

The Grand Junction Soccer Club

Off the Pitch...Into the Fire



Volume 1, Issue 2

GJ Soccer Office
 Independence Plaza
 529 25 1/2 Road, Ste B112
 Grand Junction, CO 81505
970.242.4550

www.grandjunctionsoccer.org

Office Hours
 Monday–Friday...11:00 AM-5:00 PM

IMPORTANT DATES:

February 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	LATE REGISTRATION BEGINS FOR RECREATIONAL \$5.00 ADDITIONAL FEE					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	FUTSAL MAKE-UP GAMES FROM 1/23	FUTSAL MAKE-UP GAMES FROM 1/23	BOARD MEETING 7:00PM SOCCER OFFICE FUTSAL PLAY-OFFS		FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIPS FINAL LATE REGISTRATION FOR REC +\$15.00	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
					LAST DAY FOR ADULT TEAM REGISTRATION!	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
		PARENT/COACH/REF MEETING AT MESA STATE 7:00PM RM 155 NEAR REC CENTER, SAUNDERS FH	U4-U7 RETURNING COACHES MEETING 6:00PM U8-U10 COACHES 7:00	U4-U7 NEW COACHES MEETING 6:00PM U8-U10 NEW COACHES 7:00PM		
28	MARCH 1	2	3	4	5	6
	FIRST DAY RECTEAMS MAY PRACTICE. VOLUNTEER REF CLINICS BEGIN-CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO			TEAM MANAGERS MEETING U4-U10 6:00 PM		COACHING SEMINAR U4-U10, 9:00AM-10:00AM GOALKEEPER SEMINAR U7-10 10:00-11:00 CANYONVIEW PARK

REC GAMES START ON MARCH 20TH AT CANYON VIEW PARK. SCHEDULES WILL BE POSTED ONLINE ON FEBRUARY 26TH

IMPORTANT VOLUNTEER REFEREE DATES: REC ONLY. ALL CLASSES AT SOCCER OFFICE

March 1	New U9/10 Volunteer Linesperson	6:30 PM to 8:00
March 2	U9/10 returning Linesperson Refresher	6:30 PM to 7:30
March 3	New Micro Soccer Referee U4-U7	6:30 PM to 9:00
March 4	New U8 Referee	7:00 PM to 9:30

March 15	Micro Soccer & U8 returning Referee Refresher	6:30 PM to 7:30
March 16	New U9/10 Volunteer Linesperson	6:30 PM to 8:00
March 17	New U8 Referee	7:00 PM to 9:30
March 18	New Micro Soccer Referee U4-U7	6:30 PM to 9:00

From the General Manager, Larry Johnson

Dear Members,

As I am writing this, I'm looking out the office windows at the snow coming down. I know with the cold weather we experienced through December and part of January it is hard to think about soccer, but it is just around the corner. We are now into late registration for our youth spring recreational program. The deadline is February 12th, so if you haven't registered your son or daughter please make sure you do as soon as possible to get them on a team. You can register online at www.gisoccer.org under the Recreational tab, or print a downloadable form to fill out, or come into the office.

I am really excited about this upcoming spring season. We have some exciting new fundraisers coming out this year, starting with the 1st annual Golf and Walk event happening on May 15th. Rhonda Cool, our new Fundraising/Marketing Director will talk about the event in her letter, but I am most excited about the \$1,000,000 hole-in-one shot.

We had some success in the off season with teams winning some important tournaments. Our U13 Girls Premier team won the Nike Harvest Cup during the Thanksgiving Holiday in Southern California and the U11 Girls Premier won the Silver State Tournament in Las Vegas on January 23rd and 24th.

We are also excited to host the first ever semiannual Parent/Coach/Referee meeting. This event is scheduled for February 23 at Mesa State College in Room 155 at 7:00 PM. This meeting is for parents and coaches of all ages to come and hear a brief summary of the game, how to be a great parent to a soccer player, Touchline etiquette and referee recruitment, etc. The panel will consist of members ranging from some of our top officials and administrators to parents who coach. This is an opportunity to come and learn the rules and how to best help your child enjoy the game. Please remember to mark this informative event on your calendar.

We will be finishing up our indoor Futsal leagues by the middle of February. I hope everyone enjoyed playing at the Bookcliff Activity Center and Middle School. Our Soccer Stars Camp is winding down and will end on February 12th. Between the two Soccer Stars sessions, we had just under 80 children between the ages of 4 and 7 participate. We are looking to add the Soccer Stars and Indoor Soccer leagues to our summer programs starting in June, so stay tuned for more information.

"It is a fine thing to have ability, but the ability to discover ability in others is the true test."
Lou Holtz

REFeree INFORMATION

Grade 8 Referees are allowed to referee any age group as either a center or assistant referee. You can upgrade by attending the nine-hour Bridge Clinic rather than the 17-hour Entry Level Grade 8 Clinic.

