



MICHIGAN STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

MSYSA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Find all information at michiganyouthsoccer.org

AUGUST 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!

FALL STATE CUP GAMES HAVE BEGUN

The 2025 Fall State Cup kicks off on August 8, featuring group play matches through September 21 across various venues statewide.

This season's tournament showcases competition in the U14-

U19 girls' divisions, with 188 teams representing 47 clubs across Michigan.

Quarterfinal and semifinal matches will take place at the Saginaw Soccer Complex, while the champions will be crowned during the finals at the Legacy Center in Brighton.



This fall introduces two major updates: Elite division champions will now advance directly to the USYS National Championships, bypassing the Regional stage. Additionally, teams participating in non-USYS/MSYSA-affiliated leagues can now become eligible by registering directly with MSYSA. For brackets, schedules, field maps, and other important details, visit the [official State Cup page](#) on our website!

GOAL SAFETY MEMO

MSYSA would like to remind all member organizations of the importance of proper goal anchoring and overall goal safety. Please share this critical

information with your club representatives and team officials. All organizations must have a goal safety program in place that includes regular communication to players and parents about the dangers of unsecured goal posts, horseplay on or around goals, and the moving of portable goals by players. Club and/or team officials must inspect portable goals prior to any field activity and ensure they are anchored according to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) guidelines. Goals that are moved for maintenance must be immediately re-anchored, and periodic field inspections should be conducted to verify ongoing compliance.

Under no circumstances should players move goals. Tragically, Michigan has seen injuries in recent years due to unanchored or improperly anchored goals, and nearly 40 deaths have occurred nationally since 1979. Most injuries happen when goals are not in use. To prevent these incidents, goals should be secured to a fixed structure and have their netting removed when not actively being used. It takes just 200 pounds of force for large goals to tip over. MSYSA encourages everyone to watch and share our [Goal Safety Video](#) and review the [CPSC Guidelines for Moveable Goals](#). Additional resources and safety information can be found on our [website](#). Thank you for your continued efforts to keep our soccer community safe!



USYS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP RECAP

From July 22 - July 27, eleven top-tier Michigan teams represented our state at the USYS National Championships in Orlando, Florida. Teams qualified through various paths - Plymouth Reign 08G NLC advanced after winning both State Cup and Regionals, MFA Revolution GR 12B Elite was invited following a

late tournament dropout, and the remaining teams earned their spots by topping their National League divisions. The Michigan contingent included teams from U13 through U19, spanning clubs like MFA Revolution, TKO Premier SC, MI Stars Academy, Michigan Tigers, National Union, Plymouth Reign, MI Rangers FC, and Midwest United.

Michigan teams had a stellar showing, with eight teams advancing to the semifinals and three earning spots in the national finals. In an exciting finish, MI Stars 10B Academy and Michigan Tigers FC Elite 64 08G were crowned National Champions! Goalkeeper Zach from MI Stars also received the Golden Glove Award for his outstanding performance throughout the tournament. Congratulations to all our Michigan teams for their remarkable efforts, skill, and sportsmanship on the national stage - you've made our state proud!

NEW REFEREE COURSES

If you're 13 years or older and interested in becoming a certified soccer referee, the U.S. Soccer First-Time Referee Course combines online learning modules with a required in-person field session and certification exam. The course prepares participants to officiate youth matches - from recreation leagues to junior varsity games - and includes step-by-step instructions to register, complete the curriculum, and get assigned to local matches through a Michigan-based assignor.



Multiple in-person referee courses are scheduled across Michigan after August 15, 2025, giving aspiring referees plenty of opportunities to get certified this fall. These courses are being held in a variety of locations, including Detroit, Caledonia, Flushing, Alma, New Boston, Royal Oak, Canton, Frankenmuth, Midland, Saginaw, University Center, and Farmington. After completing the required online modules, participants will attend one of these local field sessions to finish their certification. This is a great chance to get involved in the game, support youth soccer, and earn money as a certified official. Interested individuals can register and view details through the [U.S. Soccer Learning Center](#).

ODP TRYOUTS 25/26 RECAP

MSYSA's 2025 Olympic Development Program (ODP) tryouts were held July 25-27 at Independence Park in Canton, Michigan, welcoming boys and girls born between 2009 and 2015. With 1,272 players registered, the event served as the starting point for player identification across the state. Open to all eligible players, ODP tryouts provide a pathway for those seeking high-level development and exposure. After a hot weekend of competitive sessions, 550 players were selected to move on to the ODP Winter Training Pool, where final State teams will be chosen.



