



Greene County
Soccer
Association

2025 Parent Packet





Parents,
Please use this packet as a starting point for being your soccer players number one fan! GCSA is ecstatic to have your kiddo in the ranks and is even more excited to have parents like you invested in the success of our program. If you have questions or concerns please raise them first to your child's coach. If it's off season, or the coach is unavailable, please reach out to the GCSA board.



Table of Contents

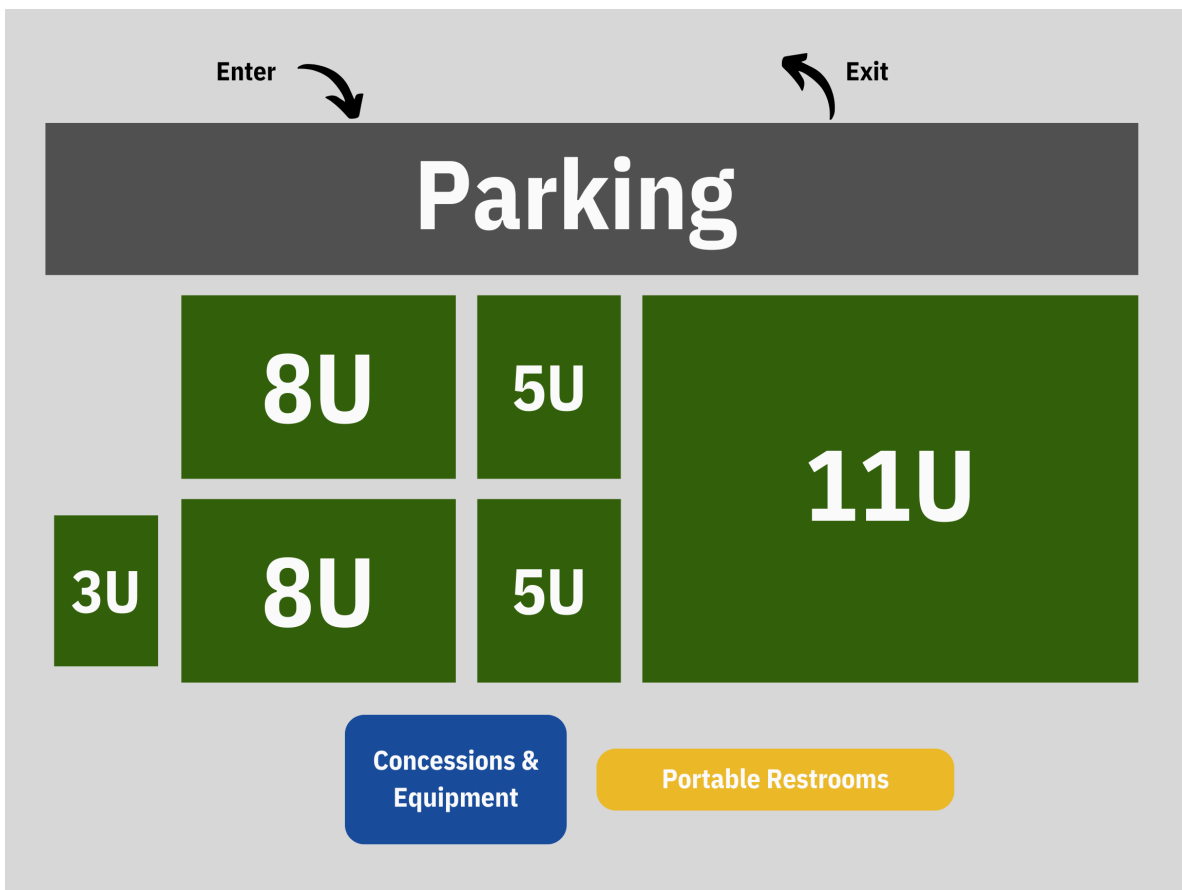
Practice & Game Facilities.....	3
Weather Policy.....	4
Parent Expectations.....	5
Parent/Caregiver Code of Conduct	6
Player Code of Conduct.....	7
Sportsmanship Policy.....	8
League Rules.....	9
Youth Rule Modifications.....	10
Concussion Resources & IN Header Restrictions.....	11
At-Home practice Resources.....	12
Fundraising / Thank You.....	13



All games will be played at the GCSA facility in Linton, IN.
Some teams may practice at other facilities.
Coaches will provide info. on where and when practices will be held.

