

GOALGETTERS UNITED
SOCCKER CLUB

“Select”
Competitive Team
POLICY HANDBOOK

Revised August, 2013

Congratulations! You have been selected to play for **Goalgetters United Soccer Club of Manitowoc County (GGUSC)**. You are now a member of one of the many Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) competitive teams we field between the ages of 9 and 19. We are all excited and proud to have you as part of the Goalgetters family.

This handbook contains information for you and your parent(s)/guardian(s). It is very important that all of you read and understand its contents. Your understanding and acceptance of this information will ensure a smooth and enjoyable season with the club.

GOALS

The goals of GGUSC include:

1. Promote and develop skilled soccer players for competition in the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Associations East Central District League and area high school soccer programs.
2. Emphasize skill development, teamwork, leadership, personal growth and sportsmanship.
3. Develop and promote the educational advancement of our coaches.
4. Develop and promote communication with coaches, parents, players and the media.

STATE MEMBERSHIP:

WYSA SOCCER SEASON – EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT

1. The Official WYSA soccer year runs from August 1 – July 31, and consists of two seasons.
2. *If available*, the Fall Season (September and October) is open to U11 - U14 Coed and Girls, and High School Girls, and consists of 6-8 games.

3. The Spring Season (late April – end of June) is open to U11 – U19 Coed and Girls, and consists of 9-10 games. Typically, games are divided half home, half away (Appleton, Fond du Lac, Green Bay, Menasha, Kiel etc...).

4. The Spring Season for High School Girls (U15 – U19) consists of 6-8 games from late June through July (due to the girls spring WIAA soccer rules).

5. All players are registered with the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association and are issued an official State player pass required for participation in games/tournaments.

GGUSC TEAMS

1. Each team will have a WYSA licensed head coach, (assistant – optional).

2. Each team must establish a Team Manager who will coordinate communications of fundraising, volunteer work, team information, etc to all other parents.

3. U11 and U12 teams may roster 9-14 players.

U13-U15 teams may roster 12-20 players.

U16-U19 teams may roster 12-20 players.

Registration is on a first come, first served basis. Sign up early!

Note:

U13-U19 have 11 players on the field at one time, and are limited to 18 players on the sideline. If more than 18 players are available for a game, a rotation will be implemented by the coach.

4. The club will supply the uniform jersey (*at a \$25 cost per player*), plain black soccer socks, practice equipment, and facilities. Players must provide their own plain black shorts, soccer ball, soccer cleats & shin guards.

5. Home games will be played at Goalgetters Soccer Park, 19th and Viebahn; alternate location in Manitowoc available based on game scheduling.

GGUSC COACHES

All coaches are required to be certified to a minimum “E” level license with the United States Soccer Federation. This certification provides assurance of quality, representing the latest youth soccer coaching methodologies.

All coaches are required to be registered with the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association on a biennial basis. WYSA conducts background checks of coaches in accordance with its KIDSAFE Risk Management Program.

GGUSC coaches must achieve the appropriate license level for the particular age group they are coaching for the WYSA competitive soccer league. GGUSC will reimburse GGUSC competitive coaches for 75% the course fee taken in order to be at the proper license level for their prospective age group.

TOURNAMENTS

Tournament participation is encouraged and left up to each individual coach and team.

Tournament fees are the responsibility of the participating team. Teams in the past have organized fundraising event, or divided the costs between players, in order to defray costs.

INSURANCE

As a member club in WYSA, all GGUSC players are covered by a secondary insurance policy for injuries sustained in any adult-supervised Goalgetters United Soccer Club related soccer activities, including practice, scrimmages, and games.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PLAYERS

1. At all times players must respect coaches, teammates, opponents, referees, parents, and equipment. It is the Club's desire to develop you as a skilled player who performs with integrity. Respect for others is a key ingredient.
2. Players must exhibit a good attitude, listen, try hard and be prepared. When everyone is cooperating it is enjoyable for the whole team.
3. Players must attend practices and games – Please let the coach know if you will not be there. Coaches need to prepare practice sessions and game lineups – it makes their job much easier when they know who, and how many, to prepare for.
4. Players are expected to be on time for practice, and arrive at games at least ½ hour before the scheduled game time (earlier at the discretion of the coach).
5. Foul language and disrespectful or dangerous behavior will not be tolerated.
6. Display good sportsmanship while on the field of play toward teammates, opponents and referees. Remember that you are now a representative of GGUSC and your community when you are on the field. During the heat of a game, it is best to keep your focus on playing to the best of your ability.
7. Each player will be expected to comply with the above expectations.

