



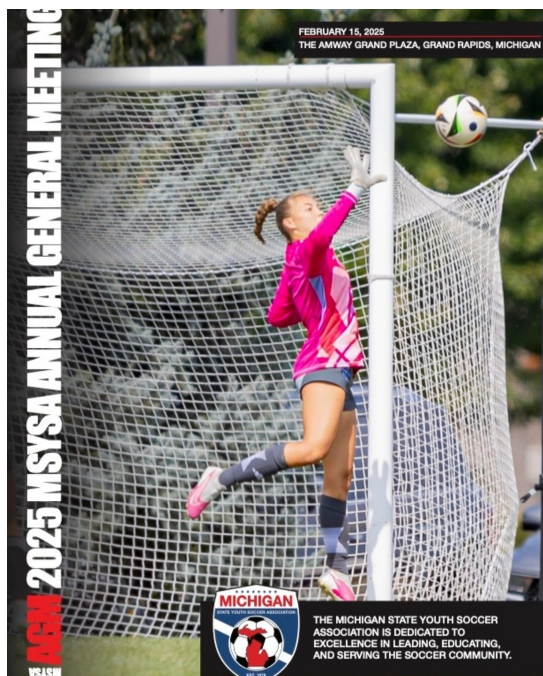
MICHIGAN STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

# MSYSA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Find all information at [michiganyouthsoccer.org](http://michiganyouthsoccer.org)

## MARCH 2025

Welcome to the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association's (MSYSA) monthly newsletter! Stay in the loop with the latest game updates, major announcements from US Youth Soccer, and highlights you won't want to miss. Whether it's big news or key recaps, we've got you covered! Stay informed. Stay inspired. Stay in the game!



### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025 RECAP

At the [Annual General Meeting \(AGM\)](#), the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association (MSYSA) approved the '2024 Actions of the Board,' which includes the formal ratification of several MSPSP rule changes. Additionally, two new direct member organizations - Detroit Soccer District and United FC Recreational SL - were welcomed into the MSYSA family. The budgets for MSYSA's Fiscal Years 2024, 2025, and 2026, as well as MSPSP's Fiscal Year 2025, were also approved.

The [AGM](#) saw the re-election of key MSYSA leadership positions: Denise Moote as Vice

President, Tina Ramirez as Recording Secretary, and Oscar Casteñeda as MSPSP Chairperson, all for 2-year terms. Several new MSYSA District Commissioners were elected for 1-year terms, including Bre Brendsel (West), Connie Campbell (North), Mike Egnotovitch (Metro Central), Anthony Spica (Metro East), and Wendy Zielen (Metro SW). Congratulations to all!

In addition, several committee chairperson appointments were made for 1-year terms across various committees, such as Doug Prim for the Recreational Committee and Tamera Hageage for the TOP Soccer Committee, among others.

Looking ahead, the AGM in 2026 will be held in the Metro Southwest District, with more details on the date, time, and location to come!

# US REFEREE ABUSE POLICY UPDATE

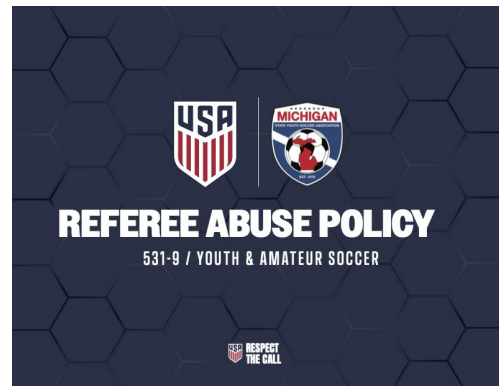
US Soccer has revised Policy 531-9 to strengthen protections for referees, effective March 1, 2025. The updated policy includes a penalties matrix outlining consequences for both physical and non-physical offenses against referees.

- Non-physical offenses include verbal taunting, harassment, intimidation, and discriminatory acts.
- Physical offenses range from minor touching to intentional confrontation and violent contact.

MSYSA has also amended Rule 5.3 (F) to align with US Soccer's updated policy. We encourage all players, coaches, parents, and spectators to familiarize themselves with these changes and help promote a safer environment for referees.