The ODP program identifies top talent for potential selection to State, Regional, and National teams, while also offering college recruitment opportunities and access to national and international tournaments. Players benefit from quality instruction by licensed coaches, as well as the chance to train and compete with the best in their age group across Michigan and the Midwest Region. Thank you to all who participated and helped make this year's tryouts a success - we look forward to seeing what the Winter Pool has in store!



TRYOUTS SUCCESS

We are proud to share the incredible results of our recent food drive in support of Gleaners Community Food Bank. Thanks to the generosity of our soccer community, we have collected **339 pounds of food**, providing **254 meals** to children, families, seniors, and veterans in need across Southeast Michigan. Your contributions help ensure that our neighbors have access to the nutritious food they need to thrive. Thank you for stepping up and making a meaningful impact!

ITC INFORMATION/FALL REGISTRATION

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.

MSPSP



The MSPSP Fall 2025 season will run from August 8 - November 16. Coaches, managers, club admins, and directors are encouraged to attend the optional MSPSP Fall Kickoff Meeting (#2) on Tuesday, August 26, from 6:30 pm to 8 pm via [Zoom](#). Late player additions will be accepted in two phases - Phase 1: \$25 per player under

August 8, and Phase 2: \$50 per player beginning August 9. Submit the late-add form and payment online on the [MSPSP website](#) under the 'Payment Options' tab.

Through the MSPSP x Trace partnership, every team from clubs participating in MSPSP is eligible for a FREE Trace AI-powered camera to automatically film their games. Families can also subscribe to access Trace's platform and player highlights. Learn more about the partnership [here](#) and order your team's camera [here](#). Additionally, MSPSP Early Passcards are available for Spring teams needing documents this Fall for tournaments for \$50 per team. Complete the [early passcard form](#) to get started.

MICHIGAN OFFICIALS ON THE BIG STAGE

This summer, a group of dedicated referees proudly represented Michigan at the 2025 USYS National Championships in Orlando, Florida, showcasing not only their officiating skills but also their passion, perseverance, and commitment to the game. For many, being selected to officiate at Nationals is the result of years of physical training, learning, and growth. Kaitlin Girbach, in her second year at the event, described it as "an incredible honor," while Jared Wensley called it "a surreal feeling" to represent Michigan and carry forward the legacy of those who came before. Colton Odem and Ashley Vredenburg emphasized the tremendous support from mentors, coaches, and fellow referees that helped them reach this level, and Evan Barnett spoke of the pride he felt officiating a U16 Boys final.

What stood out most to each of these officials wasn't just the matches, but the connections and community. Jared recalled being supported by total strangers on day one, when the Florida heat hit hard, saying it was the kind of simple

encouragement that defines the referee family. Kaitlin remembered the locker room camaraderie with other female referees, calling it an unforgettable moment of unity. Ashley's most memorable moment came during finals selection night when she saw her name appear on the screen for the U16G final - a moment filled with joy, gratitude, and celebration from referees nationwide. Similarly, Colton and Evan spoke about the friendships made and how meaningful it was to celebrate each other's success.

These referees also offered powerful advice for younger officials hoping to reach the same heights: Stay coachable, be resilient, and ask questions. As Ashley put it, "Don't give up. One bad game doesn't define your career." Jared added, "Be the referee everyone is happy to see on their game, and your career will follow." For all of them, refereeing has had a lasting impact - helping them grow in confidence, build lifelong friendships, and stay connected to the game they love. Their stories are a reminder that officials are not just enforcing the rules - they're essential members of the soccer community who give back in ways that extend far beyond the pitch.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

As the fall season begins, MSYSA would like to remind all clubs, leagues, and team officials of the official severe weather policy based on U.S. Soccer's Recognize to Recover (R2R) program. All thunderstorms produce lightning and are inherently dangerous. If thunder is heard, you are close enough to be struck by lightning. In these situations, training and games should be postponed immediately. It is recommended to monitor weather forecasts before outdoor activities and avoid being caught in unsafe conditions.

If you see lightning and hear thunder within 30 seconds, seek shelter right away. Play may resume 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder or flash of lightning - but this 30-minute clock restarts each time thunder is heard or lightning is seen. MSYSA encourages everyone to stay informed and prepared. For more detailed guidance, please refer to the full resources provided by the National Weather Service and U.S. Soccer's R2R program [here](#).

MSYSA COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, & REC. GRANTS OPEN!

MSYSA is proud to support players, coaches, volunteers, and clubs through a variety of scholarships and recognition programs. Six \$2,000 college scholarships are available to graduating seniors who demonstrate strong academics, community involvement, and a commitment to giving back to the game. In addition, the Adalin Farnum ODP Scholarship awards up to two ODP players \$1,000 each for their kindness and positive impact - traits that reflect the spirit of Adalin Farnum. The Yvonne Curtis Scholarship, valued at \$1,000, honors Yvonne's decades of service to youth soccer and will be awarded to a

student who exemplifies character, enthusiasm, and altruism both on and off the field.

