

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GSSA, CSA partner to expand Evolution club soccer into Grapevine, Southlake**

The Grapevine-Southlake Soccer Association (GSSA) has strengthened its commitment to club soccer in this community by establishing a partnership that will make the Evolution soccer club GSSA's official club soccer option, starting this summer.

This week, GSSA signed a collaborative agreement with the Colleyville Soccer Association that will give GSSA shared direction of and support for Evolution, a soccer program that has seen considerable success since its establishment in 2011. The collaboration will officially commence on June 1, 2019.

The partnership agreement is the culmination of a months-long effort by GSSA to identify the best strategy for improving the club experience for players in Grapevine and Southlake.

"Our work group was very impressed with Evolution's training philosophy, its commitment to player development and its success over the past eight years," says GSSA President Zachary Weaver. "We believe that by extending Evolution's reach to Grapevine and Southlake, we will reaffirm GSSA's commitment to providing a local club training option – and one that will give players access to more teams across more age divisions, a professional coaching staff, and access to higher-level leagues."

"Just as important, this collaboration will give GSSA a continued role in helping further build on Evolution's success in this community," Weaver says. "Through a Leadership Committee, GSSA and CSA will work together to improve and expand the club's programs."

The partnership will allow GSSA to put a heightened emphasis on player and coach training for its recreational program, which currently serves about 1,400 players ages 3-18. "Evolution will be a dedicated partner that shares our excitement about growing and improving both recreational and club programs," Weaver says.

Those programs will include Evolution involvement in weekly recreational skills sessions. The first of those sessions – free to GSSA teams and called Monday Night Futbol – is scheduled for Monday, April 29, at GSSA's Oak Grove Soccer Complex.

In conjunction with the new collaboration, GSSA will disband its existing GSSA-sponsored club soccer organization, Thunder FC (formerly GSSC Thunder). GSSA has made provisions with the City of Grapevine to allow existing Thunder FC teams to continue to use Grapevine practice fields as part of a Thunder grandfather clause approved by GSSA and the City of Grapevine.

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