



March 1, 2026
A Letter from the Outgoing President

Dear Glastonbury Hartwell Soccer Club Families,



As my time as President comes to a close, I wanted to take a moment to reflect and express my gratitude to this incredible community.

My family's journey with the club began in 2015 when our oldest started Kindergarten soccer. Not long after, I became involved as a 1st grade age coordinator, joined the board as Registrar in 2018, and in June 2022 stepped into the President role. Like many volunteers, I never set out to lead the organization — I simply stepped forward when there was a need.

Over the last 4 years, my priority has been ensuring that this club remains a place where children can learn and enjoy the game in a safe, supportive environment, guided by coaches who either bring strong knowledge of soccer or are given the training and tools to develop it. Youth sports should foster confidence, character, friendships, and a genuine love of the game. I am proud of what we have accomplished together to enhance coaching development, strengthen our operations, and keep the focus where it belongs — on player growth and community.

With my youngest heading to high school this fall, our family's time in the program is coming to an end. I strongly believe that club leadership should remain closely connected to families who are actively participating. That connection ensures we stay in tune with the real experiences, concerns, and evolving needs of our players and parents. Without that direct involvement, I did not feel I could continue to serve the club as effectively as it deserves.





NEW PRESIDENT. On February 26, at our Annual Meeting of the Members, we held an election for the President position. Alissa LoVerme, our current Travel Director, was elected as the new Club President. She has been an engaged and thoughtful board member since joining in 2023, and I am confident she will lead with a strong commitment to our players and families. I also want to thank the entire board and our many volunteers who dedicate countless hours behind the scenes to make each season possible.

HARTWELL WAY. At the risk of adding a few more words to an already long letter, I couldn't let the opportunity pass without speaking about the Hartwell Way of player development. From my first season as head coach of the Boys U9 Blue team in 2018, I committed to running my teams according to our Hartwell Development Plan: guaranteed playing time, player rotation, a focus on development over short-term results, prioritizing skill-building over tactics at younger ages, and **emphasizing commitment to the team.**

I have coached or assisted with two travel teams — Boys 2010 and Boys 2012 — fully embracing this approach. Both groups reached the Connecticut Cup Finals and advanced to the semifinals in other seasons. They won multiple tournaments both in and out of Connecticut. But more important than trophies, those players built lasting friendships and developed a genuine love for the game.



I believe deeply in the Hartwell philosophy because I have seen firsthand that it works. When coaches lead with patience, consistency, and composure on the sideline, and when development is placed ahead of short-term wins, the results follow. The Hartwell Way not only produces competitive teams — it develops confident players and strong teammates.

VOLUNTEERISM. Before I close, I want to emphasize something that cannot be said enough: **this organization thrives because of volunteers.** Every coach, board member, and event helper chooses to give their time for the benefit of all our children. I truly “caught the Hartwell bug” during my first volunteer experience at the Annual Spring Warm-Up Tournament in April 2018.



I was struck by the scale of the event and the extraordinary dedication of the volunteers who make it happen across fields throughout town. The teamwork and commitment on display that weekend continue to inspire me each year. It is an incredible undertaking and one of the traditions I am most proud to be part of.

If you have the time and even a small interest in getting involved, I encourage you to step forward — whether that means coaching, serving on a committee,

helping with equipment distribution, or scooping ice cream at the end-of-year celebration. Every contribution matters. Volunteering not only strengthens the club; it strengthens our community. It ensures that **decisions are shaped by parents** who care deeply about the experience their children are having. New ideas, varied perspectives, and shared responsibility are what keep this organization strong and moving forward.

THANK YOU. Thank you for placing your trust in me and for allowing my family to be part of such a special community. Serving as club president has been a meaningful and rewarding experience.

I wish Alissa and the entire Board continued success, and I look forward to watching the Hartwell grow and thrive for many years to come.

With gratitude,
Peter Cicolini