



# GEYA Soccer

[www.geyasports.org](http://www.geyasports.org)

## Fall 2010 Season

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Welcome to GEYA's Fall 2010 season! We are looking forward to a great season with lots of new and returning players, coaches and volunteers, as well as new fields. Keep reading for important information.

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### Important Dates

Sat., Nov. 6 End of season and tournaments for 4/5<sup>th</sup>, 6-8<sup>th</sup> and coed divisions (watch for emails on times and locations)

### Fields

For the first time, we will be able to use fields at Hickory Park and the new Fellowship Fields on Fellowship Road near St. Elizabeth Church. These fields will be used for the 4/5<sup>th</sup> boys', 4/5<sup>th</sup> girls', 6-8<sup>th</sup> girls' and coed teams. We'll even have some games under the lights! See the "Fields" tab on the website for locations of all GEYA fields.

### FAQs

#### ***How are teams created?***

Commissioners try their best to place a few children from each school and grade level on every team. The 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade divisions may hold skills assessments at the beginning of the season to allow the coaches to review all players and create balanced teams. Your coach will contact you soon after the skills assessment. As in the past, we try to maintain "core teams" for the older divisions to keep together players who have been together season after season. For the K-5<sup>th</sup> grade divisions, coaches receive their team rosters at the coaches' meeting, and they will call or email you before the beginning of the season.

#### ***How do I get my child's jersey?***

If you ordered a jersey during registration, you will receive it from your coach at one of the initial practices. If you ordered a jersey as a part of a late registration or need to order a jersey, please watch your emails for special instructions on how to collect your jersey in time for your first game.

#### ***Can I request that my child be put on a team with a friend or a carpool buddy?***

While we'd love to accommodate requests for assignments to particular teams or assignments to teams with specific teammates, it becomes a logistical and operational nightmare given the number and complexity of these requests. Therefore, the only guarantees that can be made is that siblings will be assigned to the same team (if they are playing in the same division), and coaches' and assistant coaches' children will be assigned to their team. All other requests will be politely ignored with the hope that parents understand why they can't be entertained.

#### ***How is scheduling determined?***

Teams and divisions are rotated during the weekdays at 6:00 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to early afternoon. This is so that players with other weekly commitments do not consistently miss games on the same night.

#### ***Can I bring my dog to practices and games?***

GEYA has a policy of no dogs during league practices or games for the safety of all players and spectators.



## Township Representatives

Township Representatives are a new addition to the operational team roster this year. Volunteers attend township meetings each month to represent GEYA interests in acquiring the use of fields in Upper Uwchlan, West Vincent and West Pikeland townships. The reps report any news regarding field access or conditions to the Director of Township Relations who reports to the GEYA Board. If you are interested in becoming a township rep, please contact John McCarty at [JohnM@geyasports.org](mailto:JohnM@geyasports.org).



## Volunteer Corner

They say you shouldn't throw stones, but that didn't stop the volunteers who helped clean up the new Larkins Fields on Graphite Mine Road. They picked up rocks, removed debris and leveled the field by filling holes with topsoil. We hope to have these fields available next season for the younger divisions. Many thanks to everyone who helped make this day a success, especially the McMahan, Sims, Hand, Scott, Pifer, McPeak and Ricken families. Great job!

Thanks to all the folks who have volunteered their time as commissioners. They spend a lot of time trying to assemble teams that are balanced as far as age, grade, schools and skills. Not an easy job! They also field questions and issues from coaches and parents, distribute jerseys and awards, and make sure that the teams in their division stay up to date with any changes that happen during the season. So if you see your commish, take a minute to thank him or her for all the hard work.

Also a special thanks to Kevin McNamee for helping construct the new soccer goals purchased for our new Fellowship Fields venue.

## Financial Aid

GEYA understands that in the current economy, sports programs may not fit into your budget. We offer scholarships to help families who need assistance to offset or cover registration fees so that your child(ren) can still continue to enjoy GEYA sports. Please contact [Registrations@geyasports.org](mailto:Registrations@geyasports.org).

## Meet the GEYA Soccer Board & Operational Team

GEYA Soccer is run entirely by volunteers, busy parents of players just like you. We have a number of new board and operational volunteers this season, as well as many "seasoned" volunteers.

