

GRFC General Membership Minutes 11-18-09 (7:00-8:30pm)

Board Members Attending: Kaelen Aramaki, Theresa Beauchene, Jeff Hemmen, Kyle Janders, Todd Johnson, Richard Turner and Barbara Zetterberg. The meeting was called to order by Todd Johnson at 7:05 and concluded at 8:30.

Team representatives attending:

Boys teams- 99 Blue, 99 Red, 98 Blue, 98 Red, 98 White, 97 Blue, 97 Red, 97 White, 96 Blue, 96 Red, 95 Blue, 95 Red, 95 White, 94 Blue, 94 Red, 93 Blue, 93 Red and 92 Blue.

Girls teams- 99 Blue, 98 Blue, 98 Red, 97 Red, 96 Blue, 96 Red, 95 Blue, 95 Red, 94 Blue, 94 Red and 93 Blue.

Calendar of upcoming events:

- Winter Camp: December 21st through 23rd from 1pm – 4pm at Starfire on the indoor fields.

-January 13th (Wednesday) at 7:00pm – GRFC Club meeting

-January 15th through 18th – GRFC Winter Classic soccer tournament

MVP and Catz:

Physical Therapy and Catz Soccer Performance Training is available at Starfire. They offer individual and/or team training. All Starfire members receive a 10% discount on services. Team training is \$1500 per team for 10 sessions, each 1 hour long. With 15 players on a team this is an average of \$10 per session. Individual training opportunities are offered based on player age. 12 and under would use the Completely Active course. Age 13 and over would use Performance Training. These are available in 8, 16, and 24 session packages and are available at a 10% discount to Starfire members. Included in these packages is fitness testing for each player, nutritional education, participation in a soccer specific training program, and MVP Physical Therapy injury consultation. Please verify what your package includes when registering your child. The purpose of the Catz program is to increase fitness for the game of soccer to give players speed, power, strength, agility, fitness, balance, coordination, flexibility, mobility, reaction and quickness plus many more intangibles in partnership with physical therapy should something go wrong. The goal is that player can compete longer, be healthier and embrace fitness for a lifetime because it is so much fun.

Volunteer Update (Jeff Hemmen):

Parking opportunities are not being filled. We need help from the team volunteer coordinators and managers in getting these slots filled. Specifically Boys 95 Blue, 95 Red and Girls 94 Red and 96 Red have many families who have yet to fulfill their requirement. These teams need to have either the volunteer coordinator or Manager contact Jeff to set up a “team parking shift date.” Parking is the one volunteer position that is revenue creating and adds money to our scholarship fund. In addition one shift will count as 10 hours of volunteer time. The age limit for volunteering for parking is 15 years old. The kids can come out and work a shift to support their involvement in GRFC soccer.

Parking shifts are generally:

Friday: 4:30pm – 9:00pm

Saturday: 7:30am to 2:30pm and 2:30pm to 9:00pm

Sunday: 7:30am to 2:00pm

Please contact Jeff Hemmen to verify shift times.

A notice has been sent to all volunteer coordinators. Managers were cc'd on this e-mail. Once these shifts are filled by volunteers, any remaining shifts will be offered to families who would like to fund raise for their child's account. The pay is \$7 per hour. The club gets one check and then distributes the funds to the scholarship account or to the team for distribution into the individual player's account. Future parking date opportunities are:

11/27 - 11/29 Cut off date 11/25 (This is Thanksgiving weekend)

12/4 - 12/6 Cut off date is 12/2

Martin Luther King weekend in January 2010 (This is the weekend of the GRFC Winter Classic)

Please encourage your families to sign up for a shift! This volunteer program was initiated by our parents to help raise funds for scholarships. This is a fantastic opportunity to directly generate funds for our scholarship program. All volunteer hours must be completed by February 1st. Failure to complete the volunteer commitment will result in the following as stated in the volunteer contract signed by all families at the beginning of the season:

- A \$100 dollar fine in addition to the \$100 payment option for a total amount due the club of \$200.
- Failure to pay the fine as well as payment due, may result in player cards being pulled

The Red, Yellow, Green program has been working. On several accounts the families have been notified that their child's player card has been pulled until payment has been received and the checks have arrived promptly. To date, no players have missed playing time due to this program. Because GRFC recognizes the cost involved, we have offered multiple fund raising opportunities to everyone. Many families have taken advantage of these opportunities. Some have not. Ultimately the parents are responsible for payment for their child's soccer.

Scholarships

13 scholarship requests were received. They will be evaluated and the money will be distributed as soon as we are able. The goal for the disbursement of funds had been by the end of November, but it is more likely to be the middle of December. All scholarship recipients are required to volunteer in addition to the 10 hours required.

Treasurer Report (Theresa Beauchene):

Thank you to everyone who is getting their field and coach fees in by the 15th of each month. This is greatly appreciated. Just a reminder that the game costs are billed separately. Those payments are coming in slowly. Please continue to send those in as you are billed.