GCSA Linton Facility (Practices & ALL Games)

10592 W 200 N
Linton, Indiana 47441



Eastern Greene Elementary School - Baseball Fields (Practice ONLY)

10503 E State Rd 54 Bloomfield, Indiana 47424

Eastern Greene Community Sports Soccer (Practice ONLY)

5786 E State Rd 54 Bloomfield Indiana United States 47424

Bloomfield Sports Complex - Field 1A and 1B (Practice ONLY)

US 231 South Bloomfield, Indiana 47424

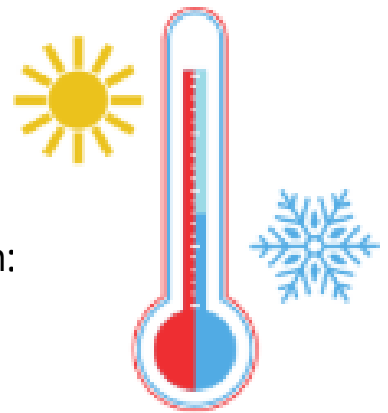


The following guidelines are mandatory.

Hot Weather Restrictions

All outdoor physical conditioning/games are to be canceled when:

1. The Temperature is equal to or above 95° F and/or
2. The Heat Index is equal to or above 95° F



Cold Weather Restrictions

All outdoor physical conditioning/games are to be canceled when:

1. The Temperature is equal to or lower than 35° F and/or
2. The Wind Chill is equal to or lower than 35° F

* Note: Physical conditioning does not pertain to “talking about team strategy”, or working on “set plays” (ex. indirect kicks, corner kicks, etc.) This type of practice is allowed with proper hydration breaks.

Lightning Policy

All outdoor activities (practices and games) are to be suspended when lightning appears or thunder is heard. Practice will be suspended for 30 minutes from the last flash of lightning/sound of thunder. Remember that lightning can travel 10 miles in either direction.

The Greene County Soccer Association will use the Weather Channel (www.weather.com) as the source in determining the above criteria. The heat index and wind chill on the weather channel is indicated as “Feels Like”. Coaches and administrators will monitor the weather source and inform parents/caregivers immediately if there is a cancellation or suspended play.



HOW I CAN HELP MY CHILD'S ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE

1. Allow your child to perform and progress at a level consistent with their ability. Athletes mature at different ages and some are more gifted than others.
2. Teach your child to enjoy the thrill of competition and that improving skills and attitude are important.
3. Don't relive your athletic life through your child! This creates added pressure that your child does not need. This is your child's experience, let them enjoy it.
4. Don't compete with the coach. Keep in mind that they are balancing the development of your child with the growth and progress of an entire athletic team. Often coaches have many considerations that are not obvious to parents.
5. Remember, young athletes tend to exaggerate when being praised and/or criticized. Temper your reaction until you investigate.
6. An athlete's self-confidence and self-image will be improved by support at home. Comparison to others is discouraged. Encourage the athlete to do their best regardless of family or friends who may have been outstanding players.
7. Insist on positive behavior in school and a high level of performance in the classroom. Numerous studies indicate extracurricular involvement helps enhance academic performance.