## GEYA Soccer Board

**Jim Gegeckas *President*** My wife Cathy and I have three children, Evan, 11, Ethan, 11, and Madi 15. All of my children have played soccer with GEYA, and Madison has been with GEYA since kindergarten. I've been involved on the GEYA soccer board for about seven years, first as treasurer and the last four years as president. I also coach and have been a commissioner. Most of my time is spent on the soccer or baseball field with my children. I really enjoy the camaraderie as well as the friendships I have developed since joining the GEYA soccer board. I have had the opportunity to meet many fine coaches, commissioners and other volunteers. I can honestly say that the GEYA organization and its families are the best in Chester County. As for my other job, I work for the Certainteed Roofing Division in the Finance group located in Valley Forge.

**Jeff Ericson *VP K-5*** I work for MedRisk, a national worker's compensation provider network. My spouse Susie is an aspiring teacher currently looking for a position within the local district. We have three kids, Nick, Rylee and Liam. Thus far Rylee has played four seasons with GEYA, and I have coached each and commissioned for two before becoming the VP for the K-5 divisions.

**Eric Canfield *VP 6-12*** I am married to Heidi and have four daughters and three sons, ranging from 7 to 29 years old. I'm a partner in nth Solutions, an electronic product design and manufacturing company. I am also a Bible study teacher and small group leader. I've had 30 consecutive seasons in GEYA, the last 18 as coed commissioner, league officer, and board member.

**Ilknur Sancak-Marusa** *Secretary* As a full-time member of West Chester University's English Department, I teach courses in composition and literature. Although I have taught at the collegiate level since 1996, my career began in the advertising industry. Most of all, I enjoy spending time with my four-year-old son, six-year-old son and husband.

**Carey Burke** *Treasurer* My family has been involved with GEYA for four years now. Both my son, Riley, 9, and my daughter Emma, 8, began playing soccer in Kindergarten with my husband, Pat, as assistant coach off and on. I also have a 5-year-old daughter entering Kindergarten this fall, and she is excited to start GEYA soccer this season! Before I became a mom, I worked at The Vangaurd Group for over nine years. Currently, I work part-time at our church, Hopewell United Methodist, as Controller. I just finished a three-year term as Treasurer of Pickering Valley's Home and School Association, and I am transitioning into the role of President there.

**Brett Hand** *Fields Director* This will be our fourth season in GEYA, and I've coached all but one with my son, Maxwell, age 8. Maxwell's skill is being team oriented and talking to the kids on and off the field. He enjoys soccer, skateboarding, swimming, biking, Legos, piano, and science. I am an architect, specializing in residential design. I played on a rec league in high school since we had no team, and I am now playing in adult leagues during the winter months. I'm married and also have a daughter Julia, age 3.

**Paul Ricken** *Equipment Director* My wife Denise and I have four children who have all played GEYA soccer since we got involved in 1994, and my youngest daughter, Lindsay, currently plays for the coed division. I've been a coach for many seasons, a commissioner for two years, and the equipment director for 4½ years. In my spare time, I work for Rockwell Automation.



## Operational Team

**Zak Elabid** *Registration Coordinator* I have a passion for team sports and enjoy playing soccer with friends on weekends when I'm not refereeing. After seeing the impact this last World Cup had on the American people I've decided to help keep the momentum going by helping with GEYA. I have been living in the area for over 10 years. I'm a financial services professional with New York Life Insurance Company, and I enjoy helping families and individuals protect their loved ones and plan for the future.

**Chip Ashenfelter** *Scheduling Coordinator* My family has been playing for GEYA since 1999, and since then I've coached and been a commish, currently for the 4/5<sup>th</sup> boys. I am also a member of the GEYA Executive Board. Tara and I have three kids: Jessica, 21, Kristina, 16, and Eric, 10. I'm currently working at a steel fabrication shop in Downingtown as the Operations Manager, Purchasing Manager and Estimator. I enjoy spending my free time with the family either going on vacation or just hanging at the house.