MSYSA is also accepting nominations for annual awards, including Administrator of the Year, Coach of the Year, TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year, TOPSoccer Coach of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, and Young Referee of the Year. These honors recognize individuals who go above and beyond to support Michigan's youth soccer community. Additionally, the MSYSA Recreational Grant is open to all affiliated clubs and leagues, supporting efforts like school outreach, equipment purchases, coaching education, tournament organization, and more. We encourage all eligible members to apply or nominate someone who is making a difference in the game we love. Full details and application links can be found on the [MSYSA website](#) under 'Member Services'.

Soccer Parenting Blog: 12 Things They Don't Tell You About Being The Volunteer Coach

In "12 Things They Don't Tell You About Being The Volunteer Coach," Soccer Parenting uses lighthearted honesty to help new coaches understand just what they're signing up for. From realizing just how much your free time gets eaten up - coordinating practice schedules, snack rotations, and line-ups - to dealing with well-meaning but vocal parents, it's not just teaching kids the game - it's playing team manager, therapist, logistics planner, and cheerleader all at once.



The article mixes practical wisdom with tongue-in-cheek warnings: expect to get roped into extra roles, anticipate frustrated families, and learn that diplomacy and patience are often more useful than tactical drills. But it also reminds coaches that this is ultimately about creating positive, fun experiences for the kids - even if at times you feel unappreciated. The tone is warm, encouraging, and humorous - a useful pep talk for anyone stepping into the volunteer sideline. To read the article, [click here!](#)

Soccer Parenting Blog: Lessons From the Parking Lot

Karen Scholl takes readers straight into the hectic world of youth soccer drop-off zones, where behavior in the parking lot often reveals more than what happens on the sidelines. Between navigating awkward



carpool logistics, dodging energetic kids chasing stray balls, and observing overzealous parents venturing beyond supportive cheering, it's a reminder that the game starts long before the whistle blows.

Through her characteristic humor and real-world insight, Scholl emphasizes how much parents influence their children's attitudes - not just through words but with actions witnessed during arrival and departure.

Rather than waiting for grand lessons at practice, she challenges parents to see the parking lot as part of the learning zone: a space to model patience, kindness, and community-minded behavior. It's a clever prompt to remember: every interaction, even off the field, shapes your child's sporting and social experience. To read the article, [click here!](#)

USYS Coaching Articles: Parental Stress

Being a soccer parent comes with its own set of pressures, and U.S. Soccer's "Parental Stress" article highlights how healthy coach-parent dynamics can help reduce anxiety and improve outcomes on and off the field. The article emphasizes the value of establishing collaborative relationships between coaches and parents, built around clear boundaries. These boundaries ensure respect, trust, and clarity, helping prevent misunderstandings and emotional stress at matches or training sessions.



The recommended framework includes early-season team meetings, transparent communication channels, and agreed-upon norms - such as the "24-hour rule" before raising concerns about coaching decisions. This structured approach helps parents feel heard while preserving the coach's authority to manage tactics and player development. By teaming up in a positive, solution-focused way, clubs can safeguard both family well-being and the development of young players. To read more, [click here!](#)

USYS Coaching Articles: 4 Ways Parents Can Foster a Sense of Community in Soccer

Getting involved beyond game day is one of the most effective ways parents can strengthen connection and community around youth soccer.



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According to the article, families can plan all-team socials or gatherings outside of practices and matches, ensuring parents and players build relationships off the field. When parents encourage fun and teamwork - rather than focusing solely on wins - they help foster a positive, enjoyable environment that supports player development. Additionally, technology or efforts to learn every player's name and offer broad encouragement, not just to their own child, single inclusivity, and lift team morale.

Beyond building relationships, the U.S. Soccer Learning Center highlights the impact of consistent parenting behavior: showing up with positive encouragement without giving instructions, using self-control routines to manage emotions on the sideline (like counting breaths before reacting), and modeling respectful conduct toward coaches and referees. This creates a sideline culture where athletes feel emotionally safe, included, and supported. A strong parental presence aligned with these practices not only enhances well-being and retention but ultimately contributes to a healthier, more collaborative soccer environment for everyone involved. To read more, [click here!](#)



SAFESPORT

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.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The vision of a champion is someone who is bent over, drenched in sweat, at the point of exhaustion - when nobody else is watching."

-Anson Dorrance

KEEP IN TOUCH

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