EXPECTATIONS DURING GAMES

1. Cheer for our team and players. Opponents and referees deserve respect.
2. Realize that players and officials will make mistakes.
3. Your support is needed when things aren't going well.
4. Concentrate on what is best for the team. Preoccupation with statistics can be very distracting.
5. Attempting to communicate with coaches, players, or officials during a game only creates tension and is completely unacceptable. Be a respectful spectator.
6. Conduct that draws unwanted attention to oneself usually leads to embarrassment for your child. Please keep their well-being in mind at all times. Don't jeopardize losing the opportunity to watch your child participate.





GCSA is committed to creating a positive, respectful, and supportive environment for all players, coaches, and families. As a parent or caregiver, you play a crucial role in promoting these values through your actions and behavior.

- **Support the Mission:** I will support GCSA's mission to develop lifelong soccer players by encouraging my child's growth and enjoyment of the game. I will respect that soccer is for youth, not adults, and allow my child to participate for fun.
- **Attendance and Communication:** I will ensure my child attends practices and games regularly and will communicate with the coach if my child will be late or absent. I will inform the coach of any health concerns or conditions that may affect my child's safety.
- **Respect for Others:** I will encourage my child to treat all players, coaches, referees, and spectators with respect, regardless of differences such as race, gender, or background. I will be a positive role model by demonstrating good sportsmanship and respect for everyone involved.
- **Focus on Development:** I will prioritize skill development and the well-being of the players over winning, especially at younger age levels. I will encourage a positive attitude and support my child's physical and emotional growth.
- **Positive Sportsmanship:** I will promote positive sportsmanship by showing courtesy and respect for all players, coaches, referees, and spectators. I will not engage in unsportsmanlike conduct, including booing, taunting, or using inappropriate language or gestures.
- **Respect for Coaches and Officials:** I will respect the authority of coaches and referees. I will never confront or question the coach or officials during games and will address any concerns in a civil manner at an agreed-upon time and place.
- **Zero Tolerance Policy:** I will uphold the GCSA Zero Tolerance Policy by refraining from criticizing or questioning referees, coaches, or players during or after the game. Any concerns will be reported through the proper channels.
- **No Coaching from the Sidelines:** I will not coach my child or other players during games or practices unless I am an official coach for the team.
- **Support for Coaches:** I acknowledge that the coach is responsible for my behavior and that of my child during soccer activities. I will support the coach and help address any issues in a constructive manner.
- **Consequences for Misconduct:** I understand that failure to follow this Code of Conduct may result in being asked to leave soccer activities or being prohibited from attending future events.

By adhering to this Code, I contribute to creating a positive, safe, and enjoyable experience for all participants.

Thank you for your support and dedication to the GCSA community!



I agree to follow the expectations listed below so soccer will be a positive experience for all.

1. Play for Fun!
2. Stay focused and give your best effort during practices and games.
3. Be a team player – get along with your teammates.
4. Be on time for practices and games.
5. Learn the rules and play by them.
6. Always be a good sport.
7. Treat your coach, your teammates, your parents, your opponents, and the referees with respect.
8. Accept the decisions of the referee without gesture or argument.
9. Win without boasting, lose without excuses.
10. Get a good nights sleep & eat a yummy, healthy breakfast before every game!
11. Speak to your coaches or parents if you have questions or need help.





Greene County Soccer Association recognizes the importance of emphasizing good sportsmanship in all aspects of activities. With this in mind, the following are fundamentals of good sportsmanship that we urge fans, spectators, participants, staff members, and parents to follow:

1. Gain an understanding and appreciation for the rules of the game.
2. Exercise positive behavior at all times.
3. Recognize and appreciate skilled performances regardless of affiliation.
4. Exhibit respect for the opponents and officials at all times.
5. Openly display pride in your actions at every opportunity.

Unacceptable behavior shall include, but not be limited to, the following types of conduct. Such conduct will result in removal from the activity:

1. Insubordination to referees, coaches, or other personnel supervising the activity.
2. Fighting, intimidation of, or attempt to intimidate, or taunting of referees, coaches, players, participants, or spectators.
3. Throwing debris or littering the playing field or facility.
4. Verbal abuse or use of profane or obscene words or gestures during a game or activity.
5. Disruptive behavior or conduct.

