

# TOPS

## The Outreach Program for Soccer

TOPS is a national soccer program created to train young people with disabilities in a caring coaching environment. This program has been very successful in the past.

By providing a community-based training and team placement program for young people with disabilities, any boy or girl, age 5 to 19 who has a mental or physical disability will have the opportunity to learn and play soccer and become valued and successful members of a soccer team.

Parents, high school soccer players, and other volunteers work with the kids. The games will be played on Saturday or Sunday each week of the soccer season and all games will be played at Hamilton Park.

You may register your child for TOPS on Tuesday, March 4 from 6pm-8pm at any Mayfield or Graves County Elementary School or Saturday, March 8 from 9:00am-12:00pm at ExpoIndoor II located at the Mayfield/Graves County Fairgrounds. The registration fee for TOPS is \$25.00

For more information, please contact Karen Clapp at 376-2561 or 705-2047.

## I'm 3, what about me?

We have something for you too! It's called Kindersoccer and it's FUN. Kindersoccer is a great tool for boys and girls to learn social interaction, get exercise, and experience the great game of soccer. Actual 3v3 games are played on Saturday mornings.

For more information, please contact Melissa Haley at 270-705-0037 or email [haleykian4@wkblue.net](mailto:haleykian4@wkblue.net).



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

GCSA is an organization of volunteers that devote their time to the promotion of soccer to all kids in Mayfield and Graves County. Our major fund-raiser each year is the Jackson Purchase Invitational soccer tournament. Many man hours go into the preparation and management of this event. We need people to volunteer to make the 2008 JPI a success. Please mark your calendars for March 14-16 and spend some time helping the kids of Mayfield and Graves Co. If you have questions or would like to volunteer please call LeAnne Green at 247-6527 or email her at [cgreen@wk.net](mailto:cgreen@wk.net)

Thanks,  
Andrew Herndon  
GCSA President

## All Kids In Scholarship Program

We are committed to making sure any child in the Mayfield and Graves County area who wants to play soccer may do so regardless of family income. For the past three years, GCSA has teamed up with the YMCA and held a charity dinner and auction. All proceeds from this auction were divided equally by both organizations. All money we received from this was put aside to help children who want to play soccer but are unable to pay the registration fee and/or the cost of the uniforms or equipment needed.

In order to receive financial assistance, certain criteria must be met. There will be scholarship applications available at all registrations along with requirements necessary to qualify. All applications submitted must be approved by the GCSA board. If your child or any child you know would like to play soccer, but due to financial hardship is unable to do so, please let us know by filling out the application at registration and applying for the scholarship.

## Do You Have Outgrown Uniforms, Shin Guards Or Cleats???

If you have any outgrown cleats, shin guards or uniforms that your child no longer wears, and would like to donate them to our All Kids In program, GCSA will pass those along to a child who qualifies for "All Kids In" assistance. Boxes will be set up at all registrations for you to drop your extra items in. Thank you for helping us help kids!!

## Thank a Referee

**One person vital to the game of soccer is the referee. His/Her job many times is tough because of the criticism that they receive from coaches, parents and players. Please, as games begin this season, show our referees the respect they deserve. And most of all, tell them THANKS when the game is over.**

## I Have A Question, Who Do I Contact???



Do you have questions or concerns, but do not know whom to contact? Here is a list of contacts for your particular need:

Registration questions  
Contact Lisa Dobrose at 247-3242 or [dobrose@wk.net](mailto:dobrose@wk.net)

Scholarship questions  
Contact Tiffany Perkins at 376-5344 or [tbperkins@wk.net](mailto:tbperkins@wk.net)

Want to coach a team?  
Contact Melissa Haley at 705-0037 or [haleykian4@wkblue.net](mailto:haleykian4@wkblue.net)

All other questions or concerns  
Contact LeAnne Green at 247-6527 or [cgreen@wk.net](mailto:cgreen@wk.net)



## 10 Suggestions on How to Build Sportsmanship in Your Child

1. Unless you're coaching your child's team, you need to remember that you're the parent. Shout words of encouragement, not directions, from the sidelines (There is a difference!).
2. If you are your kid's coach, don't expect too much out of your own child. Don't be harder on him or her than on anyone else on the team, but don't play favorites either.
3. Keep your comments positive. Don't bad-mouth coaches, players, or game officials. If you have a serious concern about the way that games or practices are being conducted, or if you're upset about other parents' behavior, discuss it privately with your child's coach or with a league official.
4. When you're talking to your child after a competition, it's important not to dwell on who won or lost. Instead, you might ask your child, "How did you feel you did during the game?"
5. If your child mentions that he or she didn't do well at a particular skill, offer to work on these skills with your child before the next game.
6. Applaud good plays no matter who makes them.
7. Set a good example with your courteous behavior toward the parents of kids on the other team. Congratulate them when their kids win.
8. Remember that it's your child, not you, who is playing. Don't push your child into a sport because it's what you enjoyed. As your child gets older, let your child choose the sport he or she wants to play, and let him or her decide the level of commitment he or she wants to make to it.
9. Keep your perspective. It's just a game. Even if your child's team loses every game of the season it's unlikely to ruin his or her life or chances of success.
10. Look for examples of good sportsmanship in professional athletes and point them out to your kid. Talk about the bad examples, too, and why they upset you.

Finally, don't forget to have fun! Even if your child isn't the star, enjoy the game while you're thinking of all the benefits your child is gaining – new skills, new friends, and attitudes that can help him or her all through life. For best results, parents should memorize and use the following:

- |                         |                                 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Before the Match</b> | <b>After the Match</b>          |
| 1. I love you           | 1. I love you                   |
| 2. Good luck            | 2. It was great seeing you play |
| 3. Have fun             | 3. What would you like to eat?  |

## Where Do My Fees Go?

Many ask each season why fees for playing soccer are so high. Others ask where do you spend all of the money collected for fees. Here is a brief breakdown of where your fees go.

1. Referees—GCSA works hard to provide certified referees for EVERY game played at Hamilton Park
2. KYSA dues—GCSA has to pay fees for every player of every age to our governing body (KYSA). These fees help provide coaching education and materials along with other aids that help our association function. ALSO did you know that within these fees you have secondary insurance that help defer medical expenses that you might incur should your young player get hurt while playing soccer?
3. Field Equipment—GCSA has thousands of dollars worth of equipment as well as 3 buildings that MUST be kept in shape and up to date.
4. Liability and comprehensive insurance—The equipment and property must be protected from fire, theft and vandals.
5. Field Maintenance Staff—There are over 25 acres of soccer fields that have to be mowed and maintained weekly so that your child has a safe place to play.
6. Supplies—Small things add up. Think about who pays for paint to mark the lines on the fields, toilet tissue, paper towels, fuel for equipment, nets for goals, benches, rock for the parking lot, and the list can go on and on.

Hopefully you can see that your fees aren't wasted. YOUR association, YOUR park truly is one of the best around.

Thanks  
Andrew Herndon  
GCSA President  
[andrew@gcysa.net](mailto:andrew@gcysa.net)