1. The Colorado Joint Referee Committee has changed the policy that previously required a referee to be a Grade 9 for one year or two soccer seasons prior to being eligible to attend a "Bridge" Clinic. The current policy has done away with the time requirement. Therefore, if you attended the Grade 9 Clinic in 2009 and already have your 2010 blue Recreational Referee badge, you may attend the Bridge Clinic this spring for the discounted fee of \$25 and receive a black 2010 Grade 8 badge.
2. If you have been a Grade 9 referee for a year or longer and have re-certified as a Grade 9 referee for 2010 and have your blue 2010 Recreational Referee badge, you (also) are eligible to upgrade by attending a Bridge Clinic & paying the discounted \$25 fee.
3. If you have previously been a Grade 9 referee but have not re-certified for 2010, 2009 or 2008; you may also upgrade to Grade 8 by attending a Bridge Clinic. Your registration fee for 2010 will be \$58. Contact Tom Lillipop ASAP if you are interested at 245-8889.

From the Technical Director, Josh Pittman

The US Wins the World Cup Again!

Now that I have your attention, let's ask ourselves; what will it take for the US men to win the World Cup? I think it is an easy answer.....better players.

We will get there. We will be the world champions one day. Maybe we will win this summer in South Africa. It will be exciting when the US is a world power on the men's side. We are there on the women's side and getting closer with the men. How we get there is the challenge, whether at World Cup level or with our players here in Grand Junction.

I recommend that every player, coach, and parent watch FC Barcelona play this spring. I watch them every time they are on one of my four soccer channels! They play a beautiful game. What makes them so special is the skill of each of their players. They rarely have bad touches and rarely lose the ball. Their skills allow them more time on the ball which improves the ability to make a good decision. Their matches are more like numbers up attacking sessions. Opposing teams wonder if Barca plays with more than eleven because their players are so adept and they are always open.

Another unique quality of Barcelona is that they all want the ball. They demand it from their teammates because they understand the importance of possession. They *get* that one of the reasons we play the game of soccer is to have the ball. *Mastering the skills of the game makes playing the game that much more fun.*

The last unique quality of Barcelona's attack is their movement off the ball. They are always in constant motion and help each other with intelligent movements on the field. They create passing angles which allow their teammates to make better decisions. They create width in their attack which opens up space for each other -whether it is gaps in the defense centrally or space wide. A wide attack creates more space and more space gives a player more time which hopefully allows the player to see more options and ultimately make a good decision.

These qualities of the Barcelona players need to be used to develop our players in our country and more specifically in **Grand Junction**. Our players skill sets are improving, but we need to make sure they are mastering the ability to dribble, juggle, pass, receive, and shoot at a young age. The more a player can control the ball the better they will be and the better our teams will be. I have watched too many games where our players just kick the ball down the field because we don't have the ability to control it as the pressure increases. We give in to the pressure of an opponent and allow our players to simply give the ball away because we lack the confidence and skills to maintain possession and attack.

Another quality that we need to improve in our game is our desire to have the ball. As a staff, we were watching some of our teams play and their lack of desire to have the ball and demand it was evident and noticeable in many games. Soccer players from other cultures "demand" the ball! They yell for it constantly. Our players need to be much more vocal and demand the ball if they want to advance their skills. We need to work on improving that desire to have the ball and our players will want the ball more as their skills improve.

The last quality that we need to improve is our ability to move off the ball. We need to consistently teach our young players to help our teammates and move to get open. Movement does not mean running straight down the field which happens at every age group in our club. The movement that changes the game might only be a couple steps to change an angle which allows a teammate to complete a pass without it being intercepted by a defender. As coaches we need to *stop and correct* our players when they try to kick or pass the ball through an opponent. Improving this will help our players see their options which will make our teams play better.

Our US Men's team will win a World Cup when these skills are mastered at the highest level. Players with the ability to control the ball will become confident players who want the ball. And, players who move off the ball will help their teammates with their ability to make better decisions that will help to insure their team's ultimate success. I would take a skillful player who has a greater speed of thought than a player who is physically fast. Let's keep our kids practicing with the ball and teaching them how to make smart decisions so in a few years we can watch the world cup with one of our own representing the United States.

*"You can't let
praise or
criticism get to
you. It's a
weakness to get
caught up in
either one."*

John Wooden

From the Fundraising/Marketing Director, Rhonda Cool

Greetings Members,

My name is Rhonda Cool and I am so excited to be the new Fundraising/Marketing Director for the Club and assist in its growth. The club has many goals we hope to achieve in the coming years. One of those goals is to increase the number of children and adults served in Mesa County. Another is to move into a new facility with an indoor complex and to buy four fields for outdoor play. These moves will allow for cost savings by not having to pay for field and indoor facility fees. The club would also like to continue with its scholarship program and even look at possible expansion of this program.

