

Grapevine-Southlake Soccer Association Parent Information Guide

Office: 1001 W. Northwest Highway, Ste. D, Grapevine, TX 76051
Hours: Mon-Wed-Fri 10:00AM-3:00PM

Phone: 817-410-9950 **Rainout:** www.gssasoccer.org
Website: www.gssasoccer.org **Email:** info@gssasoccer.org

Season Starts – August/February

Registration Dates/Fees

Early Registration	Fee \$ 90
Regular Registration:	Fee \$ 110
Late Registration:	Fee \$ 140

Register on line with MC/Visa credit or debit card.

You may also register by mail or in person with cash, check or card.

What if I miss registration?

After regular registration, you can still register online to be placed on the waitlist. **Being on the waitlist does not guarantee placement on a team.** If your child is placed you will be notified by a coach. Placement from the waitlist will be done on a first-come, first-serve basis. **IF YOU WANT TO RETURN TO YOUR PREVIOUS TEAM, WE MUST RECEIVE YOUR REGISTRATION BY the end of regular registration!**

What about refunds?

For GSSA Recreational League Registration: Refund requests must be made **in writing** (email is accepted) to the GSSA office by the parent on or before **The first game day of the season.** A fee of \$25 will be charged on all refunds requested. A full refund will only be processed in the event of an injury, prior to the beginning of the season, with a doctor's note or if the player is moving out of the area. No refund will be given if the request for refund is received after opening day for the season.

For Academy Player/League Registration: There are NO REFUNDS of registration fees for Academy players after the Academy Registration form has been processed.

How are teams formed?

- Returning Players (played the previous season) can/will automatically return to their prior team unless they request 'Open Draw', or the team has folded. **THIS IS ONLY IF THE PLAYER IS REGISTERED BEFORE LATE REGISTRATION.**
- Players who skipped a single season will be placed on their previous team **only if space is available, after players from the previous season are placed, and if the team has not folded.** They must indicate that they played in one of the previous two seasons during registration and that they wish to return to the same team. **THIS IS ONLY IF THE PLAYER IS REGISTERED BEFORE LATE REGISTRATION.**
- Players who skipped more than one season go into 'Open Draw'.
- New Players to GSSA will be placed in 'Open Draw'.

- **‘Open Draw’ players may not request coaches or teams. Players may request to play with a buddy—which may be considered, but is not guaranteed.**

At the end of regular registration, teams are formed. Anyone registering after Regular Registration will not be placed until the teams are formed according to the Team Formation Rules, available on the website.

If a team does not “make” due to insufficient returning players, an effort will be made, if possible, to keep all returning players together, either on a newly formed team or combined with a returning team. Special effort is also made to keep girls together when moving up from U5 Co-Ed to a U6 Girls team.

After all players who registered before Late Registration have been placed, those who registered LATE will be placed.

What is a “special request”?

- Play up to next age division.
- Girls, U6 and above, requesting to play in boys (co-ed) division (new female players are placed in girls division by default at U6).
- Girls, U6 and above, returning players that formerly played on a boys or mixed team move to all girls.

Every effort will be made to honor these special requests, but they are not guaranteed!

What about uniforms and equipment?

- Uniforms will be provided by GSSA for U4-U19 teams.
- The GSSA advises against placing player names on the back of uniforms, for safety reasons.
- Shin guards are required for games **and practices**.
- Soft rubber soccer cleats are optional, but recommended.
- Soccer ball: U4 – U8 size 3
 U9 – U12 size 4
 U13–U19 size 5

When are practices?

- Coaches select time/location of practices (usually one or two per week depending on age).
 - If you need a specific time and/or day, please sign up to coach.
- North Texas Soccer rules prohibit more than three events (games and practices) per week.
- **Players may not switch teams due to practice conflicts.**
- GSSA coaches are not allowed to charge a fee for regular practices. Non-mandatory skills clinics may be offered outside of regularly scheduled practices.

When are games?

- U4 – U6 play an 8-game schedule, weather permitting – games primarily on Saturdays.
- U7 – U19 play a 10-game schedule, weather permitting – mostly Saturdays with some Sunday afternoon and weeknight games.
- Field Locations: Oak Grove and Meadowmere Parks in Grapevine, Bob Jones Park in Southlake.
- U9 & older teams play home games on GSSA fields and away games at other associations’ fields

Can games be rescheduled?

- **Schedules are considered final when distributed, but should be checked regularly for changes and reschedules.**
- No games will be rescheduled for U8 and younger (except for rainouts). Rescheduling of games for U9 and above is only allowed if games conflict with **scheduled mandatory school events**.
- **GSSA will make every attempt to reschedule all rainouts, but reserves the right to cancel games based on field availability or persistent weather-related issues.**

Does GSSA ensure a minimum playing time?

Yes, all recreational players are required to play a minimum of 50% of time attended at each game attended. If the player is late to a game, the requirement is 50% of the time attended. Any violation of this policy should be reported to the GSSA office or your Age Group Commissioner.

What are the age divisions?

A player must be **three years old by December 31** to play in that Fall or following Spring season. A child who is 3 would play in the U4 or UNDER 4 division. This means that every child on the team was under 4 during that calendar year. All kids move up to the next division in each Fall season.

Can someone play outside his or her age division?

Playing Up is allowed and is done primarily to allow players to be “with their grade” **Players may only play ONE age group above their normal age bracket.** Requests to play up are not guaranteed.

Playing Down is allowed only for medical reasons. It requires a doctor’s statement of condition, GSSA and NTSSA board approval. Doctor’s statements and Play Down requests must be submitted each Fall with registration and are not guaranteed.

Does GSSA have girls and boys divisions?

U4 and U5 players play in one mixed-gender division. There are two divisions beginning at U6: Boys/Co-ed and Girls. **Girls new to GSSA will be automatically placed on a Girls team beginning at U6 unless they request the Boys/Co-ed division.** Additionally, the GSSA plays in “age pure” divisions (older ages may play in multiple-year age divisions due to fewer players).

What guidelines are used for roster size?

The association has implemented North Texas Soccer’s new mandates with respect to the small-sided game. The new team size guidelines have been implemented in a manner that best fits the GSSA’s mission and its resources. As always, final team formation size is at the sole discretion of the GSSA Registrar.

How can my business or I support GSSA financially?

GSSA is a 501(c)3 registered non-profit organization run by a volunteer Board of Directors. All proceeds from soccer registration and sponsorships are used to pay for GSSA operations or to improve our playing fields. If you or your business would like to sponsor a team, advertise in GSSA publications, or run a promotion at our fields, please contact the GSSA office. You may also make a donation during the registration process, on the checkout screen.

What if I'm dissatisfied how GSSA is being run?

The GSSA is run entirely by parents like you who generously volunteer their time. If you are dissatisfied with any aspect of the GSSA, ask yourself what contribution you, as a parent, are willing to make to improve the association. Board elections are held annually at the May board meeting. Monthly board meetings are held on the first Monday of each month (with the exception of June and December), 7:00 PM, at the GSSA office. They are open to everyone.