The 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-U11 level, the GLSA's recommended guideline for playing time is a minimum of 50% *over the course of the season*. Playing time at U12 and beyond is at the discretion of the professional staff. Playing time at all ages will depend on the commitment and ability of the individual player. Mitigating factors include attendance at training, and the attitude and work ethic of the player in training and games.

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 programs 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 Staff Coach in organizing and managing administrative aspects of the team. For more specific information on this role, please contact Gina Wessel in the GLSA office. If you are interested in being a team administrator, please indicate this on your Volunteer Commitment Form.

Team Selection

Players

The GLSA 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 to 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 Staff Coach, may offer roster spots at an 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. This decision is typically left up to the player's family.

Team placement will be determined by the GLSA 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. For returning GLSA Competitive players, more emphasis will be placed on the player's performance in practices and games throughout the previous season than on the tryout itself. 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 Membership 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, 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 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.

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.

Tournaments

All GLSA teams participate in tournaments throughout the soccer year (August – July), including our two home tournaments. See Program Details for age and team specific details regarding tournament participation.

GLSA Home Tournaments:

Octoberfest Tournament - Columbus Day Weekend. An area Fall Classic! The GLSA’s smaller, invitational tournament, which draws a more selective group of teams from Illinois and the Midwest. Generally all GLSA teams will participate, although the coaching staff reserves the right to replace Octoberfest with another local tournament if they feel it is in the best interest of the team.

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 Staff Coach, teams may attend more than those included in the Program Fees. GLSA Coaching 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.

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 website 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 unless a player opts out from the team selection process no later than the conclusion of the second session of tryouts for their age group.

Uniforms

Parents are responsible for purchasing the required uniform. Uniforms may be ordered at registration. After registration, they may be ordered through Gina Wessel in the GLSA office.