# LEARNING ABOUT USERS OF FRISCO SOCCER ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

**USABILITY + UX REPORT** 



This formal report presents information about users of Frisco Soccer Association.

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

#### INTRODUCTION

Our group chose to learn more about users of the Frisco Soccer Association (FSA) <u>website</u>. It is one of the premier recreational soccer leagues in the DFW area, but the website does not reflect that.

#### **PROBLEM**

The FSA website appears to be attempting to serve a dual purpose, attracting would-be players while also presenting pertinent information for existing players. The problem is, it does not accomplish either scenario particularly well. It has outdated and extemporaneous information, while omitting key features.

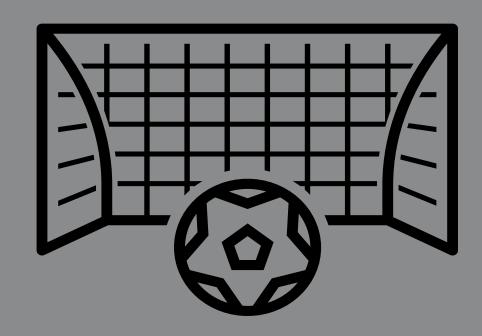
#### **RESEARCH METHODS**

We conducted a Qualtrics <u>survey</u> to get a better understanding of users' needs and expectations of the FSA site. We also interviewed two coaches of U12 and U15 teams to hear their perspectives.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

We would recommend streamlining the navigation to focus more on what users say they care about the most: registration, schedules, field conditions, game results, league standings, and contact information.

# INTRODUCTION

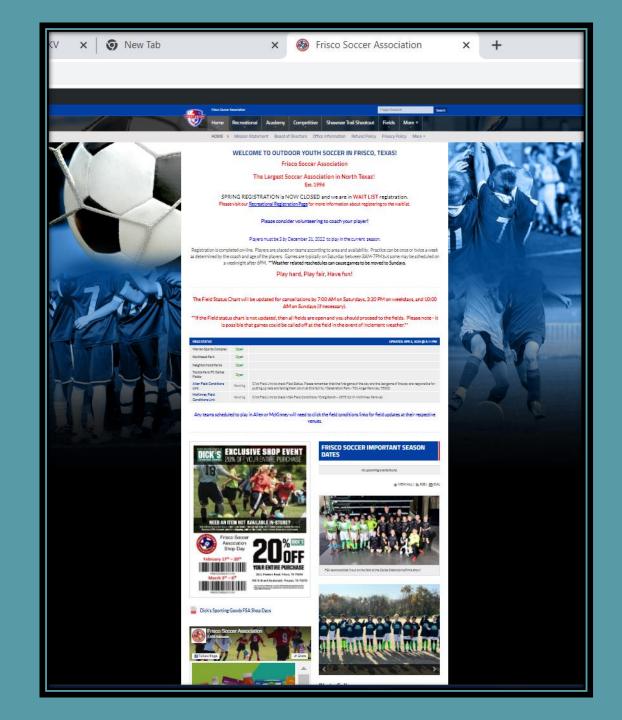


### INTRODUCTION

We conducted this research study to learn about the demographics of current and potential users of youth sports sites, and specifically of the Frisco Soccer Association site. In addition, we also researched the accessibility of the site in different modalities, like phones, tablets, etc.

We used Qualtrics survey tool to gather quantitative information about users' demographics and habits—frequency of site usage, purpose, etc. We also conducted two interviews with FSA coaches to gather qualitative data.

We have included the recommendations about FSA features that work, and the features that need improvement, as suggested by study participants.



# METHODOLOGY



### **QUALTRICS SURVEY**

Users of FSA site—coaches, referees, and parents of the Stormtroopers (under 12) and Raptors (under 15) soccer teams—took our Qualtrics survey that gave us insight into their demographics, website usage, impressions, etc. We also shared the Qualtrics survey on social media platforms like LinkedIn and Facebook to gather responses from participants affiliated with youth activities. QUALTRICS SURVEY LINK

What is the best feature of FSA site?