Anyone who willfully performs any act that is detrimental to others, the club or themselves shall be subject to discipline. Suspension or expulsion from the club will be determined by the Board.

DISCIPLINE: Will mean any form of corrective action deemed necessary to correct the problem. The player will be told what needs to be corrected and a time frame in which to accomplish it. If the player makes no attempt to correct the problem he/she may be suspended or expelled from the program depending on the severity of the problem.

SUSPENSION: Will mean a suspension from participation in team activity for a specific time period. A suspension is usually a last chance result of previous discipline attempts.

EXPULSION: Will mean the player will be denied the privilege to any further participation in GGUSC. No refunds will be given in the case of an expulsion.

****Prior to the implementation of any of the above disciplines, a conference will be held with the athlete and parent to ensure the players understanding of any problem****

The following acts shall constitute sufficient cause for implementing disciplinary actions (these are only examples; this is not an inclusive list).....

- Disruptive or unsportsmanlike-like conduct
- Disobedience or display of bad attitude towards coach or referee
- ***No payment. No Pay – No play.***
- Physical or Verbal intimidation of any individual
- Physical damage to equipment or a facility
- Use of a player pass by anyone other than the individual on the pass
- Possession or use of illegal drugs or alcohol
- Possession of fireworks or any object which would be harmful to others.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARENTS

We appreciate your allowing your child to participate in GGUSC and it is our desire to make this a very satisfying experience for both you and your child. We know you have made a commitment financially and of your time – we appreciate your support.

The Club asks you, as a parent, to help your child be at practices and games on time. It really makes a difference in how he/she progresses and feels part of the team.

Your behavior on the sideline is important as a role model for your child. Please let it be your habit to be encouraging and not critical during games. The coaches should be the only ones giving direction to the players on the field during the game. It makes for a much more productive experience for the player and the entire team. Additionally, players may become confused--should they listen to their parents, or the coach during the game? It should be the coach.

Then there is always the subject of “referees.” ***Please do not interact with or hassle the referees.*** WSYA requires all referees complete an initial 17 hour course, and pass a written test before officiating. These referees are subject to annual re-testing and re-certification; additionally, they are mentored and assessed to continually progress in their roles. Remember, many of the referees are high school students, and trying to do their job. Their angle of view of the game is often different than that of the parents; respect for the decisions of the referees is requested.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to speak with the coach. If you find yourself upset about something, we ask that you wait a **minimum of 24 hours**, or until the next practice to approach the coach and ask when the two of you can talk ***away from the players***. This way you have had ample time to think about your issue without emotion getting in the way.

We would like to close by relaying how appreciative we are of your volunteer time within the club. We could not exist without it! Enjoy the season.

WEBSITES

www.goalgetters.org Website for GGUSC

www.ecdsoccer.org Website for the WYSA East Central District League
Official site for: team schedules, team records, field maps and directions,
tournament listings, etc.

www.wiyouthsoccer.org Website for Wisconsin competitive soccer information
Also includes age charts to determine the “U-age” of players.

GGUSC REGISTRATION INFORMATION & REQUIREMENTS

Registration is completed *online* through the club website:
www.goalgetters.org

1. Player Fee: \$165/player

(Multiple siblings: \$50 discount for the third child & beyond)

2. Fee Schedule:

U11-U19 Coed: \$165

U11-U14 Girls: \$165

U15-U19 Girls: \$110

3. Each Family is required to donate a minimum of 5 hours of volunteer time to the club during the spring season. **GGUSC IS RUN SOLELY BY VOLUNTEERS.** The following page details a model of various leadership positions within the club. Please give considerable thought to volunteering in these areas – the future of the club depends on active members.

