

Grasshopper Football Club
General Policies
Season 2011-12
Updated 8/16/11



Teams Program Tryout Policy

- All current GFC players who seek a spot in the teams program for the next soccer year are required to attend the June tryout.
- For current GFC players, the tryout evaluation is of secondary importance to the overall historical evaluation of the player.
- Commitment offers will likely be given to some number of players prior to the tryout date.
- All tryout attendees will receive notice of their offer status within one week of the tryout date.
- For the u9-u12 teams programs, offers are for inclusion in the overall teams program, not for a specific team. At these age groups training group composition and match rosters will change throughout the soccer year to provide a balanced and varied experience for all players.
- For the u13 age group and older, offers are for inclusion in a specific team. Players in these age groups may be moved between teams subject to player's approval.
- Coaching assignments are not firm, and are subject to change. Players and parents should anticipate a team coaching model, providing exposure of players to multiple coaches.

Team Commitment Requirement:

- Full year commitment from the club is extended to the players – players will not be cut during the soccer year. In return, a full year commitment is required of the players as well. This includes a comprehensive fall, winter and spring program. Opting out of any aspect of the base program is not permitted; this includes the winter program. (u11-u15 team only)
- Players should target a minimum of 90% attendance level in the base program, and 100% attendance level for all league matches. We realize that there are at times irreconcilable conflicts that arise. Therefore, the importance of attending whenever possible is stressed.
- Attendance records are kept for all team programs. Reasons/excuses must be provided for all absences. Participation levels will be considered in roster composition, and playing time.
- Players must arrive before all matches in time to participate in pre-match preparation activities. The arrival time will be determined by the coach, but expect an arrival time of 30min-1hr before kick-off time, depending on match circumstances.
- The required commitment includes participation in Labor Day and Memorial Day tournaments. Participation in tournaments over Columbus Day weekend and at various times during the winter, although not required, is also strongly encouraged. (u11-u15 team only)
- In addition to the base program, there will be optional activities. All players are encouraged to attend these activities in order to maximize their development potential.

One-Team Concept:

Players in the team programs (all ages) are encouraged to commit to this soccer program ONLY in order to maximize the potential of the program in a variety of ways.

- Confident and efficient learning takes place in an environment where rules are consistent and information is presented in a controlled and coordinated way.
- Physical readiness and energy levels are maintained better in a regimen that does not include high intensity activity 7 days per week (e.g., a Sat match compromises Sun match readiness and performance).
- Motivation is in the end the key to any program. Well rested, committed, confident, eager players will train better, perform better on the field, and enjoy the game more.
- Players should be able to participate in additional optional training activities (additional team training, goalkeeper training, speed & agility training, etc.), but cannot if they are over-scheduled.



- Participating fully in a GFC team program requires a high level of commitment and dedication which may make dual-rostering difficult. A player's primary commitment must be to the GFC program.

One-Team Rule:

GFC encourages/enforces the One-Team Concept according to the following rules by age group.

- U9u10 Teams: Following the GFC One-Team Concept is ADVISABLE for player & team development reasons. Player selection is not contingent upon one-team participation.
- U11u12 Teams: Following the GFC One-Team Concept is STRONGLY ADVISABLE for player & team development reasons. Player selection may be contingent upon one-team participation.
- U13 and Older Teams: Following the GFC One-Team Concept is REQUIRED. Player selection is contingent upon one-team participation.
- MYSA Rule: Players 14 year of age and older are not permitted to dual roster.

Rosters:

- Players/parents should expect roster composition to change over the course of the year.
- GFC will combine players both in leveled teams (equal strength), and in graded teams (grouped by current performance level) during different phases of the year.
- Commitment to the GFC development path (attendance and participation levels, adherence to the "one team" rule, etc.) will be considered in roster composition, and playing time.
- Advanced players will be provided opportunities to train and play in matches with older age groups.

Player Promotion (Playing Up):

- GFC is committed to making a concerted effort among the various teams to make sure that our top players have promotion opportunities with the older age groups in order to further challenge them. We are eager to provide both training and match opportunities for players outside of their official age group who are ready for this type of experience.
- We are also committed to making sure that our top players continue to contribute to, and have leadership opportunities with, their official age group. We want to guard against the permanent removal of advanced players from their official age group.

Playing Time:

- u7-u10 – In GFC Academy programs, all players are provided equal playing time.
- u9-u12 Teams – In 6v6 and 8v8 team programs, all players are provided a minimum of 50% playing time over the course of the season. Positional rotations (see Playing Positions below) and roster size may affect the coach's ability to provide 50% playing time in every match.
- u13 and Older Teams – In 11v11 team programs, playing time will be provided for all players, but player performance, and tactical considerations will also be taken into account.