How many times do you visit FSA site?

In what capacity do you use FSA site?

What is the worst feature of FSA site?

In what capacity do you use FSA site?

What device do you use to visit FSA site?

How does FSA compare to other youth sites you use?



### INTERVIEWS

In order to collect qualitative data, we interviewed two of the FSA coaches over MS Teams to gauge their impressions of the site, their expectations, and their recommendations. We asked them the following questions:

How long have you been coaching youth soccer?

What was the initial draw to coach with the Frisco Soccer Association?

Do you find the FSA site intuitive and easy to use? Why or why not?



What would you like to see on the FSA site that will improve its usability?

What sites or apps do you use to facilitate communication with parents of players?

What is something that would make your (volunteer) "job" as a coach better?

# FINDINGS



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USER DEMOGRAPHICS



### ROLE



In what role do you access the FSA website?

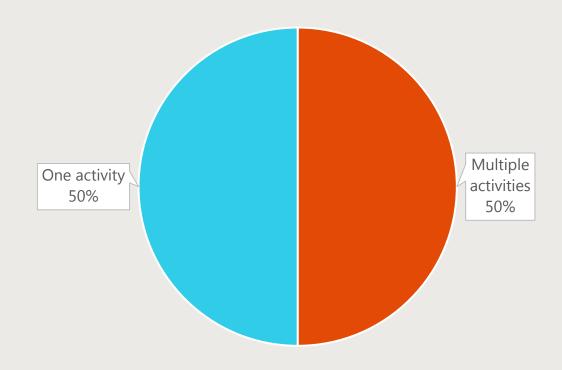


## Do you have children in other activities?

We asked respondents if they have children in only one activity, or multiple activities.

The results turned out to be evenly split, with half of the respondents saying they have children in one activity and the other half saying they participate in multiple activities.

### JUGGLING OTHER ACTIVITES



## **USER DATA**



### **USER IMPRESSIONS**

In a few words, what is your initial impression of FSA website?

Terrible.

It's too busy. Lots of text in red.

A ton of information.

Too much red color used.

It is simple, easy to read, and seemed to be informative.

Not well organized.



### **USAGE FREQUENCY**

How often do you access the FSA website?







**DAILY** 

ONCE A WEEK

TWICE A WEEK

MULTIPLE TIMES A WEEK

5%

80%

10%

5%

### **DEVICES USED**

What device do you use to visit youth activities website?



MOBILE PHONE 54.17%



DESKTOP/ LAPTOP 45.83%

### REASONS FOR VISITING THE WEBSITE











View Events Schedule Game Outcomes Check Updates Pay Dues

Other











### **BEST FEATURES**

What is the best feature of FSA website?

The field status chart, once you actually find it.

Scheduling and Results.

You can click on a link and it takes you to a new page.



### **WORST FEATURES**

What is the worst feature of the FSA website?

Not well organized.

Not easy to find "contact me" field.

Outdated ad—Lights on the Lake (Nov 25 – Dec 27)

There is so much information on the website that it is challenging to figure out where you need to go to get info you are seeking.

### **WEBSITE RATING**

We asked users to rate the FSA website on ease of use, visual appeal, and how well it works on computer or mobile device.

