

August 2021

Dear Players and Parents,

I am excited to participate in our inaugural season of Co-Ed Mustangs Soccer. This will be my 1st year as part of the coaching team at GFA. My wife, Kelli Rogers, will be our assistant coach for this season as well. I want to assure you that although I am new to GFA, I am not new to coaching. I have been a football coach for over 17 yrs, 3 years as a Basketball coach, and 3 years as a soccer coach in the State of Maine. It is through the Lord's guidance that Kelli and I will lead our team with integrity and encouragement. We will pray for our players' spiritual, emotional and athletic growth daily. We ask that each of you partner with us and do the same. Our theme is 1 Corinthians 10:31, to give God the glory in everything we do, in all situations on and off the court.

Our goal this season is to develop a team, a soccer family. We will learn soccer skills, we will learn that we need each other, and that some of us have strengths in one area while others have strengths in a different area. We will have real life lessons on the field. We will have plays that disappoint us and ones that make us proud, we will have wins and losses. We might have times we think we could have done it better or we should have done it a different way but we will embrace these areas with love, coaching, encouragement and fine tuning. Our season will be full of all kinds of emotions but that is what life is like too. We will honor God through the triumphs and the failures, through the celebrations and the defeats, through the great calls and the bad ones.

We need our parents to be on board with our team philosophy. Parents discussing another player's weakness with their player is not biblical. Parents please give God all the glory in the stands. Let our opponents look at the GFA Mustang Soccer family and say Jesus resides in them. Show God's love to our opponents, their families, the referees, the coaches, your coaches, the players and YOUR PLAYER. Let Kelli and I coach and you sit back and enjoy watching your child improve throughout the season. Encourage them, if they made a mistake in a game they need your love and encouragement to learn from their mistakes. Show them how to live 1 Corinthians 10:31 in the stands, at practice, and at home.

Attached you will find details about the season, practice and games schedules. If you would like to assist in being a part of this inaugural season, please let Kelli or I know.

We are excited for a great inaugural season with you and your children. THANK YOU all for joining us in making Mustang Soccer History. Please feel free to call, text, email or catch Kelli or I after practice if you have any questions, comments or concerns.

In His Service,

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Important GFA Soccer Info

Goals:

Our number one goal will always be to reflect 1 Corinthians 10:31. Our second goal is to give your best effort while learning skills to improve. Our third goal is to recognize we might not have the best players but we are the players with the BEST TEAM

League Play:

We compete in the White Tanks Athletic Conference (WTAC). Games are played against smaller schools around the area (Arlington, Palo Verde, Surprise, Wickenburg, etc.). We usually have two games a week once the season begins. We will have a Varsity Team. If we have enough players, we can also have a Junior Varsity Team. If we have two teams the more skilled players will be on Varsity. Most schools we play don't have 5th or 6th graders, don't worry talent wins games, TEAMWORK wins championships and we will BE A TEAM

Practice:

We will practice Monday-Thursday from 3:40 – 5 p.m. The players will be dismissed from their classrooms to the gym to get ready for practice. Practice is mandatory. Please let me know in advance if your child is unavailable for practice. Missing practices can be detrimental to working as a team on the field.

Games:

Soccer is a competitive sport. During the season every player will get playing time to help build and enhance their skills. If we make the playoffs the younger and less skilled players could have limited play time. If there is ever a concern about the amount of playing time your player gets Kelli and I welcome speaking with you privately.

Teamwork:

Some players might not be the best of friends prior to the start of the season. Teamwork is essential in soccer so once the season starts all players will be the best of friends. We will encourage one another. There is not one player who can win the game by themselves so we will learn that we need each player to win the game. Not one player is more important than the others. If we win we win together, if we lose we lose together.

Transportation:

Parents are responsible for getting their children to/from away games. With that said Kelli and I have a 15 passenger van and can absolutely assist in getting your child to the game. Please do not let transportation ever be a reason your player does not go. Please let me know in advance so we can plan accordingly and no player is left behind. You may also make arrangements with other parents for transportation, Kelli or I will need to know the arrangements.

Practice & Game Gear:

- Cleats, shin pads and white soccer socks.
 - No metal or screw in cleat
- Comfortable, black shorts that are easy to move around in for game days.
 - Cotton, nylon or spandex exercise shorts are best, must be appropriate length
 - Color for practice shorts doesn't matter, must be an appropriate length.
- All other pads are optional
- Reusable water bottle with your name on it for games and practices.
- Uniform shirts will be ordered

- Pictures will be 8/19/21. No retakes so please don't miss picture day.

Liability Waiver and Payments:

A liability waiver and payment are due at the time of registration.

The last day to register for soccer is