Playing Positions:

- u7-u10 – In the GFC Academy program's small-sided games (2v2 without Gk, 3v3 without Gk), players do not play in fixed positions. Insight into 2-player and 3-player shape is given, but players are allowed to interchange freely.
- u9-u12 Teams – In 6v6 and 8v8 team program matches, all players are required to spend significant time over the course of each soccer year playing in all areas of the field (back, midfield, and up front). Players interested in playing in the goal are given regular opportunities to do so, but are not permitted to become full-time goalkeepers.
- u13 and Older Teams – In 11v11 team program matches, coaches and players are permitted to begin the process of finding positions that best fit each player's skill set and preferences.

Parent/Supporter Sideline Conduct:

- Vocal support from our parents and other supporters is welcomed and encouraged.
- Coaching from parents/supporters is NOT permitted. This includes coaching of one's own child. Coaching is defined as tell a player what to do (e.g., "pass it," "shoot," "get the ball," etc.).



- Supporters must allow the players to hear only one voice giving instruction, that of the coach. They must allow the team to focus only on the topics of the day. Supporters must also help to minimize a sense of panic on the field.
- Supporters must also be careful with positive and negative feedback to the players (e.g., “nice,” or “don’t do that.”) One might say “nice” when a player kicks the ball out of bounds when they could have just passed back to the Gk. And one might say “don’t do that” when a player makes a great decision to pass back to the Gk. In both examples, the comments, although surely meant to help, are actually detrimental.
- Two common problem areas with supporter coaching to guard against: 1) Cries of “get the ball, get it, get it” are counter to the habits of good defenders whose priority is containment over winning the ball. 2) Cheers for aimless kicks forward support the complete opposite of controlled, deliberate, thoughtful, purposeful, multi-directional soccer.
- Supporter must not engage in negative or abusive verbal exchanges with the opposing players, opposing supporters, referees, etc. Any problems at a match should be addressed after the match and in a formal way by the club only.
- Supporters must treat the facilities and facilities employees with respect. We must abide by all facilities rules, and always remove our belongings and trash.

Parent Communication with Coaches:

- Email communication with coaches should be limited.
- Face-to-face meetings are required for discussion of any issues.
- Meetings are by appointment only. Appointment request made within 24 hours of a match will not be accepted – wait 24 hours before requesting an appointment.
- Coaches should not be approached on match days.

Cancellation/Postponement due to Weather:

- Advanced Cancellation/Postponement will take place only in the event of field closure.
- Email Notification will be provided in the event of advanced cancellation/postponement.
- Field Closure situations apply mainly to Natural Grass Facilities, as Artificial Turf Facilities are typically not closed due to rain.
- Cancellation/Postponement due to severe weather (e.g., lightning) will generally take place at the scheduled start time for the session in question.
- Advanced Notice of cancellation/postponement due to severe weather will not typically be provided.

Payment of Fees:

- For all GFC “sign-up” programs (Academy, Speed/Agility, Gk/Striker Training, etc.), players are not considered registered until payment has been received.
- Team Fees for 2011-12 soccer year
 - u9u10 Teams: \$350 per season
 - u11+ Teams: \$450 per season
- Fee for GFC team programs are due July 1, October 1, and February 1 for the each of the respective upcoming seasons.

Returned Checks & Late Payment:

- Returned Checks will result in a \$25 penalty, plus any associated bank fees.
- Late Payment of team fees over 14 days will result in a \$25 penalty.
- Players may be held out of match play where team fees have not been paid for the current season.

Sibling Discounts for Teams Players:

- First sibling pays full amount. Other siblings receive \$100 discount per season.
- Discount policy applies only to GFC Team programs (NOT to academy, clinics, etc.)
- Discount policy does NOT apply to u9u10 Winter Teams programs.
- Discount policy does NOT apply to equipment, uniforms, etc.



Refunds:

- Refunds will NOT be given for withdrawal from programs. This includes program registration fees and equipment fees.
- Equipment fees will only be refunded for equipment that has not been delivered/used, AND for equipment that can be re-issued. Equipment with embroidered names, for example, even if new/unused, cannot be re-issued.
- Refunds of program fees will be considered in situations such of illness/injury, family relocation, etc.
- In the case of pre-payment of registration fees, refunds will be given for future seasons pre-paid, provided that notice is given prior to the fees due date for the season in question.

Acknowledgement of BOTH Parents/Guardians:

We, the parents/guardians of _____ have read and understand the GFC General Policies above.

Parent/Guardian Names

Parent Signatures

Date

Please return this signed acknowledgement page ONLY.

Return this acknowledgement page to your head coach, or mail to the GFC soccer office at 8 Oak Street, Winchester, MA 01890.

Questions:

Call or email the GFC directors...

- Tom Mitch, (781) 729-0752, tmitch@grasshopper-fc.com
- Michael Eidmann, (781) 729-7052, meidmann@grasshopper-fc.com