The auction made \$20,000. The proceeds from the auction will pay for Academy sessions, keeper training and an updates to our website. There is a \$500 cost each time we update the banner on our website. Our webmaster Rick Grefthen has found an alternative that allows us to update our banner pictures on a continuing basis for a one time payment of \$500.

The referee surcharge is still to be determined. We are waiting on the spring season home game count to determine if a surcharge will be necessary.

All treasurers will receive our treasurer reporting form in December. This asks you to list all income and expenses incurred this year from the inception of your team in May. This needs to be turned into the IRS with our taxes. These need to be completed and back to GRFC treasurer Theresa Beauchene by January 15th. It does not have to balance! We just need to know what has been collected and what has been spent in each category. It is very important that these be completed and turned back in on or before January 15th.

Big changes in how we pay for soccer will be in effect for the next soccer year. In the past the state has recommended that all soccer clubs collect payments directly. This protects clubs from fraud at the individual team level. The state has now directed that all clubs will operate this way. Next year you will have team accounts for tournament expenses, but all fields, coach pay, trainer pay, etc will be collected by the club, not the team. This is good because it takes the pressure off of the teams and managers to be money collectors. This mandate has come down because of the insolvency of some Washington clubs due to embezzlement.

The board has chosen to spend our marketing budget on monthly advertisements in a neighborhood magazine.

State Cup (Kyle Janders):

The following teams need to register now for the Commissioners Cup. Boys 99 Blue, 98 White and 93 Red. Girls 98 Red. These teams need to be registered by this Friday, November 20th. All Boys U15 and older teams must have registered for their State Cup play by November 23rd. All other teams must be registered for their state cups by December 4th. All coaches know what cup their team should be playing in. If they don't know, they should speak to Leighton.

Kristen Kaiser is the Association Registrar. All State Cup registrations go through her.

Please make all payments for State Cup tournament play out to GRJSA and send them to the GRFC mailbox attn Rich Turner. Kristen will compile the registrations, verify all information is complete and accurate and submit them for us. **All teams must be entered as GRFC + year + color. (example: GRFC 95 Red). No gender, or other "team names" are to be entered.**

For traveling teams, all travel papers are through E-travel. Please notify Kristen Kaiser if your team plans to travel because she is the one who approves it.

Director of Coaching update (Leighton O'Brien):

Our goal in hiring coaches is to bring on coaches who believe what we believe here at GRFC. Our philosophy is in line with Barcelona's approach to youth development. Pep Guardiola, Barcelona states, "Our aim is to help young players understand the game. Of course, there is an emphasis on the technical, where it all starts. But we want the players to learn how to think fast. We want them to learn how to run little, but run smart." That is what we are trying to create here in Renton. Johan Cruyff of Barcelona '92 states, "All coaches talk too much about running a lot. I say it's not necessary to run so much. Soccer is a game that's played with the brain. You need to be in the right place at the right time, not too early, not too late." Alexanco states, "We don't demand that the youth teams win, we demand that they play good soccer. We don't use the word, 'winning.'" This is exactly what we are trying to do here at GRFC.

Manager Role: We have a new rule this year. At games the managers are to be on the other side of the field from the coach. This is to clearly separate the role of coach from manager. Team managers are responsible for coordinating the off the field activities of the team. It is your job to ensure that an effective structure is in place so that the team operates in a smooth and cohesive manner as well as meets its obligations to the club. You are not responsible to do everything, but you are responsible for ensuring that everything gets done.

This can be a big responsibility, but also a rewarding one. You are in a position to directly influence the overall experience of the parents, the players and the coaches. By setting clear and reasonable expectations, being organized and prepared, communicating regularly and being supportive of the team and the club, you can help ensure that the experience is a positive one,

It is important to note that your responsibility does not extend to what happens on the field. This is the coach's responsibility. Refer parents with questions or concerns regarding practices or games to the coach. If a number of parents have a concern, you may need to bring it to the coach's attention, but let them address it. If the issue continues, escalate it to the Director of Coaching, or to a club administrator. Don't get in the middle of it.

Director of Coaching is accessible. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to e-mail or call.

Winter Classic (Todd Johnson):

Enter your teams! The website is up and ready to go. It is the top link on the left hand side of the GRFC website. The cost is \$500 and there are brackets for boys ages U11 through U15 and girls ages U11 through U16. Please e-mail the teams you play with and invite them to play in our tournament. The Winter Classic is held the weekend before the spring season starts. After 2 months off, this is a great way for teams to get back into the flow before the onset of the spring season.

Managers are key people that get teams to our tournament. You are the ones in contact with your bracket's managers. Please send an e-mail to not only your brackets, but to those above and below too. The deadline to register is December 15th. We are already over halfway full.

Announcements:

The skating party as organized by Viet Nguyen was a success with 67 skaters attending. We have received great feedback from those who attended.

Thanks to all who participated in our academy training sessions last month. They were our best yet. They were very well attended and a huge success. The next academy sessions will be in February or March

There is a skills competition December 4th and 11th, Friday nights, at Renton Stadium.