

About Glenwood Springs Soccer Club

Mission Statement: The Glenwood Springs Soccer Clubs' goal is to offer affordable soccer to all children in the Glenwood Springs area to develop skillful soccer players and good sportsmanship. With strong support from the soccer board, coaches and involved parents we have developed an excellent soccer program. We provide both developmental and competitive playing opportunities for different skilled players, structured programs in place to develop children's and coach's skills, hosting 2 tournaments per year, and creating partnerships with the City of Glenwood Springs and Colorado Mountain College (CMC).

Organization History: Glenwood Springs Soccer Club ("GSSC") was officially formed in 1980; 175 players participated that year. With assistance from GSSC, Glenwood Springs High School adopted soccer as an official sport in 1989. The Club joined the Colorado State Youth Soccer Association ("CSYSA") in 1990. In 1992, the Club changed from coed teams to boys and girls teams, thereby significantly increasing the number of participants from 310 in 1992 to 405 in 1993. During this time, partnership with the City of Glenwood Springs was crucial to ensure enough fields were available. In 1996, a new soccer complex was built at the Spring Valley Campus of Colorado Mountain College ("CMC"). These five fields, a \$525,000 project, were built with tremendous monetary support from the Gates Family Foundation, Glenwood non-profit organizations, and in-kind support from local contractors.

With the addition of the Gates Soccer Park at CMC, the exposure and interest of the club has grown significantly. In 1999 the Memorial Day Soccer tournament was initiated, and currently entertains 44 teams from around the state of Colorado. In 2001 a developmental tournament was started in conjunction with Western Slope Soccer League; 20 teams participate. GSSC also holds a weeklong summer skills camp at Gates. Girls and boys from ages 12-18 both train and play soccer games at the Gates Soccer Park.

The Gates Soccer Park is a great example of partnership. The complex is primarily maintained by CMC, in partnership with GSSC. The facility is viewed and used as one of the premier facilities in the state of Colorado. CMC uses the facility for their Junior College program, both regular games and tournaments. The Latino men's league uses the facility in spring, summer and fall. Other soccer organizations from Steamboat and Carbondale run weeklong skills camps in the summer. As you can see the Gates Soccer Park gets great use from all people within the Roaring Fork Valley.

Numbers of players in the club have been flat over the last couple of years. (See attached "Historical Player Count"). The GSSC took action in 2003 because of the decreasing numbers and initiated a "little peoples soccer program" for ages 4 to 7 years old. This is a once a week festive atmosphere to introduce children and parents to the joy of soccer and has proven to be a success with 20 kids in 2003 fall program and 85 kids in the 2004 spring program.

Current Programs and Accomplishments: GSSC provides year-round soccer programs for youth ranging in age from four to eighteen. The fall season begins in late August and continues through October. A tournament for developmental players is held in October. The winter season typically begins in December or January with indoor training for competitive players, indoor tournaments and referee clinics. The spring season begins in late March and continues through the end of May

culminating with a Memorial Day competitive tournament held at Gates Soccer Park hosting 44 teams from the state of Colorado. The continued success of this tournament is crucial because it has enabled us to keep our registration fees at an affordable \$50 per child. In the summer, the club hosts 3 skills camps for all levels of players from Basalt to Rifle which also helps contribute to the financial health of the club and creates interest in soccer.

The Club conducts this extensive program solely with volunteers, one part-time administrator and a Board of Directors. Volunteers fill all our operational positions acting as coaches, referees, team managers, and tournament staff. In 2003, approximately 250 volunteers made it all happen.

We developed a strategic plan in 2002 to more focus our efforts. From this, we are very proud of the following programs:

- ❑ Our tournaments we host at the Gates Soccer Park.
- ❑ Director of Coaching: The focus is to develop both players and coaches. We implemented a Friday skills clinic, to develop all levels of players. Coach's clinics are held at summer camps, and at the beginning of each fall and spring season.
- ❑ Youth Jamboree Program
- ❑ Our partnership with CMC and the community
- ❑ Club Operations: includes registration, team/coach selection, field, equipment and uniform management.
- ❑ Referee training and scheduling