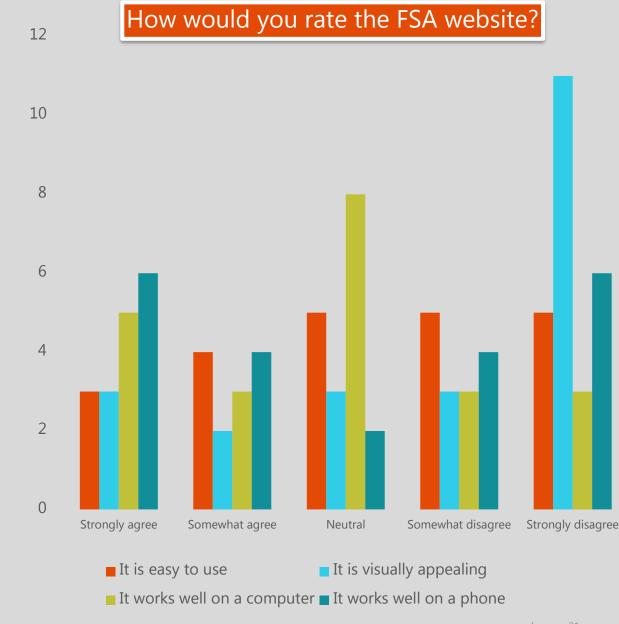
Overall, respondents found the FSA website to be:

- Slightly difficult to use
- Passably workable on a computer
- Visually unappealing

Strangely, our data showed that some users thought the site worked well on a phone, whereas others decidedly did not.

It may depend on what information they were looking for, and whether that was present on the home page. Further investigation would be needed to explain the disparity.

One thing the majority of respondents seemed to agree on is that the FSA site is not visually appealing.



## **INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS**



### **INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS**

### Coach "Ted Lasso of Kindness" Janis

Just remember that they're kiddos. That will last forever. Anything [tough] that you have to say to them, just make sure it's not negative because they will carry that with them for years to come.

Or, you might be the one where they think "Well, she really gave me a chance." Kids are like sponges these days. They try to listen, even if it doesn't seem like they are listening, and they carry that with them.

Be kind, be kind.

— Janis Hermosillo (<u>source</u>)



### **INTERVIEW HIGHLIGHTS**

### Coach "Feed the Tiger" Patrick

When they're little bitty, they play 4v4 and there's no goalie. The tricky part is when they're that little, they get out there with 1 or 2 weeks of soccer practice total in their life. They have no idea what "out of bounds" is, they have no idea what a goal is, they don't even really get what they're doing.

So, very early we taught them: "I have a tiger [stuffed animal], he likes to eat soccer balls." They're 3 years old and they think that's funny. Then at halftime when they switch, we'd move the tiger to the other goal and say "Hey, now we're going this way." Then when kids who don't have that stuff, they want to feed the tiger too. So, they score goals for us.

— Patrick Murphy (<u>source</u>)



# RECOMMENDATIONS



### **MAKE INFORMATION RELEVANT**

Based on user feedback, we recommend that FSA regularly prunes outdated information on their website and adds relevant information. For example, there is an ad from last year for Lights on the Lake. There is also a blank video that displays the message "video unavailable." The weather widget on the site displays cities that are not Frisco adjacent.

One of the best practices of website design is to get rid of information that is not helpful to users. Outdated information can be confusing and frustrating.

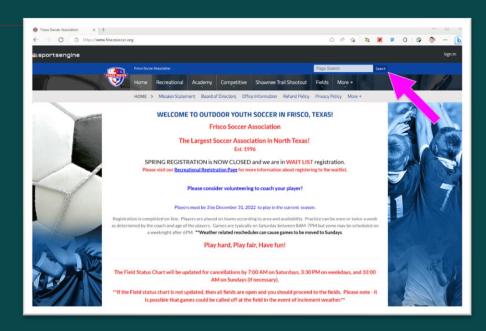
It may even cast doubt on the validity of current information, leading to bounce rates where potential new customers lose trust in the website's content.

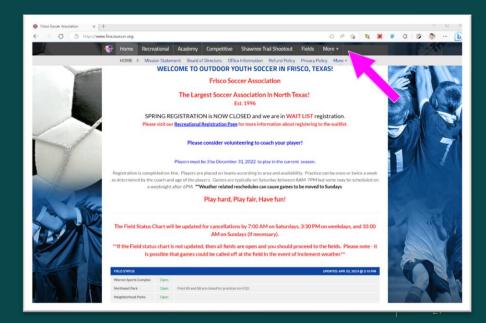


### DON'T HIDE THE SEARCH INPUT

Based on user feedback, we recommend that if a website uses fixed navigation that scrolls with the viewport, the search field stays visible. Currently on the FSA website, it scrolls out of view. This leads to a logical disconnect.