Greene County Soccer Association will not tolerate any violations of the above. Good sportsmanship is expected from everyone before, during, or after any contest. Any concerns regarding any part of an athletic or activity program should be directed to the coach who will bring it to the board or to a board member directly. During or immediately after an event is NOT the proper time to raise questions or concerns about a program. If there is a problem during the duration of the game, coaches and officials can work together to find a solution or escalate to a board member on site. All other problems should be escalated to a board member as soon as possible after the event.

Violations of any of the above guidelines will result in the following consequences:

1. Immediate removal from the contest or activity.
2. Upon investigation by the Greene County Soccer Association involved violator(s) may be suspended from activities for a period up to one year depending upon the severity of the infraction.

Substitutions – Unlimited for all age groups

- Substitutions shall be with the consent of the referee at the following times:
 - Prior to our team’s throw-in, Prior to a goal kick by either team, After any goal, At half-time
- Anyone who is being substituted needs to leave at the closest point of the touchline/goal line.
 - If the halfway point is the closest point, please go off there.
 - If you are injured or the safest point to exit the field is not the nearest, then the referee will indicate so and you can leave at the halfway point.

Equipment/Clothing:

- Footwear: All ages should either wear soccer cleats or tennis shoes. We highly encourage cleats as the kids move up through the age groups, especially in 11U.
- Jerseys must always be visible.
- Socks should always be worn over the shin guard. They help the ref identify the teams.
- No jewelry
- If glasses are required, we encourage sport frames.
- Goalkeepers will be given a pinny to wear over their jersey. They may also wear goalie gloves.
- Non-uniform clothing is allowed based on weather conditions, but uniforms must still distinguish teams.
 - Long sleeve shirts/sweaters should be under Jerseys and be either a neutral color or the same color as the jersey.
 - Pants/Leggings should be under socks, when possible.

Coach / Spectator gameday locations

- ONLY coaches are permitted at the teams side of the field during the game.
- Parents/Spectators should remain on the guest side leaving 1 yard between them and the sideline.
- NO ONE is permitted to coach or cheer from the ends of the field, behind the goals.
- Coaches must remain within 10 yards of the midline and a yard from the touchline while coaching from the sideline during games.

Send Offs (Red Card)

- A player shown a red card (send-off) from a game must always remain seated at the coach’s side during the remainder of the game. The coach will be responsible for the action(s) of the sent-off player.
- If a sent-off player seated on the bench causes a disturbance, the player may be ejected from the site.

Number of players on the field varies by age group.

- Games will NOT be rescheduled due to lack of players. It is the coaches responsibility to resolve issues with attendance or face a forfeit.
- GCSA permits “playing up” as in an 8-year-old may play up in the 11u games but an 11-year-old CANNOT play down in 8U matches.
- GCSA permits redistribution of players at the discretion of coaches & parents. If one team has 14 show and the other has 8, the full team can allow teammates to play for the opposing team.



Although all FIFA Laws of the games will be applied during the games, below are specific laws that have been modified for use in youth league games.

Age group	3U	5U	8U	11U
Field Length		25-35 yds	35-45 yds	45-55 yds
Field Width		20-25 yds	25-35 yds	35-45 yds
Center circle	1 yrd (optional)	3 yds (optional)	3-5 yds	5 yds
Goal box	No	Optional	Optional	14 yds x 4 yds
Goal size		4' x 6'	4' x 6'	6' x 12' (recommended)
Penalty box	No	Optional	Optional	22 yds x 9 yds
Penalty mark	No	No	No	8 yds from center goal line
Corner arc	1' (Optional)	2' (optional)	2' (optional)	3'
Ball size	2	3	3	4
Format	4 v 4	5 v 5	7 v 7	9 v 9
Goalkeeper	No	No	No	Yes
Roster size	N/A	5-7	6-8	10-14
Game duration	4 x 8 minutes	4 x 10 minutes	4 x 12 minutes	2 x 25-30 minutes
Breaks	5 minutes	5 minutes	5 minutes	10 minutes
Substitutions	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Keep Score	No	No	No	Yes
Out of bounds	Kick-ins	Kick-ins	Kick-ins or throw-ins	Throw-ins
Offside	No	No	No	Yes
Referee	Coaches	Coaches	Coaches	1 (required) 2 assistants (optional)



