



MICHIGAN STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

## MSYSA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

# JULY 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!

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### DICKS SPORTING GOODS DISCOUNT WEEKEND 7/25-7/28

Get ready for the upcoming soccer season with exclusive savings from DICK'S Sporting Goods! From Friday, July 25 through Monday, July 28, families can enjoy 20% off their entire purchase - both in-store and online- using our special coupon. Whether you're stocking up on cleats, uniforms, training gear, or fan apparel, now is the perfect time to save. Make sure to plan and take advantage of this limited-time offer! To access the coupon, [click here!](#)



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### MSYSA RULE CHANGES

MSYSA has implemented several [rule changes](#) effective July 31, 2025 (pending approval at the 2026 AGM) to improve clarity, flexibility, and fairness across clubs. Key updates include a clearer definition of "Elite" level programs (Rule 3.2), allowing those teams to hold early tryouts (Rule 3.4), and permitting players to re-sign with their current clubs anytime during the seasonal year. Rule 3.7 (poaching) has been eliminated due to enforcement challenges, though MSYSA's transfer rules remain in effect. Lastly, the official tryout date for premier and select teams is set for Saturday, June 13, 2026, allowing many clubs to extend their spring season by one week.

US Youth Soccer, in collaboration with its 54 State Associations, along with US Club Soccer and AYSO, has announced a shift to a [School Year Registration](#)

[cycle](#) (August 1 - July 31) effective Fall 2026/Spring 2027. Please note that this is a change from the previously communicated September 1 - August 31 registration cycle. This new format aligns more closely with the academic calendar, which many families and clubs have advocated for.

For now, Birth Year Registration (January 1 - December 31) will remain in effect for both the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 seasons. MSYSA will continue using the birth year model under the school-year transition officially takes place in Fall 2026. As communicated by U.S. Soccer, other member organizations (such as MLS Next, USL, and Girls Academy) have been granted flexibility in choosing a registration structure that best fits their needs, but MSYSA's transition date is now set.

In addition to the registration changes, MSYSA will adopt the recently announced IFAB (International Football Association Board) Laws of the Game updates beginning January 1, 2026, instead of the initially projected July 1, 2025. These changes stem from guidance shared by FIFA and U.S. Soccer and may impact various aspects of gameplay and officiating procedures. To familiarize yourself with the updated rules, please visit [US Soccer's website](#), and for a comprehensive breakdown of all recent Law changes, we recommend reviewing the official updates [here](#).



## MIDWEST PRESIDENT'S CUP & MIDWEST REGIONALS RECAP

Michigan was well represented at the 2024 Midwest Presidents' Cup in St. Louis, Missouri, with 11 teams from across the state competing, including MI Rangers, Monroe United, DCFC South Oakland, MFA Revolution, Nationals Macomb, Farmington SC, DCFC City, Warriors SC, MI Jaguars Lansing, AYSO United, and USA. Three teams - Nationals Macomb, MFA Revolution, and DCFC City - advanced to the knockout rounds, showcasing strong performances throughout group play. Nationals Macomb continued their impressive run to the finals but came up just short in a hard-fought championship match. While no Michigan teams will advance to the Nationals President's Cup in July, we're proud of all the clubs that represented the state with determination and heart.

Seventeen Michigan teams made the journey to Overland Park, Kansas, for the 2024 Midwest Regionals, including standouts like MFA Revolution, MI Tigers, Liverpool FC-IA North Oakland, Nationals Capital Area, Michigan Wolves, and more. Five teams advanced to the knockout rounds - Michigan Wolves, Portage SC, MI Tigers, Plymouth Reign, and MFA Revolution - highlighting the depth and talent of our state's clubs. Three teams reached the finals, and Plymouth Reign emerged victorious, only letting in one goal the entire tournament, earning the title of Regional Champions for the U17 age group. Congratulations to all our participating teams on an exciting week of

competition and a job well done representing Michigan on the regional stage!

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## MICHIGAN TEAMS ARE HEADING TO ORLANDO, FLORIDA FOR NATIONALS

Michigan will be well represented at the upcoming US Youth Soccer National Championships in Orlando, Florida, later this month! A total of 10 teams from across the state have earned their spot on the national stage, showcasing the strength and talent within our soccer community.