In a user-friendly website, it is recommended that the navigation remains consistent. This means search is typically displayed prominently on the top right-hand corner of the page.





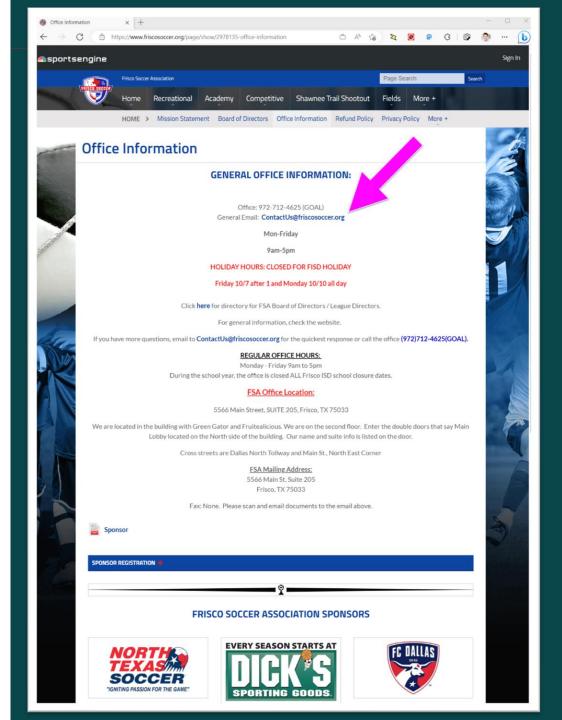
# MAKE THE CONTACT METHOD INTIUTIVE

Based on user feedback, we recommend adding a "Contact FSA" button on the main navigation bar where it will be easy to find.

We also recommend creating a page listing separate email addresses for different topics: general, confidential and sensitive (player/coach safety), scheduling, questions for referees, etc.

Currently, there is only one "contact us" email address. It is buried on a sub-page of the site.

In an ideal website, users should be able to find the information they are looking for easily. A method of contact on the home page menu is standard industry practice.



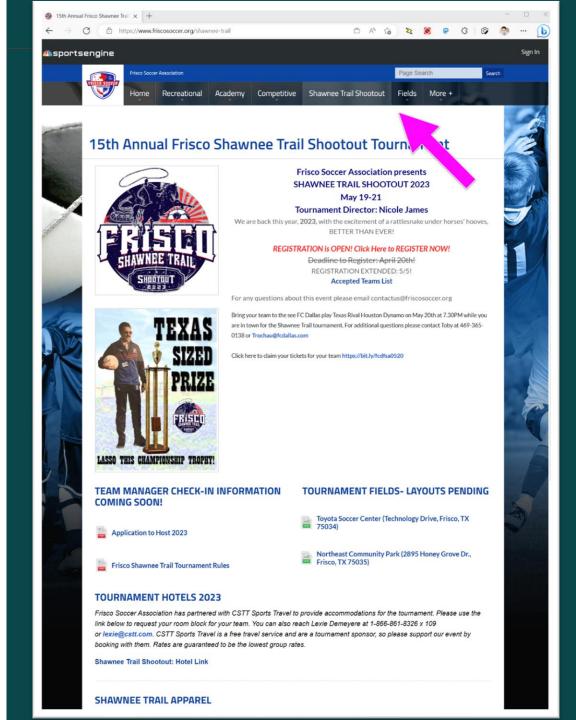
# ARRANGE INFORMATION ARCHITECTURE INTUITIVELY

We recommend aligning the information architecture with how people think about the categories they need. Currently, the main menu has options that cater more to prospective players rather than existing players.