As you know, Grand Junction Soccer Club is non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. Currently, the club operates on funds received from registration fees, tournaments, and advertising in the programs. The monies collected pay for office rental and all equipment, office personnel and supplies, coaching directors, utilities, field and indoor facility playing fees, referee fees, taxes, insurance, advertising, website management and miscellaneous operating expenses. As a non-profit grows, the normal revenues will no longer support the full operation of the club and its members. In an effort not to raise fees for our members, the club must have other sources of funding, especially in light of the current economic situation.

The club will have several fundraisers this year that will help with continued growth of the club. One very exciting event is our 1st annual golf tournament and walk/5K fundraiser. The golf tournament is expected to be our largest fundraiser of the year and will be held on May 15th at 1:30pm at Adobe Creek Golf Course. We are looking for 40 golfers or 10 foursomes to raise or donate \$2500 each to compete in an 18- hole scramble. We are proud to announce that there will be a million dollar hole-in-one. There will be prizes for closest to the pin, straightest shot, longest drive, worst drive, and longest put. Individual golfers who raise \$10,000 will win a 5- day Caribbean cruise for two, along with airfare to the nearest port of departure.

The walk/5K event tentatively will be held at Canyon View Park pending approval of the city of Grand Junction. We are looking for walkers and runners who can raise anywhere from \$500 - \$10,000. There will be many prize levels that include iPods, netbooks, iPhones, Xbox 360, Wii's, free soccer fees, etc. Any walker or runner who raises \$10,000 will also win a family vacation and can choose from over 20 locations. Other incredible fundraisers will be our Soccerpalooza on August 14th and a Casino Night in October.

We will have our usual tournaments this year, the GMIT on May 21st & 22nd and the Border Battle Classic on July 29th-31st that has been held in October in past years.

Another exciting announcement this year – our club will be looking for sponsors for our recreation teams and leagues this year. There are many sponsorship levels available. If you are a business owner or know of someone who would like to support the club and gain exposure for their business, please contact me for further information.

The Club will begin updating events on Facebook and Twitter at the start of the Spring recreational season. We will also be setting up an opt-in email list that will update members of club events, registration deadlines, and tournament news. The most exciting option under exploration is a texting feature to keep members updated. I am very excited about our 2010 fundraisers and proud to be a part of such a great organization that benefits the youth of Mesa County. If there are any questions about club events or fundraisers, please call me at 970-242-4550 x3, by cell at 640-8971, or by email at rhonda@gjscoccer.org.

Tournament Talk

GJSC will be hosting our annual Grand Mesa Invitational May 22nd and 23rd at Canyon View Park . The registration deadline for this highly regarded tournament is April 10, 2010. Registration forms and information can be found online at www.gjsoccer.org. Additionally, we are proud to introduce our brand new tournament "Border Wars" to be held July 29-31, 2010. Border Wars will provide opportunities for the top clubs from Denver and Utah to play one another here in the Grand Valley. We are excited to be hosting this tournament and look forward to our local teams to compete at a higher level. We will have more information on this exciting event coming soon!



Tournament Winners!

What Happens in Vegas....We Can Share!

Congratulations to the Girl's U11 Premier team who traveled to Las Vegas to participate in the Silver State Invitational in Las Vegas, January 23-24. The girls played exceptionally well and placed first in the Silver division against tough Las Vegas teams. Coach Larry Johnson was extremely pleased with his team's performance and is looking forward to a successful season this Spring.

**SPOTLIGHT:
NEW PROGRAM**

**E LICENSE CLASS AVAILABLE
IN GRAND JUNCTION!**

The Grand Junction Soccer Club is pleased to announce an "E Licensing Course" to be held in Grand Junction February 26-28th. Many coaches have requested an "E" course to be held locally and Josh Pittman was able to arrange this special opportunity. This course is a great way to increase your coaching skills whether you are a new coach or with years of experience. The course will be held at Mesa State College. Cost is \$95.00 CYS Member \$145 Non-Member. Friday night schedule, 6:00pm-9:00pm, Saturday & Sunday, 9:00am-5:00pm. Please contact Josh Pittman if you are planning on attending or for more information at Josh@gjsoccer.org.

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

Welcome to the newest feature of our newsletter-our Sponsor Section! Grand Junction Soccer Club would like to thank our sponsors for their continued support of our Club. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact Rhonda Cool at 242-4550 for more information. We would encourage our members to consider patronizing our generous supporters.

Need to know the latest and the greatest?
Check out our website: www.gjsoccer.org
Or follow us on TWITTER: **GJSOCCER**

HELP WANTED:

Concessions Manager to work on Saturdays and Sundays at Longs Park during the soccer season, so if you have an interest, please email larry@gjsoccer.org or call 242-4550 EX # 2

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We welcome all soccer teams!

HELP NEEDED:

We are still in need of a Walk Captain for our Golf/Walk event happening on May 15. We also need a Day of Event Captain/Hospitality Captain as well. If you are interested in helping, please contact Rhonda Cool at rhonda@gjsoccer.org or by calling the office at 242-4550 EX # 3

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