



SUMMER COMPETITIVE KICKOFF MEETING



March 4 and 22, 2026

WELCOME!



- ▶ **Introductions**
- ▶ **Mission Statement and Objectives**
- ▶ **Teams and Practice Schedule**
- ▶ **Tournaments**
- ▶ **Coaching and Player Expectations**
- ▶ **Compliance**
- ▶ **Friendly Games and Referees**
- ▶ **Uniforms and GGFC Clothing**
- ▶ **Volunteer Hours & Opportunities**
- ▶ **Survey Result - Cost**
- ▶ **US Club Team Formation Update / What's Next**
- ▶ **Q&A**



Mission Statement and Objectives



- ▶ **Mission:** To serve the Greater Grand Forks area soccer community by providing holistic player development that is focused on character building, technical skills, achievement and community involvement.
- ▶ **Objectives:** The objectives of the GGFSC shall be to build a meaningful soccer community for families and athletes within the Greater Grand Forks area; to provide instruction for participation in soccer; to provide tournament play within the area; to establish and run traveling soccer teams which can compete in various state, national and international competitions, and to provide for the physical and mental development of youth in the Greater Grand Forks area through participation and competition in soccer

What does it mean to be a GGFSC Competitive Player?



Expectations

- ▶ Hard Work
- ▶ Team Work
- ▶ Character

Benefits

- ▶ Skill improvement
- ▶ Make new friends
- ▶ Grow your love for the game



Team Formation

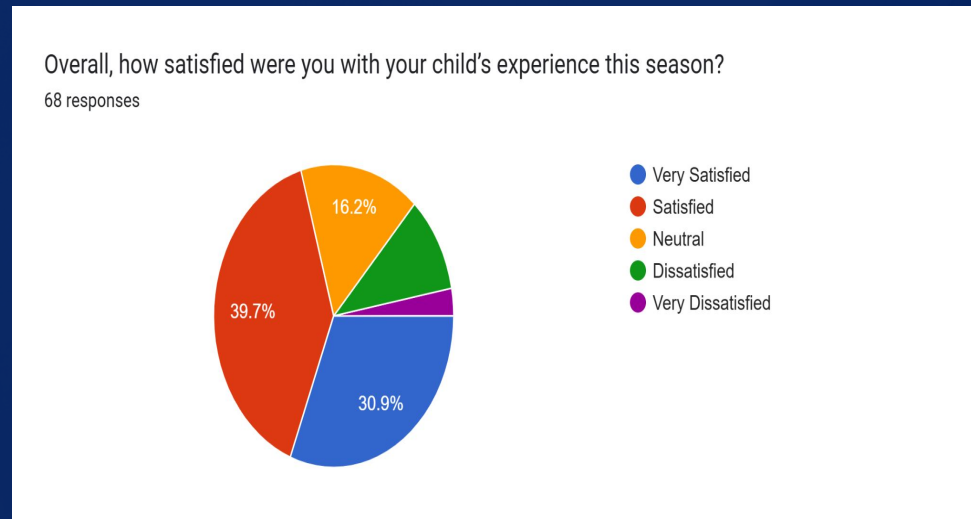


- ▶ Every year is always a “numbers game”
 - ▶ Max and minimum roster sizes are dictated by US Club, each tournament, and GGFC targets, set by the DoC
 - ▶ Soccer is unique in that on-field player numbers and roster sizes get bigger as the years go on, all the way up to U13
 - ▶ However, the number of registered players in each age group usually decreases as age increases.
 - ▶ This means we can run into unfilled rosters and odd combinations as ages increase - one or two players can make a HUGE difference