We would suggest navigation links such as these:

Registration | Season schedule | Team calendar | Game & practice fields | Contact FSA

**NOTE:** The current site takes up precious space with "Shawnee Trail Shootout," making it seem like a permanent part of the navigation. But it is a temporary, time-sensitive link.

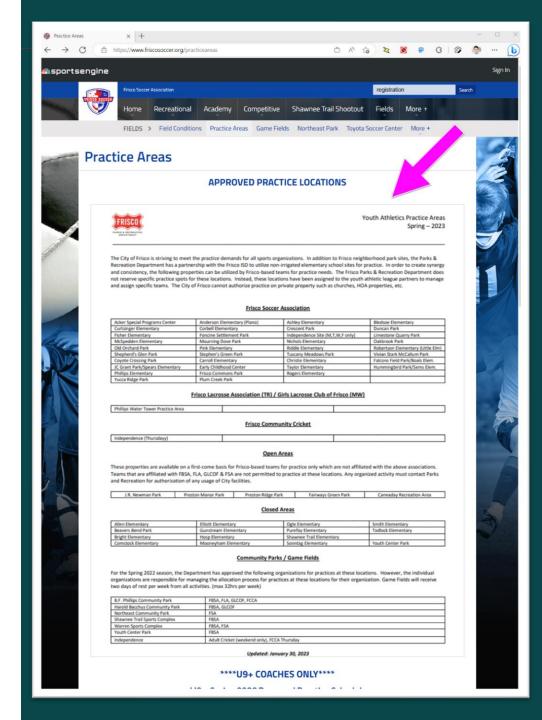


# FIX ACCESIBILITY OF THE "PRACTICE AREAS" PAGE

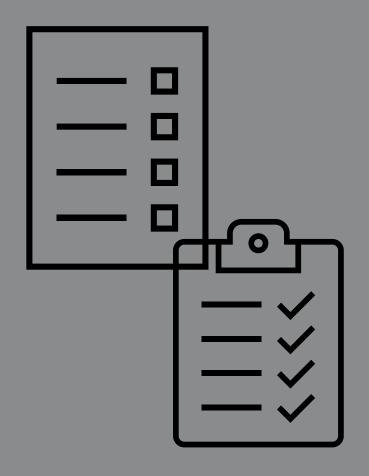
We recommend using real HTML text for important information. This will ensure that anyone accessing the site can read it, in addition to making it crawlable by search engines.

Currently, the main content of the "approved practice locations" is an image. It appears to be a screenshot of a document created in Microsoft Word, rather than actual text.

As such, no text from within it can be copied and pasted. Blind users would also be unable to hear the text read aloud to them by screen reader assistive technology, because the element on the page is one giant image.



# APPENDIX



**Interview Link and Questions** 

**Survey Link and Questions** 

**Two Personas** 

**Empathy Map** 

**Journey Map** 

### **INTERVIEW LINK & QUESTIONS**

INTERVIEW LINK: <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AAtxnfPlGp1iaP3oOh6g8ofaQdvUygEw">https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AAtxnfPlGp1iaP3oOh6g8ofaQdvUygEw</a>

#### **INTERVIEW QUESTIONS:**

- 1. How long have you been coaching youth soccer?
- 2. What was the initial draw to coaching with the Frisco Soccer Association?
- 3. Do you find the FSA site intuitive and easy to use? Why or why not?
- 4. What other sites or apps do you use to facilitate communication with parents of players?
- 5. What is something that would make your (volunteer) "job" as a coach better?
- 6. What tips would you give to other coaches or parents of players?
- 7. Is there anything else you would like to tell us; maybe an anecdote or funny soccer story?

