



GLOUCESTER DRAGONS RECREATIONAL SOCCER

A Proud Member Of The Gloucester Soccer Association

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January, 2009

Hello Dragons parents and players,

Happy new years! 2008 was a great success and 2009 should prove to be even better. It is my privilege to lead the Dragons this year as the new Chairperson. I would like to thank Stephen Heckbert for all his efforts as Chair over the last two years.

We have numerous improvements planned based on feedback and new ideas and technologies. One of these areas is in our registration system. We are working to bring in a new system that will make the team formation process automate from the registration system. This will cut down on errors, speed up the process and cut down on the large amount of manual labour the Age Group Directors do every spring. This has resulted in a slight delay in opening on-line registration. We anticipate having it open by January 21st. Please watch the web site for updates.

I am pleased to announce we have a full board for the 2009 season. With some very competent new additions along with a strong returning group the management of the Association is in good hands. This doesn't mean we are not in need of volunteers. If you coached last year, we look forward to having you back. If not now is the time to start thinking about signing up. We have free training available through the winter and spring as well we are introducing a system that provides practice routines for all ages but geared especially for new coaches. Please remember that if you yourself aren't available any adult relative or family friend can volunteer. Starting in April we will also be looking for students to help at various activities for which they receive community service hours.

Returning coaches and parents will notice a few new changes when the season commences. Age group divisions are now set at U5-U7 (Micro), U8-U11 (Mini) and U12-U18 (Youth). The Mini division will see the most changes as we incorporate the OSA Mini rules. Included in this will be no off-sides, kick-in versus throw-in and max team sizes of 14. Please refer to the updated handbook for all changes for each age group.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the fields. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sean Cale
Chair



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