Indiana Header Restrictions

All players, U11 and younger shall not engage in heading in practice or in games. (only 12 year olds and older may deliberately head a ball.)

All U14 players are limited to a maximum of 30 minutes of heading training per week, and will further limit each player to a maximum of 20 headers per week.

All players, U11 and younger who play on a U12 or older team, are not permitted to head the ball in training or games [Compliance with this initiative is the coach's responsibility]

All players, U12 or U13 who play on a U14 team or older will comply with the aforementioned U12, and U13 heading restrictions.

Referees will enforce heading restrictions as per the age-level of the contest. [individual player compliance with the aforementioned heading restrictions is the coach's responsibility]

If a player, who is competing in a U11 or younger contest, deliberately heads the ball, the referee will award an indirect free kick to the opposing team from the spot of the infringement. An indirect free kick awarded inside the goal area must be taken on the goal area line parallel to the goal line at the point nearest to where the infringement occurred

Concussion Resources

Indiana Department of Education:

<https://www.in.gov/doe/students/school-safety-and-wellness/health/concussion/#:~:text=All%20coaches%20and%20assistant%20coaches,fitting%20and%20proper%20tackling%20techniques.>

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Fact Sheet for Young Athletes:

https://www.cdc.gov/heads-up/media/pdfs/highschoolsports/middleschool_athletes_fact_sheet-a.pdf

CDC Fact Sheet for Parents/Caregivers/Coaches:

https://www.cdc.gov/heads-up/media/pdfs/youthsports/Parent_Athlete_Info_Sheet-a.pdf

CDC Fact Sheet for High School Coaches:

https://www.cdc.gov/heads-up/media/pdfs/custom/headsupconcussion_fact_sheet_coaches.pdf



At-Home Soccer Skills: Help your child improve anywhere, anytime!

There are two essential skills that your young soccer player can practice anytime, anywhere to become a better player:

1. Ball Handling

It might sound like a cliché, but every single touch on the ball helps your child improve! The more they practice controlling, dribbling, and passing, the better they'll get. Encouraging your player to spend time with the ball at their feet is key to developing their soccer skills.

2. Conditioning

Staying active and building stamina is just as important as ball skills! Encourage your child to work on their fitness through simple exercises like running, jumping, and agility drills. This will help them build strength, speed, and endurance on the field.

As a parent, you have a huge impact on your child's growth as a player. Whenever possible, encourage them to practice one (or both!) of these essential skills. The best part? You don't need fancy equipment or a field! All it takes is a ball, some space, and a little creativity.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- **Ball Handling:** Practice dribbling in small spaces, juggling, or passing against a wall.
- **Conditioning:** Set up fun obstacle courses, go for runs, or do agility drills like ladder drills or cone weaves.

And remember, YouTube and Google are your best friends for finding fun and creative ways to practice soccer skills at home! There are tons of resources out there to help your child stay engaged and improve their game.

Happy practicing! Let's keep our players growing, learning, and having fun with soccer.



As a fully volunteer-run league, we rely on fundraising to keep costs affordable for all families. These funds help cover essential expenses like field maintenance, utilities, insurance, and more. We ask for your support in encouraging your child's participation in our league fundraising efforts to ensure we can continue providing a great soccer experience for everyone.

Great things happen when kids get together to play. They make friends, have fun, work on sportsmanship, get exercise, practice teamwork, learn leadership and compete. Your support makes it all possible.

Thank you for your understanding and support of Greene County Soccer Association!

