



## Family Fun Showcase

We are excited to announce the first annual "GRASA Family Fun Night Showcase". The event is planned for Monday evening, May 5<sup>th</sup>, from 5 PM to 8 PM at the Soccer Spot of Kentwood.

The main activity of the evening is the 4 vs. 4 Showcase. We are inviting GRASA players to form teams of about 5 players each to enter and participate. Four players will be on the field, with one sub. Each team will play two 14 minute games. Age divisions are grouped by 2 year increments, as U10 (for U9 and U10 players), U12, U14, U16, and U18. The Showcase teams should already have signed up through their team manager. Remember that this is on the indoor court (rain or shine), so bring indoor shoes rather than cleats.

Note – this is a fun event. The kids are playing just for fun. There are no standings, no playoffs, no finals, or any of that stuff. The kids play soccer for fun, and that is the emphasis of this event.

There is a \$10 fee per player registering for the Showcase. This will cover the two games, food, and any other planned events for the evening. Family members are welcome, and have the option of eating for a nominal charge.

Several local businesses are helping to sponsor this event, and this will further help to keep costs down. Kevin Conerty, West Michigan's Boar's Head meats distributor, is one of our sponsors, and we will be featuring Boar's Head hotdogs. Forest Hills Foods is also providing support. And Physicians Care is generously providing pop for the event.

In addition to the 4 vs 4 showcase games, there are other activities being planned. We will have a radar gun set up so that you can clock your killer soccer shot. There may be a court set up for open soccer play. We will have drawings for door prizes. Hint – get there early for the best odds on the door prizes. Bonnie will have her logo clothing samples set up, and will be taking custom orders. Even if you are not signed up for the games, stop by anyway. There is no charge for anything except the food, and that will be very reasonable. There should be something for everyone. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Goalkeeper Training

Goalkeeper training! Goalkeeper training! We have hired Carl Whitehouse to conduct a series of five training sessions.

The sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings (April 30, May 7, May 14, May 21, May 28). The keepers for the U9, U10, U11, and U12 teams will have training from 5:30 to 6:30. The keepers for the U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, and U18 teams will have training from 6:30 to 7:30. The Williams family has kindly provided a space for this training. Keepers should get directions from their team coach or manager. There is no cost to the players to participate in the training sessions.

Carl is an outstanding goalkeeper coach, and this is a wonderful opportunity for our goalkeepers. We strongly encourage them to participate in all five sessions if possible.

## U11 Girls Visit Miami

The GRASA Girls U11 White team traveled to the Miami University Spring Classic on April 26th and 27th (Miami University in Oxford, Ohio). The team faced some of the toughest competition that they have seen yet. The first game ended in a tie with a score of 1-1. The opponent was Javanon from Louisville, Kentucky. The second game was a defeat to Evansville Elite out of Evansville, Indiana. This team had some incredible talent. The girls should be proud that they held the score to 0-3 with the opponent being the winner. The final game of their series of games was a nail-biter with another loss of 1-2 with Cardinal Red from Cincinnati being the winner. The tournament was a nice means of gearing up for the spring season. Despite the lack of wins, the girls had a wonderful time, beautiful weather, and had the opportunity to play against some excellent competition.

Contributed by Sheila Schlosser, team manager

## Soccer Safety

We try to make soccer as safe an activity as possible. There are certainly risks, some of which are elements of any contact sport. However, there are unnecessary risks, which we must work to avoid or correct. We all need to be alert for unnecessary risks, and work to correct them.

We all should be alert to field conditions, both for game fields and practice fields. We should notice things like holes (including gopher holes), broken sprinkler heads, or other problems that could cause foot or ankle injuries. In the case of a practice field, call the condition to the attention of the coach. In the case of a game field, call it to the attention of the home team manager. (The home team is responsible for the condition of the playing field.)

Soccer goals must be securely anchored AT ALL TIMES! This includes portable goals, and goals which have been moved off from a field. They must be securely anchored from tipping even when they are not being used. Many needless injuries and deaths have been caused by soccer goals falling over on someone.

No one should ever climb on soccer goals or soccer nets. They are not strong enough to support any significant weight and this is a serious safety risk (as well as risk of damaging expensive goals or nets).

Corner flags must be a minimum of 5 ft. high. That means that after being stuck in the ground, they must still be at least 5 ft. high! Benches, tables, and garbage cans must be at least two yards back from the field.

Lightning is another serious soccer hazard. Lightning is capable of traveling 10 miles horizontally from a storm cell. If you see lightning, or hear thunder, you are almost certainly less than 10 miles from the storm, and in immediate risk. If lightning is seen, or if thunder is heard, the field must be cleared immediately and everyone should take shelter in automobiles or in buildings. Do not stand out in an open field, and do not take shelter under a tree. The U.S. Weather Service recommends waiting 30 minutes after the last lightning is seen or thunder is heard before returning to the field and resuming activities.

## Got Soggy Shoes?

There is a neat trick for drying wet sport shoes quickly. Stuff lots of newspaper into the wet shoes and they are almost perfectly dry by the next morning! If they are really soaked, change the wet paper after a couple of hours and it works even better. The newspaper works like a wick and draws the moisture out of the shoe.

## Brewer Park Dedication

Come see the new Brewer Park soccer complex (84<sup>th</sup> St., just east of Division in Gaines Township). An open house and dedication is scheduled for May 17. Ribbon cutting will be at 10:45 AM, with games and activities starting at 11 AM. Concessions will be available. Bring your used soccer equipment and donate it to the Grand Rapids Inner City Soccer program. Guess how many balls fill a SUV and win a \$100 gift certificate, or take a chance on a raffle to win a cruise or an SUV.

