

# **Gold Country United**

## **Club Policy**

### ***Structure***

The Board of Gold Country Youth Soccer League (Board) recognizes that it is critical to the development of youth soccer in Nevada County to set up a separate organization to self-manage but be accountable to the Board for the management of the select (Metro) and competitive teams of the Gold Country Youth Soccer League (GCYSL). In this regard, the Board establishes the Gold Country United (GCU) club to perform this function. GCU is governed by the Board, the Bylaws of GCYSL and this policy.

### ***Mission***

GCU is to create an instructional, competitive and challenging environment that will allow the youth of Nevada County to develop to their maximum as soccer players and instill in them the ideals of fair play, responsibility and teamwork.

### ***Philosophy***

The Board feels that the concept of continuity of teams and players playing for teams is essential to the success of this program, but still recognizes that placing players in an environment that challenges their individual skills should be an important part of this program. In this regard, wherever possible age-pure teams should be formed, even within the 2 year groupings of Metro teams. Returning teams will have priority in the yearly player selection process.

### ***Age Purity***

Defined by class grade, as well as by CYSA age; i.e. players whose birthday are after August 1, but before December 30 can choose to play with their classmates who were born before August 1 of the same calendar year. These players are not subject to the special authorization required of players who wish to “play up” an age group.

### ***Competitive (Class I) age groups***

These will adhere strictly to the 1 year increments defined by CYSA, with the exception of classmates born between August and December as defined above. Existing “underage” players will be allowed to continue playing with their existing team. Any new players added to a Class I team must be age pure, or must petition the Board in writing to be considered to “play up” an age group.

### ***Metro age groups***

These are 2 year age groups. If there are 2 Metro teams within an age group, an older team and a younger team will be formed; i.e. a 12 year old team and a 13 year old team in U14s. Although a younger player within the 2 year age group does not have to petition to play up on the older team within the age group, the coaches within the age group will make every effort to select their teams for age purity. If an older player is not selected by

the coach of the older team, the younger team's coach can select them. Conversely, if it's obvious that a younger player's skill is more suited to the older team, the older coach can make an offer to the younger player. A better choice if available is to move the younger player to their appropriate aged Class I team. All existing players will be allowed to continue playing with their existing team. Players wishing to "play up" to an age group above them must petition the GCYSL board in writing.

### ***Selection of Coaches***

Coaches will present applications to GCYSL annually, by March 1 for review. Assistant coaching positions will be filled by the selection of the Coach or from the remaining applications.

All coaches must comply with the coach's licensing requirements set forth by District VI. In addition, all head coaches must also complete the referee certification course. Coaches needing to upgrade their coaching license as well as complete the referee certification could be granted a one-year waiver on the referee certification. Head Coaches must have a minimum of 3 years coaching experience or equivalent.

### ***Team Referees***

To ensure the league has an adequate supply of qualified and appropriately aged referees to support our Metro and competitive program, each team shall provide a minimum of one certified referee in addition to the head coach who must be at least one age group older than the team. Teams must be willing to provide certified referees for home games if needed, or risk being placed in bad standing.

### ***Team Tryouts***

Announcements of tryout dates will be sent to each eligible registered player GCYSL.

Existing players on a team may move up an age group if their team moves up. New players must try out for their age (or grade)-appropriate team. Players desiring to play up an age group must submit a request in writing to the Board after their initial tryout with their age-appropriate team. The Board will assign an evaluator to attend the next tryout in the new age group. The Board will make a decision based on the feedback of the evaluator, both coaches involved and the parents.

Tryouts will be conducted for all age groups.

Coaches will have 14 days after the last tryout date to notify all players of their intent to accept or release the player. If a coach decides after that date that to accept a player and the player has registered with another team then the coach must receive permission from the Board, and then notify the new coach of his/her desire to approach the player.

All players wishing to play in Gold Country United must attend a minimum of two tryouts. A player wishing to be added to a team after tryouts are completed must submit a request in writing to the GCYSL Board. The Board will determine whether openings exist and the priority of the coaches to evaluate the player.