Congratulations to MFA Revolution, MI Tigers, Nationals Union, Midwest United SCOR, MI Rangers, MI Stars, TKO Premier, and Plymouth Reign for advancing to this prestigious event.



These teams will compete against the best in the country, and we're incredibly proud of their hard work, determination, and commitment throughout the season. Best of luck to all our Michigan teams - we'll be cheering you on every step of the way in Orlando!

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## FIRST PREODP EVENT HUGE SUCCESS



MSYSA recently hosted our very first PreODP event for the 2015 birthyear players, and it was a great success! The event ran smoothly, and we received overwhelmingly positive feedback from families and staff on the organization and quality of the experience. It was clear the

players were excited to be there, and even more encouraging was how prepared and focused they looked as they took the field. We're confident this event set a strong foundation as these young players get ready for their first official ODP tryout weekend in July!

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## ODP TRYOUTS FOR THE 2025/2026 SEASON

The Michigan ODP registration cycle is now open for talented players born 2009-2015! Athletes can register online for \$175 from June 1 to July 15. Late registration begins July 16 and costs \$200. Tryouts will take place July 25-27, 2025, at Independence Park, where players will participate in three sessions (90-120 minutes



each) over 1.5 days. If a player cannot attend their assigned session, they may request an alternate 2-hour indoor tryout - limited to 10 slots per age/gender group and filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participation offers elite training, development, and community engagement all summer long. ODP is also partnering with community organizations during tryouts: Gleaners will host a food drive supporting southeastern Michigan families, while Kona Ice, Travelin' Tom's Coffee Truck, Más + by Messi, and Hero or Villain Deli will be on-site to keep things fun and refreshing. Plus, Pryde Athletics will be setting up a Recovery Zone tent to help players feel their best and play their best throughout the weekend. Join us to sharpen your game, connect with your soccer community, and experience everything ODP has to offer!

[Click here to register!](#)



## ODP MIDWEST SUBREGIONAL EVENT RECAP

Our 2024-2025 ODP teams recently competed at the SubRegional event in Indiana and represented Michigan with pride and excellence. The players showcased their skill, teamwork, and dedication throughout the weekend, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts. As a result of their strong performances, 28 additional Michigan players

received invitations to the upcoming Midwest Regional Camp in Rockford, Illinois. There, they'll continue training and be evaluated for potential selection to the Midwest Regional Team. Congratulations and best of luck to all our players moving forward!

## ODP 2026 FRANCE TRIP REGISTRATION STILL OPEN

Registration is still open for our 2011, 2012, and 2013 players from the 2024-2025 season to join us on an unforgettable soccer adventure in France! We're planning to take two teams overseas to compete in a friendly match and explore the sights of Paris. This opportunity is open to any player in these age groups who participated in the 2024 Winter Training Pool. From high-level training and exciting games to iconic landmarks - and, of course, plenty of chocolate and baguettes - we're looking forward to an incredible experience abroad. [Click here](#) for more information or email the [State Office](#).



## ITC/REGISTRATION INFORMATION

As we transition to the 2025-2026 seasonal year, MSYSA reminds all clubs to complete any remaining Summer 2024-2025 registrations by July 11, with outstanding payments submitted by July 14. Registration for 2025-2026 MSYSA events (In-House, Travel, and NMSA) officially opens at 8 A.M. on August 1, 2025. Please note: team ages will be updated automatically on August 1, so there's no need to manually adjust them prior to the new season. Manually changing ages before that date may result in incorrect team aging.

All Fall 2025 registration data must be finalized in GotSport by September 24, 2025, with final registration payments due by October 15, 2025. MSYSA will submit and invoice registrations on behalf of direct members leading up to the September 24 deadline. Clubs can monitor their balance directly in GotSport and submit payments either by mail or by requesting an ACH payment setup. Late registration data will incur increasing penalties (10%-50%) based on how far past the deadline the data is submitted. Payments received after October 22 will also be subject to a \$100 late payment fee.

