



# **GORGE SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

## **Youth Registration 2016/2017 Season**

### **REGISTRATION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)**

If you're new to having your children play youth soccer, the following frequently asked questions (FAQ's) should help you understand the basics of how our soccer club is organized, what you/your child can expect, and what your commitment as a parent will be.

#### **1. Where Is The Club Located?**

Our clubhouse and most playing fields are located at Hampton Park (on Hampton Road near Tillicum Mall). The club has three fully-lit fields: one grass field (Ackinclose or top field); one turf field (Kulai or lower field) and one smaller training turf field (known as "the cage"). We also rent Bullen field for games/practices (lit) and Victor Brodeur (games only). Both games and practices are held at Hampton Park, however on occasion practices and games are held at Bullen and/or Victor Brodeur. Indoor practices, if desired by the coach are held in gyms or Pearkes arena.

#### **2. What Other Amenities Does The Club Offer?**

The club maintains a large club house and field house on the Hampton Park grounds. The field house has a concession, change rooms, washrooms and meeting/social area – it can be reserved for team parties/socials. Club team wear (e.g. tracksuits, hoodies, sweatpants, t-shirts and toques) can be ordered from the Gorge Store. There are also children's play area and tennis courts at Hampton.

#### **3. For What Ages Does Gorge Soccer Have Teams?**

Gorge Soccer has programs for all ages ... from ages 4 to over 70!  
A 4 year old plays in the U5 Division

*Note: "U" refers to "under" as of December 31st of the player's birth year.*

#### **4. How Can I Register My Child For The Soccer Season?**

Registration starts at the beginning of April each season. Details and fees can be found on the Gorge website and the posted registration form.

There is no fixed time for registration for Gorge Soccer Association (GSA) – the Registrar will take registration anytime from the end of one season, through the summer, up to the start of the next season (school start). Although the club likes to have all registrations in before mid-August such that teams can be formed and spots reserved for players.

To find a registration form you can click on the "Registration" link on the Gorge website ([www.gorgesoccer.ca](http://www.gorgesoccer.ca)). Print off a form, complete the information and mail it together with your fees (cheque) to the address located at the bottom of the form. All new players must provide a copy of the birth certificate or a valid passport. If a player must de-register, our refund policy allows for a full refund if the de-registration request is received by October 31. After that date, the amount refunded will be pro-rated. Refund requests will not be processed until after December 31.



## 5. How Much Does It Cost?

Gorge prides itself in trying to keep our registration costs the lowest in the Lower Island Soccer Association (LISA) family of clubs. Many times we have to increase our fees due to large increases in our payments to Lower Island Soccer Association (LISA), BC Soccer Association (BCSA) and Canadian Soccer Association (CSA).

The current fees for the 2011/12 season for youth players is as follows:

Age / Division	Early Registration Before March 31	Regular Registration April 1 – June 30	Notes
TimBits Age 4, 5 & 6 years	\$225	\$250	This "Timbits" group is sponsored by Tim Horton's and receives jerseys that the players get to keep at the end of the season
U07 – U08	\$225	\$250	This is a transition year for players.
U09 - U10	\$285	\$310	These divisions are separated into boys & girls.
U11 - U18	\$300	\$325	These divisions are separated into boys & girls.

## 6. The Registration Costs Are Still Expensive - Is there Help?

Some families have difficulty paying the registration due to numerous reasons (i.e. single parents, multiple children, lower income, etc.); so there is help available. KidSport of Victoria will provide a sports grant to parents in need.

KidSport™ grants are available for children between the ages of 5 and 18 years who are in financial need to pay registration fees for the sport of their choice. See the KidSport Victoria website links below for further information ...

- KidSport "grant" page with downloadable forms → <http://www.kidsportvictoria.ca/grants.shtml>
- Questions about KidSport accessing grants → <http://www.kidsportvictoria.ca/questions.shtml>

If you are having problems still making ends meet, your next step would be to contact the executive at the Gorge Office to discuss options.

***Gorge prides ourselves on ensuring all children get to play soccer!***

## 7. What Does The Registration Fees Cover?

The registration fees cover the following player specific items:

- Approximately seven months of soccer (September to March)
- Payment to BC Soccer Association and Lower Island Soccer Association (almost 35% leaves the club immediately).
- Group sports insurance
- Uniforms (T-shirts to keep for the younger players)
- Photographs (team photo)
- Access to FREE Gorge Academy training (typically offered for U07 – U14)
- Gorge tournament registration fees (typically for U7-U12 players)
- LISA tournament registration fees – a tournament for the U8-U12 players
- Gorge banquet (typically for U12 – U18 players)
- Ferry costs for travel to Salt Spring Island games
- and much, much more!

For the club, general membership and community, the registration fees cover the following...

- equipment for the players (e.g. balls, cones, flags, nets, jerseys, etc.)
- up-keep of fields, facilities and buildings
- utility costs (i.e. lights, electricity, heat, etc.)
- and much, much more!



