

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Great River Families,

September 2025

As the new Club President, I want to take a moment to introduce myself, share some exciting updates, and give you a look ahead at what's coming up for our club.

## A Bit About Me

I've loved soccer for as long as I can remember. I started playing at age 4 in my local community and continued through college. Now, I'm lucky enough to coach my two children—Wyatt (U12) and Gemma (U9)—here at Great River. Last year, I also started refereeing.

Outside of soccer, I served 10 years in the Navy as a submarine officer and currently work at Xcel Energy.

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## Meet Your 2025–26 GRSC Board

We're excited to announce the new GRSC Board for the 2025–26 season. The board includes a mix of returning members and new faces, all committed to the club's growth and success:

- **President:** Markus Franz
- **Vice President:** Jim Hogan
- **Secretary:** Laura Valencia
- **Board Members:** Aaron DeBoer, Sara Haman, Angela Petrosky, Nathan Budish, Robert Cossette, Lucas Garcia Silva, Laura Benson, Luke Theilen

A big thank you to our outgoing board members—**BJ Chastain, Amber Wilfahrt, and Sarah Laugen**—for their years of dedication to the club.

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## Club Staff & Key Volunteers

We're proud to have an excellent staff and dedicated volunteers:

- **Arnold Changamire** – Director of Coaching & Player Development
- **Emily Barthel** – Director of Rec
- **Cassandra LeCuyer** – Operations Manager
- **Lisa Berry-Koepen** – Referee Assignor & Mentor (Volunteer)

Thank you to **Nick Crowley** for helping develop our coaches and players during his time as Director of Coaching. We look forward to seeing you continue to share your expertise as a coach.

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## New Committees & Program Leads

To better serve our families, we've created new committees and program leadership roles:

### Sponsorship & Fundraising Committee

Angela, Sara, Laura Benson, and Luke are leading efforts to connect with local businesses to help keep soccer affordable for all. They're looking for **parent volunteers** to help bring some exciting ideas to life!

### Program Heads

- **Tot Program** – Robert Cossette
- **Rec Program** – Luke Theilen
- **Competitive Program** – Lucas Garcia Silva



These leads will be your **first point of contact** for each program, which will free up our directors to focus on player and coach development. We'll post full contact info on the website soon.

### Family Involvement & Volunteering

We believe in building a strong, engaged soccer community. As part of that, we'll be inviting parent volunteers to help with:

- Setting up rec seasons
- Field setup and painting
- Event support
- And more!

Our **competitive program** will include a new **Dibs** volunteer system, but we welcome support from **all** families to make each season better than the last.

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### Upcoming Indoor Season

As we wrap up summer, we're getting ready for a full indoor season including:

- Competitive team training
- Winter camps
- Rec and Tot programs

Arnold and Emily are finalizing the winter schedule now, and **sign-ups will open in the next few weeks**.

Our board will also meet this November for our **annual planning session**, during which we'll develop the **2026 GRSC calendar**.

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### Uniform Updates (Early Stages)

We're in the **early stages** of evaluating new competitive and rec uniforms. Any changes will be made with input from our families—we want your voice to be part of the process!

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### USYS Age Group Change Coming 2026

Important update from US Youth Soccer (USYS):

Starting **August 2026**, age groups will shift from the current **birth-year system** to an **academic year system** (Aug 1 – July 31).

**Example:** A child born in December 2016 will be U10 for both the 2025–26 and 2026–27 seasons.

We are currently evaluating how to apply this for **rec teams**, but this will **apply to competitive teams** in 2026.

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### Our Mission

Our goal is simple: **to help every child enjoy the game of soccer** in a supportive, fun, and community-focused environment.

I look forward to serving all Great River families and helping our club continue to grow.

Warmly,

**Markus Franz**

President, Great River Soccer Club

 [markusfranz@greatriversc.org](mailto:markusfranz@greatriversc.org)

 609-477-9916



# TEAM OF THE MONTH

## BOYS U10

THIS TEAM BRINGS THE HEAT!

- HUSTLE
- EFFORT
- ATTITUDE
- TOUGHNESS

20 GOALS IN 4 GAMES WITH 9 DIFFERENT GOAL SCORERS!

AT GRSC, IT'S ALL ABOUT THE KIDS.



## BOARD UPDATES

NEXT BOARD MEETING:

- SUNDAY OCTOBER 12<sup>TH</sup> AT 6PM

ANNUAL PLANNING MEETING:

- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AT NOON

## TOT UPDATES:

OUTDOOR SEASON ENDS OCTOBER 8TH

REGISTRATIONS CURRENTLY OPEN:

- FALL INDOOR
- WINTER INDOOR

ALL TOT SESSIONS ARE ON WEDNESDAYS

## RECREATIONAL UPDATES:

FALL SEASON ENDS OCTOBER 9TH

WINTER REC INFORMATION:

5 WEEK LONG, ONE NIGHT/WEEK

- BECKER- OCTOBER + NOVEMBER
- MONTICELLO- JANUARY
- BIG LAKE- MARCH
- ANNANDALE- MARCH

REGISTER THROUGH DISTRICT COMMUNITY ED WHEN WINTER CATALOGS ARE AVAILABLE

## COMPETITIVE UPDATES:

COME SUPPORT YOUR COMPETITIVE TEAM AT A HOME GAME!

- SATURDAY OCTOBER 11TH
- BERTRAM FIELDS
- BEGINNING AT 10AM

FALL SEASON ENDS OCTOBER 18TH

WINTER TRAINING DETAILS COMING SOON!



# SCHOOL LEVYS AND REFERENDUMS

AS A NON-PROFIT YOUTH SPORTS ASSOCIATION, GRSC FEELS STRONGLY ABOUT ENSURING OUR COMMUNITY IS SET UP FOR LONG TERM SUCCESS. PLEASE VISIT THE YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT REFERENDUMS AND LEVYS ON THE 2025 BALLOT THIS FALL



**TOGETHER.**

For kids. For schools. For sports. For community.

**Vote YES - 2025.**



## CONTACT US!

[WWW.GREATRIVERSC.ORG/CONTACT](http://WWW.GREATRIVERSC.ORG/CONTACT)

### COMPETITIVE COMMITTEE:

GRSCCOMPBOARD@GREATRIVERSC.ORG

### RECREATIONAL COMMITTEE:

GRSCRECBOARD@GREATRIVERSC.ORG

### TOT COMMITTEE:

GRSCTOTSOCER@GREATRIVERSC.ORG

### FACILITY RENTALS:

OPS@GREATRIVERSC.ORG

### SPONSORSHIPS + FUNDRAISING:

GRSC\_SPONSORSHIP@GREATRIVERSC.ORG

### REFEREE INQUIRIES:

LISA 763-350-5233



## MATT LEMKE BENEFIT

Join us as our community comes together to lift up Matt Lemke and his family during this challenging time. In May 2025, Matt was diagnosed with ALS. Let's rally around him with love, hope, and support.

 **5 pm - 9 pm**  
**Saturday Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
Monticello VFW

 **Any questions**  
LemkeFundraiser@gmail.com  
Can't make it, and want to support?  
Visit the GoFundMe page or donate  
directly at Venmo

 **Spaghetti Dinner 5 pm - 8 pm**  
\$15 per plate  
cash or venmo accepted at door

 **Silent Auction 5pm - 8 pm**  
have an item to donate, email us to  
schedule a pickup by 10/1

 **DJ from 8pm - 12am**