MSYSA continues to offer optional GotSport Registration Assistance at a rate of \$0.50 per participant and provides a variety of updated support resources for both scheduling and non-scheduling league members. Please remember that only participants (players, coaches, and managers) who are rostered within MSYSA-affiliated events in GotSport will be officially registered. Additionally, all required fields in player profiles must be completed, and risk management certifications (background check, SafeSport, and CDC Heads Up) must be current for all [participating adults](#). For more detailed instructions, timelines, and support links - including information on international transfer clearance (ITC), insurance, and league affiliation updates - please visit the [MSYSA website](#) or contact [Elizabeth Satterley](#).

Heading into the 2024-2025 seasonal year, MSYSA made policy adjustments to ensure full compliance with FIFA and U.S. Soccer's International Transfer Clearance (ITC) requirements involving minor athletes. As we prepare for Fall 2025, please remember that MSYSA's ITC policies apply to all leagues and clubs, regardless of professional affiliation. Clubs should begin the ITC process as early as possible, as some approval types may take several weeks or even months to finalize. Families and club administrators can use the ITC Questionnaire in GotSport to determine if clearance is needed and which form is appropriate. All completed forms and documents should be submitted to [ITC](#). For full instructions, helpful links, and a printable version of the questionnaire, please visit the [ITC page](#) of the MSYSA website. If you're a representative of an affiliated scheduling league, please be sure to share this information with your member clubs.





As the MSPSP Fall 2025 season approaches, teams should take note of several key dates to stay on track. Pre-divisions will be posted on July 10, with the deadline for player registration via SportsForms and roster submission in GotSport set for July 12. The division meeting will take place on July 15, followed by the official scheduling period running from July 18-28. Teams needing to add

players after the initial deadline may do so beginning July 14, with a \$25 late fee per player in Phase 1.

Looking ahead to August, the MSPSP Preseason Meeting is scheduled for August 5, with official document distribution - including passcards and rosters - on August 6 (early passcards can be requested if needed sooner). The Fall 2025 season officially kicks off on August 8, which also marks the start of Phase 2 late player additions at a \$50 per player fee. The season will run through November 16. Be sure to plan accordingly to avoid delays and additional fees as the season gets underway. [Click here for the MSPSP website!](#)

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## **Soccer Parenting Blog: Why Coaches Throw in the Towel in Youth Sports - And What We Can Do About It**

Coaches across youth sports are stepping away from the sidelines - not because they don't care, but because they're burned out. A 2022 Aspen Institute study found that nearly 70% of coaches experience stress, much of it stemming from challenging parent interactions. From sideline criticism to confrontational emails, the emotional toll of constant tension can lead coaches to dread practices, lose sleep, and eventually walk away. This not only impacts their well-being but also affects team dynamics, player development, and long-term participation in the sport.



Rather than removing parents from the equation, the article emphasizes the importance of engaging them in a positive and intentional way. By creating clear communication strategies and setting expectations early, coaches can foster a more supportive environment. A featured 90-minute "Parent Engagement for Coaches" course offers tools to help coaches run effective preseason meetings and open up dialogue, leading to calmer sidelines, better relationships, and improved retention for players and coaches alike. To view the article and learn more, [click here!](#)

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## Prioritize Size and Intensity Over Skill in Youth Soccer?

Coaches at the U11 level - and beyond - often face pressure to select players based on size and intensity rather than technical skill and game intelligence. Parents have shared concerns that smaller, younger players, despite their technical gifts, are overlooked in favor of those who appear more physically imposing.

Experts in youth coaching emphasize that this approach reflects a short-term, outcomes-driven mindset focused on immediate wins rather than long-term development.

According to guidance from the Youth Coach Advisory Group, the most effective player development frameworks - like TIPS (Technique, IQ, Personality, Speed/Physical) - prioritize technique and soccer intelligence during the foundational years. While physical maturation and intensity naturally become more relevant over time, those who develop strong technical and cognitive skills early can adapt more effectively and excel in the long run. In other words, coaches and parents are encouraged to be patient and intentional, avoiding the trap of favoring size and intensity at the expense of nurturing real soccer talent. To view the article and learn more, [click here!](#)



## 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

"Play for the name on the front of the shirt, and they'll remember the name on

the back."

-Tony Adams

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## KEEP IN TOUCH

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

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