## 8. When Does the Season Start and End?

Club soccer runs from early September till late March with a one month winter break. We anticipate start up dates (first games) as follows:

U13 – U18 Gold	2 <sup>nd</sup> week in September
U13 - U18 Silver & Bronze	3 <sup>rd</sup> week in September
U09 - U12	4 <sup>th</sup> week in September
U07/08 & “Timbits”	4 <sup>th</sup> week in September

The season will run until spring (mid- to late-March) at which point there are usually a number of fun tournaments that teams can enter. There is also the possibility of Cup play which will continue into April (with the Provincial “B” cup being held in July)

There is a 3-4 week break over the Christmas holidays. Games are scheduled to end the day after schools close for Christmas and are scheduled to start up again the Saturday following the reopening of schools. The players typically get in sixteen (16) games but sometimes more if the weather permits.

## 9. When And Where Are The Games And Practices?

Gorge practices for younger ages are usually scheduled for 5pm and are one hour in duration. Older players will have later sessions. Practices are scheduled Monday-Thursday at one of our lit fields (Hampton or Bullen Park).

Division	Practices		Games	
	Days/Times	Location	Days/Times	Locations
U06	No weeknight practices	NIL	Saturday morning 08:00 – 9:00am	Hampton Cage & Bullen Park
U07/08	One weeknight Monday 05:00 – 06:00pm	Hampton Park	Saturday morning Times vary 09:00-2:00	Boys – Hampton / Bullen Girls – Hampton / Bullen
U09	One weeknight Tuesday 05:00 – 06:00pm	Hampton Park	Saturday morning Times vary 09:00-2:00	Boys – Hampton / Bullen Girls – Hampton / Bullen
U10	One weeknight Wednesday 05:00 – 06:00pm	Hampton Park	Saturday morning Times vary 09:00-2:00	Boys – Hampton / Bullen Girls – Hampton / Bullen
U11	One weeknight Thursday 05:00 – 06:00pm	Hampton Park	Saturday morning Times vary 09:00-2:00	Boys – Hampton / Bullen Girls – Hampton / Bullen
U12	One or Two weeknights - Days & Times Vary Coaches choice	Hampton Park Bullen Park	Saturday morning Times vary 09:00-2:00	Boys – Hampton / Bullen Girls – Hampton / Bullen
U13 – U18	One or Two weeknights - Days & Times Vary Coaches choice	Hampton Park Bullen Park	Saturday & Sunday Times vary 09:00-2:00	Boys – Hampton / Bullen / Victor Brodeur Girls – Hampton / Bullen / Victor Brodeur

### NOTES:

- **All information is a guideline and not “written in stone”.**
- Please note that this information is tentative. It depends on the desires of the coach/team, the availability of the coach, field availability, weather, etc.
- Girls in all divisions play in an interlocking league with other clubs i.e. the girls they play home and away (travel) games.
- U8-U12 Boys may have a different schedule than girls due to larger registration numbers and most games can be played in-house vs. other Gorge teams.



## 10. Does Gorge Provide My Player With Development Training?

**Yes!** All players from u8-u13 and goaltenders can participate in extra “development” weekends which focus on skills development conducted by the clubs technical staff. Lately Gorge has also been running a developmental Futsal (indoor soccer) session for youth players.

Most players from u14-u18 will have two scheduled practices per week depending on field availability. Senior teams will usually have two scheduled practices.

Gorge also allows players to move up to older teams if the players are properly developed (i.e. physically and technically).

The club has a full-time Technical Director / Head Coach whose job is to guide the development of the club's players and coaches. Along with his coaching staff, our technical staff are all experienced and accredited youth soccer coaches.

## 11. What Equipment Do I Need For My Child?

Soccer equipment is simple and relatively inexpensive. It includes...

**Mandatory equipment:** A pair of shin pads and a pair of soccer boots/cleats.

**Protective Equipment:** “Jocks” for male players and similar “jills” for female players are optional.

**Uniform:** Club Supplied: Jersey. U7-U11 players get a t-shirt jersey to keep & U12-U18 players must return their stripes jersey at seasons end.

Player/Parent Supplied: Matching shorts and socks in our club colors (available for purchase from the Gorge Store for an excellent price.

## 12. Do I Need To Buy A Uniform?

Yes & No, the club supplies all jerseys. A jersey consists of jersey t-shirt, shorts and socks. For u7-u11, the players receive a t-shirt jersey to keep at the season’s end and the u12-u18 players receive the Gorge black & white striped jerseys which they must return at seasons’ s end. For all levels the parents must buy the shorts and socks.

*Note that for the 2011/12 season, Gorge is investigating / moving to a new kit for players that they purchase and keep.*

## 13. Can My Two Children Play On The Same Team?

Typically no (unless they are twins!). Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) rules state that teams are formed by age specifications, i.e. all 11 year olds play together and all 12 year olds play together, etc. Only in **special** circumstances does Gorge make an exception.

## 14. Can I Request That My Child Play With A Friend?

Maybe. We try our best to balance the strength of the teams in each division. If your request doesn’t upset this balance, then we will try to honor it. Gorge does try to ensure that the players are comfortable and happy in their playing environment.

On your Registration Form, just place these special requests in the ”*Special Requests / Comments*” section.



