

Ethical Principles for Granite Bay FC Teams Using Guest Players

1. Guest players should never be added to gain a competitive advantage or for recruitment purposes.
2. Guest play is designed for situations of true hardship. Guest players may only be used to replace existing rostered players that are unavailable to play in a game or tournament because they are out-of-town, injured, or sick. Guest players may not be used to replace rostered players that are receiving reduced playing time due to missed practice. The number of guest players used may not exceed the number of rostered players unavailable for the game or tournament.
3. Priority should first be given to finding guests from within GBFC for the development of our own players. Make inquiries of second team coaches and younger team coaches before inquiring outside the club for guest players. When second team coaches inquire for guests from first team coaches, consider loaning players who are currently receiving reduced playing time.
4. Guest players should only be used in games as necessary to avoid hardship and they should not take unnecessary playing time from existing team members. In other words, no guest player should play more in a game than any current team member who is willing and able to play. An exception to this might occur when a team is using a keeper from another team and existing team members are reluctant to fill that position.

If a coach believes exceptional circumstances exist warranting a deviation from the guest player or playing time policies outlined above, that coach must notify the Director of Coaching (DOC) of the exceptional circumstances and must seek the prior approval of the DOC.

GBFC Coaches Requesting Guest Players from other GBFC Teams

GBFC coaches may make guest play requests regarding interest and availability directly to GBFC players and families prior to contacting the player's coach. If the player/family is interested in guest playing, the coach then needs to make a formal request of the guest player's coach through e-mail. Coaches are encouraged to facilitate guest play and should err on the side of granting requests from all teams. However, coaches are entitled to consider the impact to the loaning team such as fatigue, potential aggravation of lingering injuries, and potential interference with team obligations. Coaches should work together to fulfill any necessary administrative requirements for guest play and for transfer of the player cards. It is the borrowing coach's responsibility to return release forms and player cards.

Granite Bay FC Coaches Requesting Guest Players from other NorCal Clubs

GBFC coaches licensed with NorCal must abide by the current NorCal Code of Ethics when seeking guest players from other NorCal or USClub licensed teams. <http://www.norcalpremier.com/about/codeofethics/411298.html>

The relevant section of the 2012 code states:

Adult members of the NorCal Premier Soccer will not:

Recruit Players – The definition of “recruit” for purposes of this league shall be: Approaching a player who is registered to and actively playing for another team within a NorCal Premier Soccer or US Club Soccer Club and asking them to either try-out, play or guest play for any other team, without first receiving prior written permission from the player’s current club Director of Coaching or Coaching Coordinator – even for purposes of guest play. Email is considered acceptable “written permission”.

This is generally interpreted broadly to include anyone who makes such a request on behalf of a coach such as a team player, parent, or team manager. It is also interpreted to include requests made of parents of potential guest players. GBFC coaches are encouraged to first consider the use of guest players from within the club. If that is not practical, please be sure to contact the appropriate DOC of the outside club for permission in writing (e-mail is acceptable), copying the GBFC DOC, before discussing the guest play opportunity with players, parents or coaches of outside teams. After receiving written permission from the loaning club and then from the guest player’s family and coach, coaches must work with the GBFC DOC to complete a US Club Player Loan Form prior to the event. This is necessary so that the guest player will be covered by US Club insurance.

www.usclubsoccer.org/Files/PlayerLoanForm-ver2.0.doc

Again, under no circumstances should a player or their family be approached about guest play by a coach, or by any other person associated with the team, until permission to do so is granted in writing by the appropriate outside club DOC.

Outside Clubs Requesting Guest Players from GBFC Teams

GBFC encourages guest play opportunities and has an open guest play policy. The club does not track guest play requests and the club will not raise Ethics Code violations with NorCal as it relates strictly to guest play requests.

Representatives of outside clubs must make a written request (e-mail is acceptable) to GBFC’s DOC, requesting permission. After permission is granted, they can contact the named GBFC players, parents and coaches directly about guest play opportunities. If the GBFC player and family is interested in the guest play opportunity, the outside team’s coach contacts the player’s coach for permission to insure that the guest play does not interfere with team obligations. If the request is granted, then the outside club’s coach works with their DOC to insure that appropriate paperwork is completed for insurance purposes. Coaches are encouraged to facilitate guest play and should err on the side of granting requests from outside teams in the same manner as they would grant requests from GBFC teams.

Again, GBFC supports guest play opportunities. Players and families are entitled to play where and when they want as long as it does not interfere with the player’s team performance or obligations.