### **User Research for FSA**

Survey Link: <a href="https://unt.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV">https://unt.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV</a> ex005NYO5dPsvEG</a>
Survey Flow

Block: INTRO (1 Question) Standard: QUESTIONS (14 Questions) Standard: END (1 Question)	
Page Break ————————————————————————————————————	_
Start of Block: INTRO	
Q1 This is a survey to learn about users of youth activity websites.	
We just have a few brief questions that we would like to ask you. It should take less than 10 minutes.	
End of Block: INTRO	
Start of Block: QUESTIONS	
Q2 Please take a few minutes to visit the Frisco Soccer Association (FSA) website.	
https://www.friscosoccer.org	
In a few words, what is your initial impression?	

	Strongly disagree (1)	Somewhat disagree (2)	Neutral (3)	Somewhat agree (4)	Strongly agree (5)
It is easy to use (1)	0	0	0	0	0
It is visually appealing (4)	0	0	$\circ$	$\circ$	$\circ$
It works well on a computer (5)	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	0
It works well on a phone (6)	0	$\circ$	0	$\circ$	$\circ$
Q4 What is the	best feature of the	he FSA website?			
Q5 What is the	worst feature of	the FSA website	?		

Q6 In what ca	apacity do you use youth sports websites?				
	Parent / Guardian (1)				
	Coach (2)				
	Referee (3)				
	Player (4)				
	Family or friend of player (5)				
	Other (6)				
Display This C	Question:				
If In what	capacity do you use youth sports websites? = Parent / Guardian				
*					
Q7 How many children in your family play youth sports?					
Diaploy This C	Vication				
Display This C	capacity do you use youth sports websites? = Parent / Guardian				
n m mac	supusity as you use youth opense westerees. If a only outher				
Q8 Do you have children in other activities?					
O Yes (	(1)				
O No (2	2)				
Display This C	ouestion:				
	have children in other activities? = Yes				

Q9 Does that youth activity organization have a website?
○ Yes (www.example.com) (1)
O No (2)
Page Break ————————————————————————————————————
Display This Question:
If If Does that youth activity organization have a website? Text Response Is Not Empty
Q10 How does \${Q9/ChoiceTextEntryValue/1} compare to the FSA website?
○ Much better (4)
O Somewhat better (2)
O Neither better nor worse (1)
O Somewhat worse (5)
O Much worse (3)
Q11 How many times per week do you visit youth activity websites?
Opaily (3)
Once a week (1)
○ Twice a week (2)
O Multiple times a week (14)

Q12 Why do you usually visit youth activity websites?	
O To pay dues (1)	
O To view events schedule (2)	
O To check for updates (3)	
○ To view game outcomes (5)	
Other (4)	
Q13 What device do you use to visit youth activity websites?	
Desktop / Laptop (1)	
Mobile phone (3)	
Tablet (4)	
Other (5)	
Q14 Optional: Is there anything else you would like us to know?	
	-
	-
	-

Q15 Optional: Email address, to receive our final report.

**End of Block: QUESTIONS** 

Start of Block: END

Q16 Thanks! That concludes the survey. On the next page, you can view a summary of your responses.

NOTE: If you would like, you can copy and paste the link to family and friends. That will help us gather more anonymous data to complete our study.

**End of Block: END** 



photo source

"I want to help my kids get adjusted to their new environment and create continuity for the activities I know they enjoy the most."

— Goliath Rogersonian

#### Goli is looking for:

- A game/practice schedule that works for both kids, and their other activities.
- Practice fields that are nearby.
   Sam recently got her license and could potentially drive herself.
- Reliable coaches, refs, and adult volunteers. Having a league with a good background check policy will be an important factor. He wants a trustworthy organization.
- Soccer league fees that are not too expensive. He has heard that some sports tend to be cost prohibitive, especially at the "select" competitive level.

## **Goliath Rogersonian**

PROJECT MANAGER | PARENT OF SOCCER PLAYERS

Goliath Rogersonian ("Goli" for short) recently moved to Frisco, TX. He began a project management position with Toyota in Plano.

