

Greater Renton FC Questions and Answers

How does GRFC compare to our existing clubs?

Our current clubs in GRJSA, SCORE, Highlands, Cascade, and TUSK are multi-purpose clubs. They have geographic boundaries (tied to schools), and they serve soccer needs from U6 up through U18, both recreational and select. While this charter will not change, we are not doing the best job of serving the higher level player – our ability to field teams that can compete in the top 16-24 in an age group has been limited. GRFC is a mission club, with an objective of fielding 1-2 teams per gender/age group, and competing up to and including the Premier level of play. It will only form and field select teams.

What are the steps to completing club startup?

The association has chartered the club in our bylaws. Now we are meeting with our existing base of competitive teams to establish initial membership, and that group will ratify the club bylaws and elect the first board. At the same time, the President, VP of Dev, and VP of Comp from the GRJSA board are pursuing our first Director of Coaching.

Do we have a name, logo, colors, etc?

During initial formation, teams that elect to come in at U12 and above (for next year) can retain their current name/ colors. One of the immediate tasks for the new club is to settle on branding for the club. In the mean time, we'll refer to Greater Renton FC (GRFC).

What does this mean financially to the team or player?

The biggest impact for existing older teams will be incremental costs for the DOC and fields. We expect that depending on the team's existing budget, it could run from \$200-\$300 per player more – although we're working with the existing clubs to minimize the difference, most of which is due to fields not being subsidized in the new club. For new teams, we will still be very competitive with our neighboring select/premier clubs, but we expect to have coaching stipends at U11 as we begin to build a more professional coaching staff. Typical costs for this level of play run from \$1000 to as high as \$2000, although much of that depends on tournament schedules, etc. Costs for each team will be established and communicated at or prior to tryouts.

How does this affect me and my team for upcoming tryouts?

Hopefully you gain from the club structure, the new DOC, and the excitement of establishing the new club – improving our draw at tryouts, and just as importantly our retention of players.

Why isn't what we've been doing good enough?

The soccer community around us has been accelerating the quality of coaching and development, and other than some great efforts to build club level programs and retain and develop competitive teams at the U11-U14 age groups, we haven't kept pace. Our Association is big enough to field strong teams – but not big enough to do it with a fragmented approach. Further, there are efforts underway to exclude all

but the formal premier clubs from the higher levels of league play. For our children to compete at that level, we will either need to build GRFC and have a voice, or leave and play elsewhere. We have a responsibility to serve the soccer community in the GRJSA boundaries.

How do I get involved, or get my parents involved in the club startup and leadership?

We are forming a new board, with elected and volunteer/ appointed positions. We'll have a tremendous amount of work, so the more volunteers the more effective we'll be. As more information is distributed about the club, bylaws, and needs, please seek out volunteers, especially from our parent group.

I'm already on a select team. What if we don't make it in?

There will be NO change to current club select options. The new club is "choice-based" – we won't even mandate a specific order to tryouts. If a team is happy where they are, and at the appropriate competitive level, they can continue to hold tryouts, play in tournaments and leagues, and enjoy soccer and each other. This is for the players/ and in some cases existing teams that are at or targeting a higher level of competition and development.

My child plays select soccer, but he is not ready for the commitment of a premier club. What are my options?

GRFC will field A and B teams at most age groups, assuming the population is there. For many players that are still figuring out how much of a commitment they can make to soccer, the B team level is a great place to develop. For others, pursuing a club select team within SCORE, Highlands, Cascade, or TUSK will be the right answer. These options will continue to exist.

I'm used to driving my child nearby for practice. Do I have to drive all over Renton now for practices?

We do expect to make use of facilities like Starfire for many of our teams, and GRFC is an Association club – so it will mean more driving in some cases.

My son's team is great, but I'm not sure the coach has the experience or maturity to train them at the highest level. Can the new club provide us with a new coach?

Think about it differently – at U11, the club will be holding tryouts to form new teams with very qualified coaches. Those coaches may come from the outside, or may be well-qualified coaches within the Association today and the support of the professional Director of Coaching. At U12 and above, the teams that exist will come in with their existing coaches, but the level of development and support they get will increase.