4. For those families who are not available to volunteer, a \$35 buy-out option is required.

5. Online registration requires either credit card or check for payment. Checks should be made payable to "*Goalgetters United Soccer Club*"

6. Checks and medical waivers should be mailed to:

Goalgetters United Soccer Club
PO Box 1542
Manitowoc, WI 54221-1542

7. Please do not mail cash. Contact the Registrar to arrange payment.

8. Refunds

It is believed that deposits for registration and fund raising commitments represent a commitment on behalf of the member to participate in a competitive

league. Goalgetters of Manitowoc commits to holding a membership position on the team. **Therefore, all registration fees are non-refundable.**

9. Non-Sufficient Funds

A fee of \$30 will be assessed for any checks returned not paid due to “non-sufficient funds.

10. No pay = No play.

All fees must be paid at the time of registration. Registration is not considered complete until funds are received by the Registrar or Treasurer.

Concussion Policy

On April 2, 2012, Wisconsin State law was amended to include Wisconsin Act 172 relating to concussions and other head injuries sustained in youth athletic activities. The law was effective immediately on April 2, 2012.

Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA) is requiring all member clubs to comply with the new state law. WYSA is also instructing coaching staffs and referees on how to be in compliance.

This law is for the safety of our children. A concussion is a traumatic brain injury—ranging from mild (brief change in consciousness) to severe (extended period of unconsciousness or memory loss).

Goalgetters United Soccer Club, with safety of the child athlete as a priority, is enacting the following:

1. At the beginning of each season, a handout will be given to all coaches and participants on the nature and risk of concussions in children.

No person may participate in a youth athletic activity unless the person returns the information sheet signed by the person and, if he or she is under the age of 19, by his or her parent or guardian.

2. A coach, official, or health care provider shall remove an athlete from youth athletic activity (any form of practice, scrimmage, or game) if it is determined the person exhibits signs, symptoms, or behavior consistent with a concussion or head injury; or the coach, official, or health care provider suspects the athlete has sustained a concussion or head injury.

3. A person who has been removed from a youth athletic activity may NOT participate in a youth athletic activity until he or she is evaluated by a health care provider and receives a written clearance to participate in the activity from the health care provider (a health care provider is a licensed professional, with credentials authorizing the person to provide health care. The health care provider is trained in pediatric concussion evaluation and management, and is practicing within the scope of his/her credentials). Health care provider includes medical doctor, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, licensed athletic trainer.

4. If a concussion occurs, the coach will provide the player/parent with the form the health care professional needs to sign before return to play.

On (date) _____ my player sustained a possible concussion or head injury. He/she has been examined by a trained medical professional and has been cleared to participate in soccer activities as of today.

Date examined _____

Signature of Parent

Signature of Medical Professional/Health Care Provider

Office stamp:

5. Goalgetters United Soccer Club recommends “Return to Play Progression” be used for all athletes sustaining a concussion (detailed on pages 12 and 13 of this policy). Additionally, if the athlete has had IMPACT testing (or other objective concussion testing) in the previous two years, it is highly recommended repeating this test to determine if concussion has occurred.

6. Any athletic coach, official involved in an athletic activity, or volunteer who fails to remove a person from a youth athletic activity under sub. (4) (a) is immune from civil liability for any injury resulting from that omission unless it constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

7. Any volunteer who authorizes a person to participate in a youth athletic activity under sub. (4) (b) is immune from civil liability for any injury resulting from that act unless the act constitutes gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

8. This section does not create any liability for, or a cause of action against, any person.

9. WYSA would encourage you to review the following information from the CDC website: http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/pdf/soccer_clipboard-a.pdf

Signs of Possible Concussion that can be observed by Others

- Appears stunned or dazed
- Is confused about assignment or position
- Forgets an instruction
- Is unsure of game, score, or opponent
- Moves clumsily
- Answers questions slowly
- Loses consciousness (even briefly)
- Shows mood, behavior, or personality changes
- Can't recall events *prior* to hit or fall
- Can't recall events *after* hit or fall

Symptoms of Possible Concussion reported by Athlete

- Headache or “pressure” in head
- Nausea or vomiting
- Balance problems or dizziness
- Double or blurry vision
- Sensitivity to light
- Sensitivity to noise
- Feeling sluggish, hazy, foggy, or groggy
- Concentration or memory problems
- Confusion -Does not “feel right” or is “feeling down”

If you think your athlete has sustained a concussion...

don't assess it yourself.