**Jenn Wagner** *Communications Coordinator* My GEYA experience started eight years ago when I responded to a late-night email plea and suddenly found myself a first-grade boys' commissioner. Since then, I've been a commissioner for almost every division except coed, as well as volunteer coordinator. My husband Matt has enjoyed coaching Sam, 15, and Emma, 11, during most of their seasons. To earn my keep, I have my own proofreading and editing business and work part-time for Schubert Communications, a business-to-business advertising agency in Lionville.

**Al White** *Referee Coordinator/Website Guru* I started with GEYA in 2003 as an assistant coach. I was "recruited" to join the soccer board in 2004. My three girls have had a lot of fun with GEYA over the years, a total of 14 seasons now. My two oldest girls are now in college, and my youngest is a sophomore at D-East. I work as a geek for Vishay in Malvern. In my spare time I like to play soccer.

**John McCarty** *Director of Township Relations*

**Steve Egnaczyk** *Upper Uwchlan Rep.* I've lived in Upper Uwchlan Township for almost 18 years with my wife Libby, three daughters, Hannah, 12, Madelyn, 11 and Emma, 10, and son Steven, 8. They all began playing GEYA soccer in Kindergarten and continue to enjoy the program as they have progressed through the divisions. I previously served as an assistant coach and currently support GEYA as the representative to the Upper Uwchlan Township Park & Recreation Board. I work in the environmental engineering and disaster response and recovery field at Louis Berger in Exton (really Eagle).

**Libby Egnaczyk** *Uniforms Coordinator* Before kids, I worked at The Vanguard Group in Malvern as a project manager. Currently, I am a full-time mom of four. I work part-time at the Eagleview YMCA, drive my kids all over creation, volunteer for the Home & School at Springton Manor Elementary, and co-lead a local Girl Scout troop. In my spare time I like to scrapbook and keep up with my online business of custom handmade watchbands. I've served GEYA as a commissioner for several divisions over the years as well.

**Michael Hughes** *Coaching Coordinator/West Pikeland Rep.* My seven-year-old son played GEYA soccer in the spring for the first time. I was the assistant coach and will be the head coach in the fall. Not sure exactly what my four year old will be into, but hopefully he will get as much enjoyment out of soccer as his brother. I own and operate a small landscape business. My wife of 12 years has a very successful career, and the more responsibilities she assumes, the less I plan on working. I hope to be able to do more "Mr. Mom"-type things, as well as being involved in school and other activities.

**Maureen Freeze** *Picture Day Coordinator* I am the mother of two daughters (Ashley Nicole, 10, 6th grader at Lionville Middle School, and Taylor Belle, 6, 1st grader at Pickering Valley) who have been with GEYA soccer collectively for about three years. I coached Ashley's 3rd grade soccer team a few years ago, and now I'm coaching Taylor's. Personally, I grew up playing travel soccer in Cincinnati, Ohio, for Division 1 Girls and was offered a scholarship to play soccer in college so I have a love for the game and happen to have a love for children. Professionally, I work in Human Resources Global Staffing for an Engineering firm located in

Berwyn. I love being a part of GEYA and am thrilled to volunteer for the community and assist the GEYA board members with the soccer organization.



**Jim Karustis** *West Vincent Rep.* My wife Cindy and I live in Chester Springs and have two daughters, Anjali, 12, and Simone, 9, who attend Montgomery School. Simone, nicknamed "Blur," lives for soccer. I am a psychologist with a busy practice in Downingtown, and I write a regular column for the *Daily Local News*, "The Family Way with Dr. Jim." We've travelled all around the world, which has helped cultivate a love of soccer in the whole family, given the popularity of the game everywhere. We love being active with GEYA, and this will be my sixth season coaching.

**John Galvin** *GEYA Executive Board Member* I have been involved with GEYA since 2000 as a coach, commissioner and board member in a variety of roles. I am currently one of the soccer at-large members on the GEYA Executive Board, a 9-12th coed coach, and the coed commissioner. I have a delightful wife, Vickie, and three high school age children: Katy, a senior; Robbie, a sophomore; and Michael, a freshman. I work in the software development business in the slim hopes that I'll strike it rich and can retire and focus full-time on sending emails about GEYA soccer topics.