Team Formation



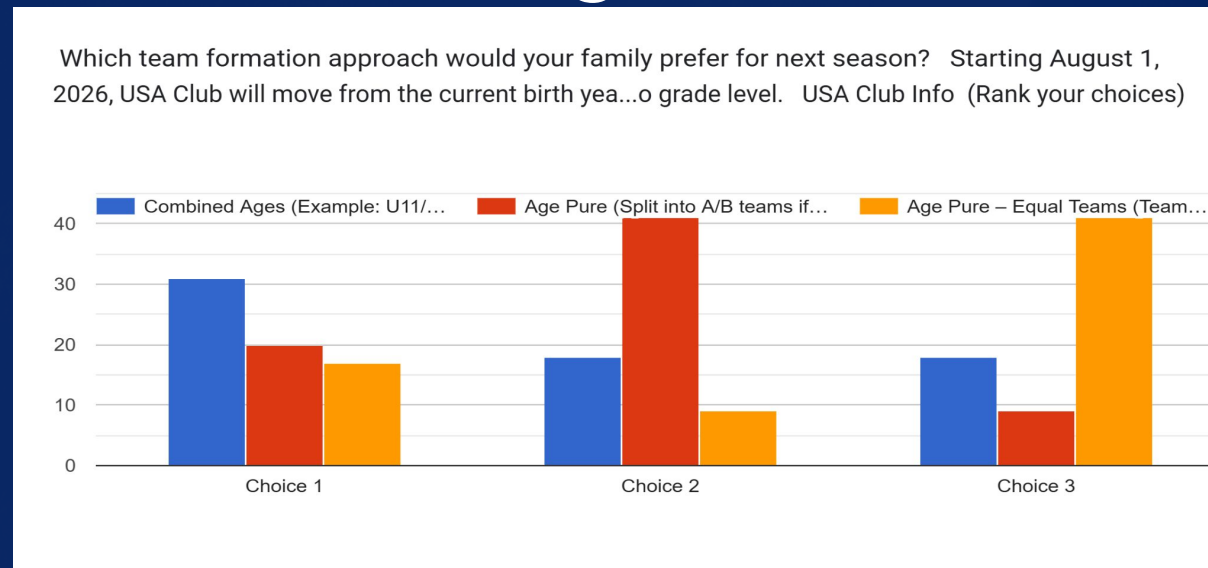
- ▶ 2026 Summer season decisions were heavily based on our 2025 survey results
- ▶ 31% of total players provided responses
- ▶ 71% of responses were overall satisfied with their child's experience



Team Formation



- ▶ When asked what families would like to see in 2026
 - ▶ Earlier and New Tournaments
 - ▶ Not as many stay and play tournaments
 - ▶ Tryouts, evaluations
 - ▶ Combined Age Team Formation Approach



Team Formation



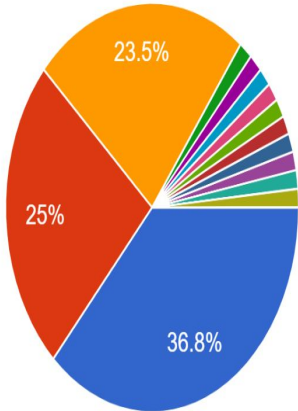
▶ When asked what families would like to see in 2026

▶ Evaluations

▶ Roster Size

Do you think it should be necessary for players to have a skills evaluation before being allowed to play competitive soccer?

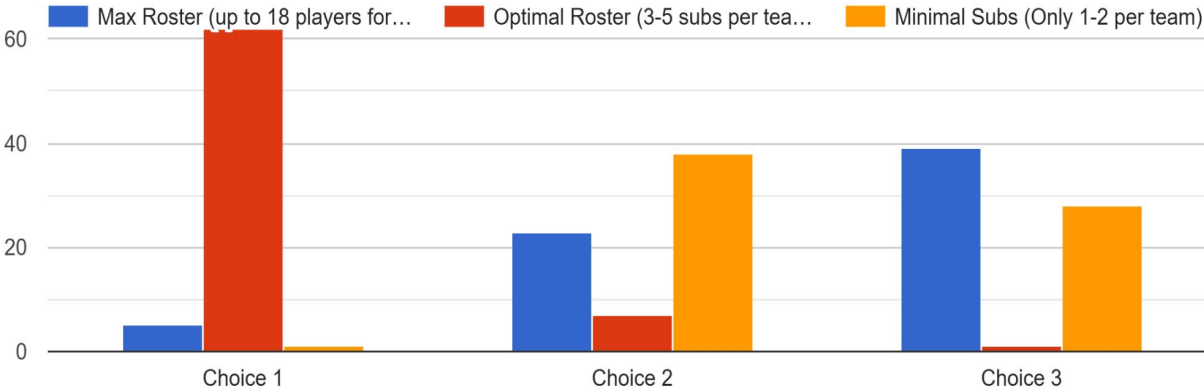
68 responses



- Yes, a skills evaluation should be required
- Yes, but only for new players joining the team
- No, a skills evaluation should not be required
- I think tryouts are appropriate if needed
- It hasn't seemed to be necessary play
- Players who have never done competi
- We need to effectively encourage num
- I think skills evaluations are ok, as lon

