

## **Green Bay Lightning Soccer Club**

Playing competitive soccer can be a very exciting and rewarding experience. To play competitive soccer takes extra commitment and sacrifice on the part of players and parents. This document was generated to help incoming and current players understand what it means to be part of a competitive soccer club.

**CLUB HISTORY:** The Green Bay Lightning Soccer Club was founded in 1990 by a group of dedicated soccer parents who wanted to give their kids an opportunity to play soccer at a higher level. The Club operates as a non-profit organization managed by a traditional board of directors' structure. Club officers are elected on an annual basis.

The Club's purpose is: 1) to provide community select soccer teams, beneficial administration, quality coaching and quality facilities, and to support the total community soccer program. The Club operates separately, but in partnership with the Green Bay Strikers youth recreation program. 2) To promote soccer for area youth as an aid to fostering development of sportsmanship and the betterment of players' physical and social well being.

The Club continues to grow in size and organizational maturity. In 2001, the Club supported 18 teams (about 265 players) in boys and girls age divisions U10 – U19. The Club plays league games in the East Central Soccer District, which is part of the Wisconsin Youth Soccer Association (WYSA). Club colors are maroon and white. Home fields were located at Red Smith Fields.

**COACHING STAFF:** Green Bay Lightning Soccer Club has assembled a coaching staff with very impressive credentials. The Club has coaches with high school, collegiate, professional, and international playing experience. This vast level of experience means that Lightning players are developed by experienced soccer coaches. The Club is committed to recruiting top-notch coaches.

**TIME COMMITMENT:** The Club has been successful because it has a core group of people who are dedicated and committed. The Club relies heavily on volunteers to complete the tasks required to operate. Simply paying registration fees is not enough. Parents and players are needed to commit time on and off the field (a Club expectation is that each family volunteer at least 10 hours of time each year). The Club is continuously looking for volunteer help, especially in leadership roles. The Club can only be successful if all members pitch in! Players will need to commit to practice time, league games, and weekend tournaments. Following are typical guidelines for these commitments:

**PRACTICE:** Some teams begin indoor practices in late fall to begin organizing and preparing for the next season. These could include instructional sessions in a local gym or joining an indoor league for game competition. Teams generally move outdoors in early spring, as weather permits. Practice specifics (scheduling, place, and duration) are determined by individual teams, but on average are 1-2 times per week, for 1-2 hours in duration.

**LEAGUE SEASON:** The league season begins in early May and ends in late July (no games are scheduled during the July 4<sup>th</sup> week). League play consists of 12 games (6 home, 6 away). Each age bracket plays on a specific night of the week. (High-school aged girls may play 2 nights a week due to the shorter season, beginning after the WIAA playoffs.) Opponents could be local (De Pere, Allouez, Howard, etc.), from the Fox Valley (Neenah, Appleton, Oshkosh, etc.) or from as far away as Fond du Lac. Transportation to home and away games is up to the individual player.

**TOURNAMENTS:** The Club supports each team playing in four weekend tournaments. Tournament entrance fees are paid by the Club. Travel costs (transportation, food, and lodging) for away tournaments are paid by the individual players. Tournaments usually consist of play on Saturday and Sunday (some larger tournaments require games to be played on Friday night). Teams are generally guaranteed three games and can play up to 6 or 7 games, depending on tournament format and how far the team advances.