The West Michigan Edge will be hosting clinics and contests for the kids.

Events will conclude at 5 PM. Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for this fun filled day of family activities.

Event schedule:

9:00 AM	Set-up
10:45 AM	Ribbon cutting ceremony
11:00 AM	Food sales begin
1:00 PM	KSC raffle/drawing
2:00 PM	West MI Edge vs Grand Rapids, field #1
3:00 PM	Soccer activities, field #1 & tennis courts
4:00 PM	Food sales close
5:00 PM	Concluding ceremony
5:30 PM	Clean-up

## Tryouts

GRASA tryouts for the 2003-2004 soccer teams will take place during the week of June 16 – 20. Specific dates and times for the different age groups have not yet been assigned, but that should be available very soon. Watch the GRASA website for details.

Note that if you will not be able to come to the tryouts, you must contact Josh Sheldon ahead of time to arrange an evaluation, if you wish to be considered for a team. We are going to try to form teams quickly following tryouts.

We will not be able to use the Catholic Athletic fields this year, as they are being renovated. The location for the tryouts this June will be announced when arrangements have been completed. For further information, watch the GRASA website at [www.eteamz.com/GRASA](http://www.eteamz.com/GRASA)

## Soccer Camps

If you are looking for a soccer camp for the summer, the GRASA website has links to information on a number of soccer camps. Select the Links page, and scroll down to the Soccer Camps and Training section near the bottom. If you have a link for a good soccer camp, let us know and we'll add it to our list.

## Unwritten Rule

*(Ok, we'll write it down so that you can read it.)*

Soccer has an unwritten rule of etiquette that is quite unique in the world of sports. You will see this practiced in the highest levels of the game.

The rule is quite simple: When a player from either side is injured during play and down on the field, whoever is in possession of the ball should immediately and directly play the ball out over the touchline (sideline). To rephrase, when a teammate or opponent is down, your player should play the ball out across the nearest touchline.

You will not find it written anywhere that this is a rule or "law" of the game. It is an unwritten rule that is passed down from the origins of the game.

And now for the rest of the rule: The team that has been awarded the throw-in waits until the injured player has been attended to, and then throws the ball, uncontested, to the other team. Regardless of whose player was injured, the team taking the throw-in will throw the ball to their opponent.

Usually the throw goes deep to the goalkeeper or a defender. That player is allowed to receive the ball without pressure and then full play resumes after the thrown ball has been received.

Consider how unusual this is. It is not required. The referees ignore it. It is done only because it is the right thing to do.

Referees are instructed to stop play only for serious injuries. If an injury does not appear to require immediate treatment, and the player is not in any immediate danger, referees are directed to let play continue until the next natural stoppage (ball goes out of play or play stopped for a foul). In the younger age groups, referees tend to be more cautious regarding what may require immediate attention. Even so, play will not stopped for a minor injury. That is the way the game is played.

So if a player appears to be injured, don't yell at the referee to stop play. Instruct the players to kick the ball out over the touchline. This is part of the overall philosophy of the game. The game, more than in most other sports, belongs to the players.

There was an incident several years ago that illustrates how seriously soccer players consider this rule to be part of the game. The FA (Football Association) Cup soccer tournament in England is the equivalent of baseball's "World Series" in the US. This tournament is the most important event in the country while it is being played. If ever sportsmanship and fair play are put to the test, it is in fiercely fought games such as these.

During a quarter final match, with the score tied 1-1, the following situation occurred. An injured player was

down on the field and the ball was played out by an opponent. The ensuing throw-in went deep from the attacking team toward the opposing goalkeeper, just as fair play demands. Then something went wrong.

There was an attacker still deep in the attacking end who was not aware of what had happened with the injury. The throw was intended for the opposing goalkeeper, but the attacker received it instead of letting it roll through. He then played it directly across to a teammate in front of the goal who struck the ball into the empty net. (The goalkeeper had left his net to receive the "fair play" throw-in.)

The referee indicated a goal, and recorded the score in his book. Then all heck broke loose. Thirty thousand fans, aware of this breach of etiquette, were booing and hissing the "unfair" play. The coach of the team that was scored upon threatened to take his team off the field. The officials told him to get the players on the field or forfeit the match.

The game was completed with the final score remaining 2-1. The winning team (Arsenal) was supposed to advance to the semi-finals of the FA Cup. According to the game and FA officials, nothing was amiss with the victory.

Next we have the post-game press conference. After much delay, the winning coach appears in front of a screaming mob of sports writers and television crews. After things settled down, the coach was asked "What are you going to do about the unfair goal?" His answer was "There is nothing for it but to replay the match." (English to English translation: The only fair thing to do is to replay the match.)

The coach had called the club directors, and they all agreed that they could not let the tainted victory stand. They called the Football Association and asked that they be allowed to replay the game. The FA said no, the game result would stand. So the Arsenal responded that they would vacate the victory and withdraw from the FA Cup.

Rather than being known as cheaters (based on an unwritten rule!), the club chose to quit the most important tournament in a country where soccer is everything. Fortunately, under intense pressure from all over England, the FA reconsidered, and allowed the match to be replayed. Subsequently the Arsenal won the replay by 2-0. And order was restored to England.

*(This article is based upon an article written by coach Darrell Rogers of the Traverse City TBAYS in 1999, and available on the TBAYS website. You can find a link to coach Rogers' original article from the GRASA website on the Links page.)*



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