▲ 1/2 ▼

What size teams would you like to see? (Rank your choices)



Team Formation



- ▶ What does all of this mean for 2026
 - ▶ We are moving to combining age groups for U11 and up
 - ▶ All players, U11 and Up, will be evaluated and placed on appropriate teams for their skill level which should provide them proper development opportunities and competitive matchups at tournaments
 - ▶ This will help us start being able to provide pre and post season evaluations for your players
 - ▶ Coaches will have some say in their roster sizes (U11 and Up)



Teams

Girls Teams (6)

7v7

- U8-U10 GIRLS [2016-2018]: 4 teams

9v9

- U11/12 GIRLS [2014-2015]: 2 teams

11v11

Boys Teams (9)

7v7

- U8-U10 BOYS [2016-2018]: 4 teams

9v9

- U11/U12 [2014-2015] - 3 teams

11v11

- U13/U14 [2013-2012] - 2 teams

Approximately 190 players



Practice Schedule

Begins April 13 (Weather and Field Dependent):

Mondays & Wednesdays

Evaluations for age groups with multiple teams (exception U8-U10) will take place over the first 4 practices (4/13, 4/15, 4/20 and 4/22)

Teams announced by the following week

If any practice changes need to be made they will be communicated via Team Chats and Email

Beginning June 1: Team Practice Schedule

Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays - Start times between 5:30 and 7 - TBD
Communication will come out mid-May via Team Chat and Email

Goalkeeper Training - Dates and Times TBD

Tournament Selection



- ▶ **Tournament Size**
- ▶ **Appropriate Competitive Options**
- ▶ **Tournament Quality**
- ▶ **Cost & Value**
- ▶ **Club Relationships**



Tournaments



▶ GGFSC Included Tournaments

- ▶ REV IT UP! - Apple Valley, MN May 15-17 (Ages 11 and Up & U8-10 that signed up as optional)
 - ▶ Stay and Play - Hotel Links on Website - DEADLINE NOW
 - ▶ Prepared to play Friday - we will reach out and communicate
- ▶ Kwik Trip Head of the Lakes Soccer Tournament - Duluth, MN June 5-7
 - ▶ All Teams
 - ▶ NOT a Stay and Play - Free to book wherever you would like
 - ▶ Prepared to play Friday - we will reach out and communicate
- ▶ TCU Summer Classic - Fargo, ND June 19-21
 - ▶ Not required to stay
 - ▶ Prepared to play Friday afternoon/evening
- ▶ GGFSC Tournament - Grand Forks, ND June 26-28
 - ▶ Prepared to play Friday afternoon/evening
 - ▶ Dibs or Volunteer Hours are required for each player

Stay and Play



When we register for the tournament, we agree that all families traveling to the event must stay in the hotel blocks set up by the GGFSC Administrator.

There have been NO exceptions granted in regards to this rule by the REV IT UP! tournament

Why Have Tournaments Chosen to do Stay & Play

Ensures enough hotel rooms are available within a reasonable distance

Allows negotiation of rates and possible amenities (e.g., breakfast for participants at hotels that don't normally offer breakfast)

Provides tournament hosts with commissions which helps keep team registration prices lower



Optional Tournaments

- ▶ Offered for those that would like to additional opportunities to play in more tournaments
- ▶ Additional cost above and beyond registration fee
- ▶ Tournaments
 - ▶ Bemidji - Saturday May 30
 - ▶ Tonka Splash (Cities) - June 12-14 ****STAY AND PLAY****
 - ▶ Capital City Classic Soccer Tournament - Bismarck July 17-19
- ▶ Registration Closes May 1st
 - ▶ Sign up through your GGFC account on website