He has been splitting his time between work on the weekdays and occasionally traveling back to Colorado on the weekends, to help his family pack up their belongings at their home in Denver. His wife and kids stayed behind to finish out the school year rather than transfer mid-semester. This summer, they will all make "the big move" to Frisco as a family.

One of his priorities is making sure he finds a good competitive soccer team for his oldest daughter Samantha (age 16). She currently plays for an academy team in Denver and wants to continue with soccer in Frisco because she has hopes of eventually playing in college. Additionally, she is also in youth choir at her current high school and wants to pursue both activities in Frisco.

Goli also has a younger son Benji (age 8) who wants to follow in his sister's footsteps. He enjoys participating in karate classes in Colorado and wants to do both in Texas too. Because he is still developing his soccer skills, Goli wants him to keep playing at a recreational level. If he decides to go all-in on soccer as he gets older, then he can join a competitive league like his sister.

If possible, Goli would like to juggle each of his kids being enrolled in dual activities. He decided to start doing research ahead of time, because he has heard from coworkers at Toyota that there tends to be a waiting list to be placed with an FSA team.



photo source

"Even though I am done in the classroom, I still have a lifelong love for teaching and impacting youngsters. I am enjoying my second chapter as a volunteer."

— Delaney Argyle

### More about Delaney:

- She is of mixed European and South Asian heritage. Her childhood household was an eclectic mashup of varied cultural and religious traditions.
- She has a soft spot for children, but can be a hardliner when it comes to unruly adults. She does not back down when coaches or parents question her authority.
- She uses the FSA site to keep tabs on schedule changes and field conditions. She also double checks game scores, to ensure that coaches are reporting the number accurately.

## **Delaney Argyle**

RETIRED MATH TEACHER | SOCCER REFEREE

Delaney Argyle was born in Manchester, England (go United!) and grew up loving all things nerdy. She attended King's College London where she majored in mathematics (aka "maths" as she would call it). She played intramural soccer in college.

After graduation, she taught at several secondary schools in England and Wales. She never really gave much consideration to settling down, but happened to meet an American gentleman (in the US military) when her friend set her up on a blind date. They eventually married and she became a naturalized US citizen.

Moving around the states in support of his job, she taught middle school and high school math. She and her husband are now empty nesters, and she recently retired from teaching.

Her twin boys, who are nearly finished with college, played soccer in FSA when they were younger. She misses the bustle of youth sports, so she recently decided to become a part-time referee.

She likes doing referee work because it:

- Pays decently, given the relative effort
- Lets her interact with people in the community
- Helps her give back, in a way that feels tangible

She had considered coaching, but prefers the schedule afforded as a referee. That allows for flexible travel to visit her sons, instead of feeling obligated to be at every soccer game.

## WHAT DOES HE THINK & FEEL?

"I don't want to uproot my family."

"Too good of an opportunity to pass up."

"I want the kids to get adjusted to a new environment."

### WHAT DOES HE SEE?

The FSA website seems outdated.

Recreational and academy info on the FSA website.

Karate classes in his area.

## WHAT DOES HE HEAR?

Frisco is a good city for raising soccer athletes.

Some sports tend to be cost-prohibitive.

There may be a waiting list for the FSA.

### PAIN

Traveling to Colorado on the weekends.

Moving his family from Denver to Frisco.

Juggling dual activities for both kids.

## WHAT DOES HE SAY & DO?

"I will research competitive soccer in Frisco, Texas."

"I will look for nearby karate classes."

Reads reviews about FSA and other area soccer leagues.

### **GAIN**

Wife can now help with the driving.

Kids get to finish out the Denver school year.

Kids get to continue activities they enjoy.



## **Goliath Rogersonian**

PROJECT MANAGER | PARENT OF SOCCER PLAYERS

#### Scenario:

Goliath Rogersonian (Goli for short) is in his early 40s and has two kids: Samantha and Benji, ages 16 and 8 respectively. He recently moved to Frisco, TX and is looking to enroll his kids in soccer. Samantha wants to be on a competitive team, and Benji will be looking to join a recreational team initially.

