

Parents, Coaches, Players and Members,

I want everyone to know how excited I am to be the new GISA DOC, Director of Club/Coaching. I am a Glynn County native and have been a part of the Golden Isles Soccer Association for over 20 years. I played on the very first team for GISA, during that time the club had only a total of three teams. Now we are a club with over 500 kids. I have coached for GISA for 21 seasons; I played college soccer for a nationally ranked program and have coached high school soccer locally for nine years. I have a very strong passion for the sport and I feel it has taught me many life lessons throughout the years as a player and a coach. I understand the value of having positive coaches' in place that can have a positive influence on our young GISA player's lives.

In saying that, I would like to welcome everyone to the new era of Golden Isles Soccer. It will be an exciting time to be a part of the new GISA Club direction. I have many new programs, training, fun activities, and future coaches that I plan to implement and involve the kids with over the next years.

As a club, we are in a rebuilding/regrowth stage. A few of the many ideas that we will be employing in the spring are new guidelines of play for the U-4, U-6, U-8, and U-10 age groups and coaching/practice manuals for each age group. In some cases a better understanding of how the game should be played and a complete restructuring to allow the players to develop their skills faster with uniformity of the shapes/formations of play throughout GISA. In our travel program, we are looking towards adding new technical/tactical nights of training to develop individual skills and tactical development of our GISA players. These examples are just a couple of the new programs and philosophy's we are going to be adopting at GISA and for our players.

For the club to be successful we need a vision that will work and people can believe in. GISA needs a development plan that is in our kids' best interest that will get them excited about soccer, teaches them the game, and keep them interested in learning more. Therefore, distinguishing ourselves with multitudes from many other soccer clubs and let alone the other possible options in our geographical area in soccer. There will be no doubt that each family will be provided a service from being a member with GISA.

This restructuring period will not be an easy process and will not happen overnight. One of the most important things we need to accomplish with this new venture is for our club to grow. This is one of the main aspects that our members can help me with. In the future, there will be needs for help with programs, events, fundraising and sponsorships as well. We are going to give the kids so much more over the next year and as we progress into the future. I would like to thank you all in advance for your support and any future help/assistance that you can provide over this next year in getting our club to heights it has yet to have seen.

This is really going to be great for the kids from the bottom to the top. GISA has a new vision.

Lee Swafford

GISA DOC

Director of Coaching

gisadoc@yahoo.com, or doc@goldenislesoccer.com