Player and Team Expectations



- ▶ Playing Time
 - ▶ U8-U10 - equal playing time
 - ▶ U11-U12 - fairly equal playing time
 - ▶ U13 and Up - Coach discretion but all players should receive some playing time
- ▶ Coaching
 - ▶ 24 hour rule
 - ▶ Communicate through team manager to set up meeting
 - ▶ If unresolved, Director of Competitive Coaching
 - ▶ Still unresolved - Kari Johnson, President or Eric Sanders, Vice-President
- ▶ Code of Conduct
 - ▶ On Website
- ▶ Communication and Schedule
 - ▶ Game Changer

Registrar



- ▶ US Club Requirements
 - ▶ All players and volunteers must register at GGFSC.com first
 - ▶ US Club uses GotSoccer for national registration system
 - ▶ Username is the email address you use for your primary account at ggfsc.com
 - ▶ Compliance
 - ▶ All compliance is done electronically - if you are not fully compliant, you cannot receive a player or volunteer card and **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE PARTICIPATE**
 - ▶ Instructions to be sent in the next couple weeks - may begin fulfilling requirements after that
 - ▶ Compliance season runs August 1 thru July 31st - all previous entries were reset when US Club adopted the new system in April 2021
 - ▶ Everybody is responsible for their (or their kids) own compliance entries - GGFSC cannot provide this

Registrar



- ▶ US Club Requirements
 - ▶ Compliance Requirements (cont'd)
 - ▶ Players
 - ▶ Disqualification Review - takes 1-2 business days
 - ▶ Form R-002 (release)
 - ▶ Headshot (update every two years)
 - ▶ Birth Verification (only once in new system) - takes 2-3 business days
 - ▶ Coaches, Managers, all adult players and volunteers
 - ▶ Headshot
 - ▶ Background check (takes 5-7 business days)
 - ▶ SafeSport
 - ▶ Disqualification review (takes 1-2 business days)
 - ▶ Birth verification (adult players only - takes 2-3 business days)

Friendly Games and Referees



- ▶ We will do our best to work with coaches and other Clubs to schedule friendly games
 - ▶ If you have ideas or suggestions, all interclub communication is done between our Administrator or Board. Please do not reach out to other clubs
 - ▶ questions@ggfc.com
- ▶ New Referee Course - March 29, 2026
 - ▶ 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM @ Choice Health and Fitness
 - ▶ 13+ at time of class
 - ▶ \$65 (+\$23 for 18+ for background check)
 - ▶ Visit ggfc.com Referee Clinics page for information

Uniforms and GGFSC Clothing



- ▶ New Uniforms will be used for the upcoming competitive season

SGX
A P P A R E L

SIGNATURE
GRAPHIX AND APPAREL

Customer Name:

EMBROIDERY - SCREEN PRINT - VINYL WRAP
HEAT TRANSFER - PROMOTIONS - CUSTOM GRAPHIX
EAST GRAND FORKS, MN - 218.399.0109

SOLID
VINYL SIGNS

Uniforms and GGFSC Clothing



- ▶ Samples are coming and try-on dates will be communicated ASAP
- ▶ These uniforms are a higher quality material than the previous sets so we are anticipating a 3 year cycle - in discussions for a sponsor
- ▶ Numbers
 - ▶ GGFSC will need to assign new numbers to all players
 - ▶ Due to the combining of age groups we cannot have duplicate numbers within a 3 year period
- ▶ Apparel Options
 - ▶ Signature Graphix and Apparel is working on a website/store
 - ▶ Stacey Robertson at All-Pro Embroidery
 - ▶ allpro@midco.net or (218) 779-0536

Volunteer Commitment and Opportunities @ GGFSC Tournament



- ▶ Per GGFSC Policy Manual
 - ▶ G. Parents
 - ▶ 1. Involvement
 - ▶ a) GGFSC is a volunteer organization and many involved parents are needed to staff and prepare for the club offerings throughout the year. Please volunteer your time as a manager, board member, committee member, or however you can be helpful! Parental involvement also means attending your child's soccer games and helping your coach or manager, when asked.
 - ▶ b) Competitive Families are expected to volunteer for shifts at our summer GGFSC Tournament. Failure to complete volunteer shifts will result in a \$50.00 per hour penalty for unfulfilled volunteer hours.
 - ▶ Dibs per player (The exact number of dibs will be communicated as soon as it is known)
 - ▶ Prepare for 4-8 per player
- ▶ GGFSC Tournament Committee
 - ▶ Contact Betsey McIntyre - betsey.mcintyre@ggfsc.com
- ▶ Sponsorship Opportunities are available if you or someone you know has a business that would consider donating in return for some advertising during the tournament weekend