## **Expectations**

#### Standards and safety:

- Goliath wants to make sure his children's activities have a background check for volunteers.
- He wants fair refs who will prevent injurious play during games.

#### Overall value:

- He also wants to make sure that soccer is affordable. His kids are involved in several activities.
- He doesn't mind paying, but wants the program to be quality.

## Info

This journey map is based on a mix of real data gleaned from survey results, as well as some fictitious details added for backstory.

Goliath Rogersonian is not a real person. His photo is from a stock photo site called <u>Unsplash</u>.

### 1. Awareness

- Goli recently moved to Frisco, TX as part of a job relocation.
- He has two kids. Samantha is age 16 and Benjamin is age 8. Both of them play soccer, at different levels of competition.
- Goli has begun researching local area soccer programs, in hopes of having continuity for his kids in activities they enjoy.
- He has heard that it is tough to be placed on a team right away, due to the growing interest and an influx of new arrivals.
- He is also aware that Frisco and McKinney are some of the fastest growing areas in the United States. So, he wants to start the ball rolling before his family moves to Texas from Colorado.

### 2. Weighing options

- Goli researches different local soccer programs, including those in Allen, McKinney, and Plano.
- From what he can tell, McKinney offers comparable recreational tiers, but his daughter Sam specifically wants a more competitive league.
- Whereas the Allen sports site lists soccer as being offered only in the fall, with no spring season.
- Plano has recreational and competitive teams, but he feels like this would be a bit of a drive because their family bought a house in Frisco.
- Ultimately, he decides on Frisco Soccer Association. Their site isn't perfect, but it does the job. Frisco is also where <u>FC Dallas</u> is located, and they have a training program for local youth.

### 3. Requesting info

- After searching around the <u>Frisco</u>
   <u>Soccer Association</u> site, Goli
   finds the "contact us" email and
   sends a message requesting
   more information.
- He mentions that his family will be moving to the area over the summer, and is looking to get them enrolled in soccer soon.
- He gets a reply, informing him that while FSA does not have official soccer seasons over the summer, there are soccer clinics and unaffiliated indoor leagues.
- Even though the FSA does not offer summer programs, he is impressed with the timeliness and friendliness of the employee's reply.

### 4. Signing up

- Goli signs up Samantha and Benji for soccer training clinics in the summer, at the <u>Performance</u> Indoor Training (PIT) center.
- It helps them make friends after moving to a new area, and they quickly hit their stride amongst their respective peer groups.
- They also join an indoor league that hosts their games at the <u>PSA</u> McKinney sports complex.
- Benji is enjoying socializing with buddies his age, and Samantha's talent is recognized by her coaches and fellow players.
- At the end of the summer, Goli registers Sam and Benji for the fall outdoor season with FSA.

### 5. Waitlisted

- A few days later, a staff member tells Goli that he can have Benji added to the waitlist for fall registration, but that all rec teams currently have a full roster.
- Meanwhile, Samantha has attended a few tryouts (aka "open practices") with various club teams and has been offered a spot on a competitive squad.
- Benji is crushed, because he was looking forward to using his improved skills on the field.
   However, he does not yet feel ready for a competitive team.
- Goli emails the FSA staff and asks if there are some alternative approaches he could take.
- They mention the FSA league has a dire need for coaches, in order to create more teams for other waitlisted players.

### 6. Coaching

- After some deliberation and discussion with his wife Emily which Benji inadvertently overhears and is ecstatic about — Goli decides to to coach Benji's recreational soccer team.
- He knows it will be a significant time commitment, but two days per week doesn't feel too bad.
   Plus, he will have Sam's expertise to point out everything he is doing wrong as new coach.
- He sends an email to the list of parents whose kids are on the roster, asking for a few brave volunteers to help him wrangle all the kids on their newly formed team. He also asks:
- "Does anyone have suggestions for an interesting team name?"