## ***Team Selection***

Implementation: Existing coaches can stay with their teams as they move up in age, unless the coaches are considered in bad standing. An existing team is one in which greater than 9 players (for U12 and up) and 7 players (for U10) are returning. The number of existing teams in each age group will be determined prior to tryouts. Coaches can not recruit players from other existing teams. If a player wishes to be available to move to another team, they can specify that on their tryout registration form.

If a coach wishes to form either a new Metro or Competitive team, they should petition the Board. If they meet the coaching criteria, they and any players interested in joining their team should attend the first tryout. The Board will evaluate the player pool and will authorize the formation of the new team if sufficient players are interested and talented enough to form another team that would be competitive within District VI without diluting the players from existing teams.

GCU is committed to encouraging players to play at their highest possible level. The tryout registration form will ascertain the player's/family's feelings in regards to their team preference, but our hope is that all coaches will work together to ensure that new players are placed at the correct level. The oldest Competitive team in an age group will have first priority for interested players, followed by the second Competitive team, followed by the oldest Metro team, followed by the youngest Metro team. If players on existing teams should be playing at a higher level, we hope coaches will encourage their players to move to the appropriate team.

Competitive tryouts will be held at least 1 week prior to Metro tryouts. If the Competitive coach(s) have not filled their roster, they will attend the Metro tryouts and receive first choice of players interested in playing Competitive. No coach can make an offer to a player until the higher priority teams have made their offers.

## ***Financial Responsibility***

Each player in GCU is responsible for GCYSL registration fees, a GCU club fee, purchase of the team uniform, and their portion of tournament and travel fees. The team is responsible for collecting the GCYSL registration fees and the GCU club fee, and writing a check for each to GCYSL and GCU respectively. The GCU club fee can be paid in 2 installments; ½ due by May 15 and ½ due by June 30. The GCYSL registration fee is due when player registration forms are turned in for player passes, but no later than by July 15. Any team not paying the registration or club fee in a timely manner could be considered to be in bad standing.

## ***Club Responsibility***

The club employs professional paid trainers. Teams are highly encouraged to use these trainers to ensure consistency in philosophy and skills among all GCU teams.

GCU hosts the Ore Cart Classic Class III tournament in August of each year. Metro teams of the appropriate age groups are encouraged to participate in the tournament. All

teams are required to provide volunteer support for the tournament, as any profits benefit the entire club.

### ***Uniforms***

The GCU colors are any combination of royal blue, black and white. Each team can choose its own uniform, with considerations of value for money. However, it is highly advisable that teams in the same age group consider the same uniform, in case of player movement.

### ***Bad Standing***

An individual or team shall be placed in bad standing when identified as owing monies.

A representative from each team shall attend GCU club meetings. Attendance and participation at these meetings is the backbone of the program. Failure to have a representative at the meeting will result in a fine of \$25 being levied on the absent team. Missing 2 consecutive meetings will result in a team being placed in bad standing.

Failure to provide a referee as needed for home games will result in a team being placed in bad standing.

A team or a coach in bad standing could be ineligible to participate in the program in future years.

### ***Team Organization***

Coaches will be responsible for conducting practices and coaching at all games. All Coaches, at all times, shall:

- A. Conduct themselves in a courteous manner, before and after games.
- B. Control their team, on and off the field and their spectators.
- C. Abide by and be responsible for knowing the rules and regulations of this Program, League and with any Association with which this Program is affiliated.
- D. Make every effort to communicate with their players and parents.  
This means a willingness to listen to their feelings and opinions while expressing his. While a coach must make the final decision about his coaching style and philosophy (i.e. practice schedule, tournament selections, lineup and playing time), he must also extend the courtesy of listening to the people around him.
- E. Remain current with methods of coaching in line with the philosophies of USSF and CYSA. Licenses are required in accordance with District VI policies and all coaches are encouraged to get the highest license available.
- F. Maintain a current level 8 referee license.