



Rovers Newsletter

Teamwork. Commitment. Citizenship.

Winter 2024

Message from the President

Dear Rovers Families,

I hope all have enjoyed the Thanksgiving break and start to the holiday season.

It seems only fitting that during this time of thanks, we again say thank you to all of our volunteers. As many/most of you have heard me say over the years, we can't do what we do without the numerous volunteer coaches, managers, board members, etc. During the current soccer "break" the board was able to take some time to say thank you to all of our volunteers with an appreciation event. It was great to be able to talk to them about their experiences, both positive and negative, and it helps provide areas for the board to improve upon as well. If you get the chance, please give your coaches and managers another quick thank you!



Austin Busbey, President

As we move to more hours inside with the weather shifting, I wanted to give your kiddos a few things they could do to keep working on soccer. The best thing they can do is continue to touch a soccer ball, even if it's just 10-15 minutes 2-3 times a week. Find a little space in the basement, playroom, garage, etc. and work on foot skills. Toe touches, roll overs, pull backs, and L-turns are all perfect and shouldn't cause too many accidents! If you have the space, juggling is also a great way to keep up and grow their foot skills. Have them look up a new move on the internet and set a goal to master it before the spring.

Stay warm and see everyone in the spring!

Austin Busbey
Rovers Board President



~ Rovers Night ~ Fall Champions
~ U9 Boys First Season

Rovers Get Glimpse of Future

The Rovers soccer community was out in full force on Saturday, Oct. 5 to support the Granby Memorial High School (GMHS) teams during Rovers Night. They cheered the boys to a 5-0 win over Bolton, and rallied behind the girls as they earned a 3-3 tie against Berlin, a larger class L school.

“Rovers Night is a special event that brings the Granby soccer community together, with young soccer players and their families coming out to cheer on the high school teams,” said Andrea Wiggins, co-chair of the GMHS Athletic Boosters Club. “The energy from the crowd is felt by all of the players, many of whom were once Rovers themselves. This event not only boosts team spirit, but also strengthens our high school athletics program as the single largest fundraiser supporting the boosters club. Thank you to the Rovers community for your support!”



Champions Corner

During their last fall season before high school, the U14 Girls Team brought home the league championship. The U13 Boys Team also finished atop their league with a record of 6-1-0. The U13 Girls Blue Team earned the first-place medals at the Ocean Cup in Cape Cod over Columbus Day weekend after winning the finals in penalty kicks. The Boys U11 Blue Team were the champions of the top division at the South Windsor Fall Classic tournament.

In the CT Cup, a statewide single-elimination tournament that takes place throughout the fall season, three Rovers teams had big wins to advance to later rounds. The U15 Boys Team made it to the third round, the U13 Girls Blue Team won their way to the state quarterfinals and the U14 Girls Team competed in the state semi-finals.



U14 Girls finish first in their league and advance to semi-finals of the CT Cup during last fall season before high school.



U13 Boys crowned winners of their league.



U13 Girls show off their championship medals at the Ocean Cup in Cape Cod.



U11 Boys celebrate tournament victory in A group at South Windsor Fall Classic.

U9 Boys Begin Their Run as Rovers!

“This was the first year most of the boys played competitive soccer and they were matched against kids who were a year older. While we were outsized at most positions, we worked hard to keep all of our matches competitive. Highlight game of our year was against Windsor Locks, a physical match, where we showed our true resilience and grit, fighting until the last whistle – ending with a 3-3 draw.”
– Coach Chad Giannuzzi



The U9 Boys Team (Birth Year 2017) have fun at a night game in Rocky Hill, their first friendly game of the season.



U13 Boys Team Manager Melissa Dethlefsen and Assistant Coach Lynne Holcomb team up to make posters for the players.



*Newsletter top banner photo features U11 Girls Team at South Windsor Tournament.

*Rovers Night photos by Heather Hurczyn

Granby Rovers Soccer Board

Austin Busbey, President
Ashley Bednarz, Vice President
James Tsaptsinos, Treasurer
Andrea Burns, Secretary
Melissa Dethlefsen, Registrar
Colby Stoltz, Coaching Director
Steve Earl, Boys Director
Diane Bragoni, Girls Director
Mark Melnik, Facilities Director
Greg Dion, Media Director
Sierra Payette, Uniform Coordinator
Raychel Carey, Referee/Field Coordinator

Contact Us

Email: info@granbyrovers.org