Take him/her out of play,

and seek the advice of a health care professional.

The athlete must be kept out of play until a health care professional Oks their return with a signed release (by the parents and health care professional)

NO EXCEPTIONS!

More information on concussions and head injuries is available from the CDC at:

http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/pdf/Parents_Fact_Sheet-a.pdf

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/sports/index.html>

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/headsup/index.html>

Return to Play Progression

(adapted from the Concensus on Concussion, at the 3rd International Conference on Concussion in Sports, 2008).

It is important to monitor symptoms and cognitive function carefully during each increase of exertion. Athletes should only progress to the next level of exertion if they are not experiencing symptoms at the current level. **If symptoms return at any step, an athlete should stop these activities as this may be a sign the athlete is pushing too hard.** Only after additional rest, when the athlete is once again not experiencing symptoms for a **minimum of 24 hours**, should he or she start again at the previous step during which symptoms were experienced.

The Return to Play Progression process is best conducted through a team approach and by a health professional who knows the athlete's physical abilities and endurance. By gauging the athlete's performance on each individual step, a health care professional will be able to determine how far to progress the athlete on a given day. In some cases, the athlete may be able to work through one step in a single day, while in other cases it may take several days to work through an individual step. *It may take several weeks to months to work through the entire 5-step progression.*

Baseline (Step 0): As the baseline step of the Return to Play Progression, the athlete needs to have completed physical and cognitive rest and not be experiencing concussion symptoms for a minimum of 24 hours. *Keep in mind, the younger the athlete, the more conservative the treatment. At this step, the athlete has been examined by a health care professional (doctor, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or licensed athletic trainer) and has been cleared to begin the Progression.*

Step 1: Light Aerobic Exercise (40% of athlete's maximum exertion) The Goal: only to increase an athlete's heart rate. The Time: 5 to 10 minutes. The Activities: exercise bike, walking, or light jogging. Absolutely no weight lifting, jumping or hard running.

Step 2: Moderate Exercise The Goal: limited body and head movement. The Time: Reduced from typical routine The Activities: moderate jogging, brief running, moderate-intensity stationary biking, and moderate-intensity weightlifting

Step 3: Non-contact Exercise The Goal: more intense but non-contact The Time: Close to Typical Routine The Activities: running, high-intensity stationary biking, the player's regular weightlifting routine, and non-contact sport-specific drills. This stage may add some cognitive component to practice in addition to the aerobic and movement components introduced in Steps 1 and 2.

Step 4: Practice The Goal: Reintegrate in full contact practice.

Step 5: Play The Goal: Return to competition

GGUSC BOARD OF DIRECTORS ORGANIZATIONAL CHART POSITION DESCRIPTIONS

The following volunteer positions are available. Please indicate as part of the online registration process how you would like to fulfill your volunteer requirement.

PRESIDENT – As described in the Bylaws of Goalgetters of Manitowoc, Inc. One year term – voted in at Annual Meeting in November. Monthly Board Meeting attendee.

VICE PRESIDENT - As described in the Bylaws of Goalgetters of Manitowoc, Inc. One year term – voted in at Annual Meeting in November. Monthly Board Meeting attendee.

TREASURER - As described in the Bylaws of Goalgetters of Manitowoc, Inc. One year term – voted in at Annual Meeting in November. Monthly Board Meeting attendee.

SECRETARY - As described in the Bylaws of Goalgetters of Manitowoc, Inc. One year term – voted in at Annual Meeting in November. Monthly Board Meeting attendee.

COACHING DIRECTOR – Responsible for coordinating recruiting and training of coaches, establishing coaching standards, and establishing uniform player training curriculum by age group. Monthly Board Meeting attendee.