**Reporting Referee Abuse:** If you witness or experience referee abuse, please report it promptly using MSYSA's online reporting form [here](#).

For more details, visit [US Soccer's Referee Abuse Policy](#). Let's work together to protect our referees and uphold the spirit of the game!



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## etrainu

## MSYSA PARTNERS WITH ETRAINU

MSYSA is thrilled to announce our new partnership with [Etrainu](#), offering valuable educational resources for both you and your coaches. The information that was gathered through a survey helped gain insights into what coaches and administrators needed assistance with, like Etrainu's "Club in a Box." Twelve clubs have already begun using this tool, with access granted on March 4, 2025. We appreciate your participation and look forward to enhancing our club management offerings!

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## MSYSA ANNOUNCES 'NEW REFEREE' GRANT PROGRAM

Association (MSYSA) is excited to bring back the 'New Referee' grant program, designed to help our affiliated clubs (both recreation and travel) recruit and support new referees. This program encourages clubs to actively seek individuals to become US Soccer-certified referees, ensuring the continued growth of our sport. Clubs that successfully secure new referees during the Fall 2024 season or the upcoming Spring 2025 season are eligible to apply for the grant, with applications due April 1, 2025.

As we approach the spring season, there is a continued need for referees to officiate the many games held across the state. MSYSA encourages club coaches and representatives to help identify potential referees within their clubs and promote this opportunity. Together, we can ensure the smooth operation of our games while providing new opportunities for individuals to serve as referees.

For more information and to access the grant application, please [click here!](#)



### National Association Decision on Age Group Formation

In December, we committed to collaborating as National Associations to align on the age group formation path forward following U.S. Soccer's decision. As a reminder, U.S. Soccer's new policy empowers Organization Members to be the decision-maker on the age group formation choices for leagues and competitions they sanction and/or run. US Club Soccer, US Youth Soccer and AYSO have agreed to adopt an age group formation cycle running from **September 1 to August 31**, beginning with each Organization Member's 2026-27 season/registration year.



## PLAYER REGISTRATION CHANGE IN FALL 2026

US Youth Soccer, US Club Soccer, AYSO, and MSYSA will move to School Year Registration (September 1 - August 31) beginning with the Fall 2026/Spring 2027 seasons. Birth Year Registration (January 1 - December 31) remains in effect for the current spring (2025) season and for the upcoming seasonal year (Fall 2025/Spring 2026). "Our movement to Birth Year Registration in the Fall of 2026 is a result of a decision reached by the US Soccer's Youth Council", said Tom Faro, MSYSA

Executive Director. "When we have additional information and resources, we will share that with everyone." To view our latest communication, please [click here!](#)

## US SOCCER YOUTH MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Beginning in the Fall of 2025, MLS Next/Girls Academy and ECNL will expand their footprint in

Michigan in age groups U13 through U19. In brief, MLS Next GA is now offering a second tier of programming, and ECNL is now offering a third tier of programming. As players/parents prepare for summer tryouts, be mindful that each US Soccer member organization offers a variety of programs and events. MSYSA (and US Youth Soccer) continue to offer exceptional, cost-effective programming and events, including the Junior State Cup, State Cup, USYS National League, USYS National Championship Series, President's Cup, and Olympic Development Programs. For more information, we encourage you to visit our [website](#)!



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## MSYSA PARTICIPANT SAFETY

All MSYSA members must adhere to the [MSYSA Athlete and Participant Safety Program](#). If you become aware of any alleged violations by an MSYSA participant, you can use this [reporting form](#). Additionally, any allegation of child abuse, sexual misconduct, or retaliation must be reported to the U.S. Center for SafeSport [here](#) or by phone at (833) 587-7233 within 24 hours. Allegations of child abuse must

also be reported to law enforcement.

All respective Adult Members, including Adult Athletes (18+), are required to take the SafeSport training each year and receive a background check clearance. The process for Adult Athletes is different than what is required for Adult Team Officials. Instructions for both groups can be found on the [Risk Management Resources](#) page of our website.

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, sacrifice, and most of all, love of what you are doing."

-Pelé

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## KEEP IN TOUCH

For the latest updates on MSYSA, follow us on social media!

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