Additional Survey Result



- ▶ Reduced Cost
- ▶ Competitive Teams are Expensive

Expense	U8-U10	U11-U12	U13 & Up
Tournament Fees	900.00	1650.00	1825.00
Coaches Tournament Pay	2820.00	4100.00	4100.00
US Club/Park District Fees	320.00	456.00	480.00
Equipment	250.00	300.00	350.00
Coach Pay	2925.00	3900.00	3900.00
Admin/DOC	1125.00	1125.00	1125.00
Cost Per Team	8,340.00	11,531.00	11,780.00
Cost Per Player	834.00	961.00	841.00
2026 Fee	560.00	800.00	825.00
Difference Per Player	-274.00	-161.00	-16.00

Additional Survey Result



- ▶ Reduced Cost
- ▶ What Can We Do?
 - ▶ Participate in any fundraising activities
 - ▶ Looking into TeamUp Fundraising Event
 - ▶ Participate in Smaller Fundraisers
 - ▶ Taco Johns, Deeks, Etc - communication will go out via team chats, email and social media
 - ▶ Fundraising Suggestions ????? Please pass them along!

Current and Upcoming Fundraisers



Support GGFSC by ordering



SCAN

\$10 per order
GGFSC earns 50% of all sales!



EAT AT TACO JOHN'S AND SUPPORT GGFSC!

When: Wednesday, April 15, 2026

Where: Taco John's (Grand Forks, ND)

Time: 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM

20% OF ALL SALES WILL GO BACK TO GGFSC!



ORDER 701-772-3333
OR DEEKSPIZZA.COM



SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE A DEEK'S GIFT CARD. 25% OF ALL SALES WILL BE DONATED TO THE FUNDRAISER.



GREATER GRAND FORKS YOUTH SOCCER CLUB
FUNDRAISER

USE THE CODE "GGFSC" WHEN ORDERING FROM OUR GRAND FORKS LOCATION BETWEEN MAY 10TH - MAY 16TH, DEEK'S PIZZA WILL DONATE 25% OF THE SALES TO THE GREATER GRAND FORKS YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

US Club Team Formation Change



- ▶ US Soccer Birth-Year Philosophy
 - ▶ In 2016, US Soccer changed from school-year age cutoff to birth-year
 - ▶ This creates some unexpected divisions for those used to Rec or school soccer where classmates are usually grouped together
 - ▶ It is important to understand how these divisions are mandated across the board in competitive soccer and detect and overcome the feelings of disparity that might occur
 - ▶ A player may never “play down” - this is strictly enforced by GGFSC, each tournament, and even the referees
- ▶ Change Coming 2026-2027 Season
 - ▶ US Youth Soccer (USYS), US Club Soccer and American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) announced that they have agreed to adopt the seasonal year age group formation cycle for its players starting with each's 2026-2027 season.
 - ▶ Team formation would be based on age as of August 1 - July 31
- ▶ More information to come

What's Next



- ▶ Once notified, **complete compliance steps ASAP**
- ▶ Determine whether your player(s) can participate in optional tournaments and sign up by May 1.
- ▶ Make hotel reservations for out of town tournaments - Links are on website under summer competitive for Woodbury REV IT UP! - DUE NOW
- ▶ Notify Katrina of any tournament conflicts ASAP
 - ▶ katrina.landman@ggfc.com or questions@ggfc.com
- ▶ Make sure all balances are paid prior to May 15th

What's Next



- ▶ Board Meetings
 - ▶ 3rd Monday of month at 7:30
 - ▶ GGFSC Office
 - ▶ 1407 24th Ave S #229 (by Rydell Car Wash)
 - ▶ Stay Involved
 - ▶ Participate in Surveys, Focus Groups, etc
 - ▶ Participate in fundraisers
 - ▶ If you have any fundraising suggestions please pass them along



We look forward to another great summer on the Pitch!

Q

&

A