REFEREE COORDINATOR – Responsible for assignor duties, recruiting, training and mentoring of new referees, assignment of referees to competitive games in coordination with the Scheduler / Field Coordinator, and overall oversight of referee conduct associated with GGUSC-sponsored games. Monthly Board Meeting attendee. 15

SITE DIRECTOR – Responsible for maintenance and upkeep of buildings, grounds, and equipment (real properties)

EQUIPMENT DIRECTOR – Responsible for consumable equipment, procurement, distribution, and inventory.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR – Responsible for interface with the press, article composition and photograph collection, periodic newsletter. Monthly Board Meeting attendee.

TOURNAMENTS DIRECTOR – Responsible for organization, coordination, and execution of club-sponsored tournaments.

REGISTRAR – Responsible for registration of players and teams with East Central District of Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association. Responsible for coordination of player pass and roster submissions to East Central for certification. Works closely with all coaches and East Central Registrar. Must be computer literate on PC system, and must become familiar with League One software through training with East Central Registrar (Annual training). Monthly Board Meeting attendee.

EAST CENTRAL DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE – Responsible for representing the GGUSC as a voting member of the East Central Board which sets policy for competitive play in the East Central region, and for recreational play among WYSA-affiliated clubs in the East Central region. Monthly East Central Board meetings 10 / year. Monthly Board Meeting attendee.

SCHEDULER / FIELD COORDINATOR – Responsible for creation of competitive schedules in association with the East Central District Scheduling Commissioner.

RECREATIONAL LEAGUE DIRECTOR—Responsible for organizing recreational league in conjunction with Lake to Lake; and indoor soccer league in conjunction with Manitowoc Recreation Department.

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR--Responsible for organizing and tracking volunteer opportunities and hours fulfilled by member families. Communicates with Team Managers.

FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR: Responsible for organizing a team to address corporate and community fundraising activities to benefit Goalgetters United Soccer Club. 16

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The Goalgetters United Soccer Club exists to promote the advancement of youth soccer at the competitive level in the Manitowoc County area. As such, the club does not desire to impose barriers to any youth players selected to be part of Goalgetters teams. Because fees may impose a barrier to participation on the part of some Manitowoc County area youths, the club has established a "Scholarship Fund" from which funds may be used to partially offset the fee established for player participation.

The Scholarship Fund will be supplied by moneys gifted to the club for the express purpose of supporting the fund. This amount will vary, based on the generosity of our donors. Individuals eligible for consideration of scholarship funds shall have been selected to be a player on a Goalgetters United Soccer Club team. Individuals requesting scholarship funds shall complete the Scholarship Request Form and submit it to the Board of Directors for consideration. The Board of Directors of the club shall decide the amount of money to be expended from the fund on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration the ability of the player (or player's family) to pay the fee and the willingness of the player to contribute to the club in non-monetary means (e.g., labor in service to the club, fundraising sales) as outlined on the Scholarship Request Form. **Scholarship funds provided will generally not exceed 50% of the registration cost.**

CONTRACT (Parent/Player copy – please retain) (if you have checked the box during online registration indicating you have read the handbook you do not need to return this form.)

To assure that we have the same commitment from everyone in Goalgetters United Soccer Club, we would like you and your parent(s) to sign the following contract.

This contract acknowledges that you and your parent(s) have **read and will abide by** the club rules set forth in the policy handbook.

I, _____ have read, understand, and agree to abide by the rules stated in the GGUSC policy handbook.

Player signature _____ date _____

I, _____ have read, understand and agree to abide by the rules stated in the GGUSC policy handbook. I also assume all financial responsibilities related to my child's team, regardless of her individual completion of the season.

Parent signature _____ date _____

The internet has become a popular tool for exchanging information. The GGUSC website will place pictures on the site of players. We would like the parents' permission to use player's pictures on the website. We also understand this is a sensitive issue, and a parent may choose to not allow their child's picture to be used. GGUSC will respect either choice selected.

Yes, pictures may be used

Parent signature _____

Printed Name _____

No, pictures may not be used

Parent signature _____

Printed Name _____