## 15. Can I Request That My Child Play With A Specific Coach?

Similar to the above answer ... Maybe. However, we try our best to balance the strength of the teams in each division. If your request doesn't upset this balance, then we will try to honor it. In the u7-u11 divisions, Gorge does try to ensure that both the coaches and players are circulated annually to ensure fairness.

On your Registration Form, just place these special requests in the "*Special Requests / Comments*" section.

## 16. Is There Girls Soccer and Boys Soccer?

In u7 the teams are all co-ed, with hopefully, the teams arranged somewhat equally (i.e. same number and strength of girls and boys per team). Starting at u8 girls can choose between a "boys" or a "girls" team. Many girls, however, choose to continue playing with the boys until they reach the age of 11 or 12. If a girl wants to play on an "boys" team then place these special requests in the "*Special Requests / Comments*" section of the registration form. Gorge recommends that the players remain on same gender and same age teams.

Typically by U13 the choice for most girls is to play on an "all girls" team, however, the option remains open throughout the youth program (U13-U18).

## 17. Can Girls Play On Boys Teams?

Yes. If a player is deemed to be capable of playing at that level by the clubs technical staff it is an option (starting at U7). Boys cannot play on a girls team.

## 18. How Are The Teams For Older Children Created?

For those under 7 years old the teams are flexibly formed by trying to create equal team size / skill / gender.

For children 7-10 years of age (u8-u11) players are divided into groups by age and sex, with players of all abilities mixed together. For these younger ages, the club tries to ensure that kids are grouped with their friends as much as possible, and that the teams are balanced in overall strength. Coaches do a "draft" at the beginning of each season. However those who register late cannot be guaranteed placement on a team with a friend. Games are not results-oriented, the focus at this level being improvement of individual players technical ability and team "awareness".

For children 11 years and older, the teams are divided by both age and ability, with the better players grouped together in competitive Gold, and Silver groups with sometime Bronze (recreational) teams created. Interested players need to go through an assessment / tryout process in order to be selected for the Gold and Silver teams. Obviously this is where players begin to take the game more seriously and two practices a week are common.

For more information on specific team and playing policies please contact the Technical Committee Chair.

## 19. How Many Players Are On A Team?

House League teams (U7) typically consist of 6 - 8 players.

Minis teams (U8-U10) typically consist of 8-10 players. Teams at these ages play quarter-field, with five or six outfield players (depending on age) as well as a goalie.

Euro teams (U11-U12) typically consist of 10-12 players. Teams at these age levels play "Super 8's" (seven outfield players and a goalie) on a third-field. Teams play other clubs from across the Greater Victoria area. Home game times are usually 10am or 11am. On occasion away games are held as far away as the Cowichan Valley, Salt Spring Island or Sooke.



U13-U18 teams play full-field, eleven-a-side soccer against other soccer clubs from across Greater Victoria. They have squads of 15-18 players typically.

## 20. How Big Is The Time Commitment?

It depends on the age and competitive level of the team. Soccer games are scheduled on the weekends, with the house, minis and euros kids playing between 40-60 minutes, and the divisional kids playing for up to 90 minutes. Most teams practice once on a weekday evening, some teams practice twice.

Gold level divisional teams (U12 to U18) require a commitment to two practices a week, plus weekend games and tournaments.

## 21. What About Try-Outs Or Evaluations?

Gorge only conducts tryouts at the competitive levels of U12 – U18. These age divisions are broken down into Gold, Silver and sometimes Bronze levels (except U12, which are Gold and Silver). Each year, a player is evaluated by his/her previous season of play and is assessed at a minimum of two assessment sessions that are conducted by the Head Coach and a team of coaches. The Head Coach with assistance from the Coaching Committee (if required) will select Gold –level coaches and will assist in selecting the teams. Normally our assessment schedules can be viewed through a link off of our home web page.

## 22. Who Coaches The Teams?

Typically, a mom or dad volunteers to coach his/her child's team. However, the Gold coaches are typically selected based on their knowledge of the game and experience. Gorge offers videos and coaching courses to help assist with this important undertaking. As well, the services of our club Head Coach are available to assist with and/or guide practice sessions.

Talk to other coaches ... they are normally your best source of information.

## 23. I Don't Know Anything About Coaching Soccer ... What Can I Help With?

All parents are encouraged to help out the club by either coaching, or assisting with the numerous other tasks that come with organizing a soccer season for our youth players. A few of the positions include:

- Join the Executive
- Team managers to distribute information, and coordinate practice, snacks, and uniforms for each team.
- Parents are always needed to help move goals, put up and take down goal nets and run the lines.
- Writers to add content to the Club website.
- Volunteers to help set up and organize our annual fun tournament / jamboree.
- Someone to help with fundraising / sponsorships.
- Concession Duty - The club runs a concession Saturdays from 8:30am-4pm. The concession offers a variety of hot and cold food and drinks.

## 24. Some Organizations Require A Volunteer Deposit. Does Gorge?

No. But we do need volunteers. Please contact the executive, your coach or liaison about volunteering some of your time.

*Any further questions please don't hesitate to contact VP Youth and/or the Liaison for your player's division.*