



MICHIGAN STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

MSYSA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Find all information at michiganyouthsoccer.org

FEBRUARY 2026

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!

DICKS SPORTING GOODS DISCOUNT WEEKEND

Get ready to gear up for the spring season with a special savings opportunity for our soccer community! The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association is partnering with DICK'S Sporting Goods to offer 20% off your entire purchase during a limited-time discount weekend, valid March 6-9, 2026, at all Michigan store locations. This exclusive in-store offer makes it the perfect time for players and families to stock up on cleats, training gear, apparel, and all the essentials needed for a successful season ahead.

Be sure to take advantage of this one-time savings event and come prepared with the coupon when you shop. Some exclusions apply, and the discount is valid for in-store purchases only, so play your visit early and get everything you need before the season kicks off.

B LICENSE COURSE NOW AVAILABLE

Take the next step in your coaching journey by registering for the U.S. Soccer B License course, designed to support coaches working with U11-U19 players in a team-centered environment. This blended learning experience combines virtual education with in-person instruction, helping coaches build effective training and game plans, develop a clear team philosophy, and strengthen their ability to lead players through meaningful long-term development. The course is delivered through U.S. Soccer's official coaching education pathway and provides practical tools that can be immediately applied on the field.



Spots are limited, so coaches are encouraged to register early and commit to advancing their knowledge, confidence, and impact within the game. Whether you are continuing your licensing pathway or looking to elevate your team

environment, this course offers valuable education to support both player growth and coaching excellence. To learn more, [click here!](#)



DIRECTORS ACADEMY APPLICATIONS OPEN

Applications are now being accepted for the 2026 - 2027 MSYSA Directors Academy (DA). Both current participating clubs and potential new clubs are encouraged to apply for the upcoming season. The Directors Academy continues to play a pivotal role in supporting club leadership by providing education, collaboration, and resources that focus on long-term player and club development.

The application deadline is 12:00 Noon on March 31, so interested clubs should begin the process now. To learn more about the Directors Academy and submit an application, please visit [this link](#).

MICHIGAN TEAMS MOVE ON TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Michigan soccer continues to shine on the national stage! Several of our youth club teams recently earned qualification to the prestigious National League events, showcasing elite talent and performance throughout the 2025-26 season. At the second National League National Event in Arizona, three Michigan girls' teams secured their spots at the 2026 National Championships: ACGR Academy 12G Elite, PASS FC 2010G Navy, and ACGR Academy 07/08G Elite. Each of these squads demonstrated strong commitment and competitive excellence throughout the season, and we're proud to see them representing Michigan in high-level competition.

In addition, several Michigan teams have qualified for the NL Cup Playoffs, advancing through their Premier 1 divisions with top performances. Congratulations to MFA GR 11G Elite Academy, ACGR Academy 10G Elite, and Nationals Union 08G Black for earning their spots in this exciting postseason event. These teams will now compete for the chance to move on to The NL Cup Finals this summer. We look forward to following their progress and cheering them on as they represent Michigan's youth soccer community with pride!



WINTER STATE CUP CHAMPIONS CROWNED

We're proud to announce the conclusion of this year's Winter State Cup, where some of Michigan's top U13 and U14 boys teams competed in a high-level, single-elimination showcase of talent, determination, and teamwork. After an exciting stretch of semifinal and final matchups, champions have officially been

crowned in both age groups, highlighting the strength and depth of elite youth soccer across the state.

Congratulations to Midwest United FC U14 MLS Next HG and Midwest United FC U13 MLS Next HG on capturing the 2026 Winter State Cup titles. Their performances throughout the competition demonstrated outstanding quality, resilience, and championship mentality. As a result of their success, both teams will now have the opportunity to compete in the prestigious MLS Next Cup in May 2026. We commend all participating teams for an incredible winter event and look forward to seeing continued success as the spring season approaches.

SPRING STATE CUP & JUNIOR STATE CUP GAMES TO BEGIN



Groups and brackets are officially set for the 2026 Spring State Cup and Junior State Cup, marking the start of another exciting postseason across Michigan. Hosted across the state, Spring State Cup preliminary matches will take place between March 7 and May 3, followed by Quarterfinals and Semifinals on May 15-17, and Finals scheduled for May 29-31. This year's competition features strong participation from 70 clubs and 364 teams, all competing for a chance to advance beyond the state stage. Winners of the Elite Division will earn a direct berth to the USYS National Championships in July, while Premier Division champions will move on to the USYS Presidents Cup Regionals in Indiana this June.

Junior State Cup is also poised for a record-setting season, welcoming 63 clubs and an impressive 409 teams - highlighting the continued growth and enthusiasm at the younger age groups. Preliminary matches will run from March 7 through May 3, with the Round of 16, Quarterfinals, and select Semifinals occurring May 15-17, additional Semifinals taking place May 29-31, and Finals concluding May 29-31. With excitement building across both competitions, be sure to keep up with standings, schedules, and more by visiting our website for the latest updates!

SPRING ODP 101 & GOALKEEPER ACADEMY, PREODP, & TRYOUT INFORMATION



Registration is officially open for several exciting ODP opportunities across Michigan! Spring ODP101 and Goalkeeper Academy (GKA) registration is now open at 10 locations statewide, providing players with additional training and development opportunities as the spring season approaches. These programs are designed to support player growth in a focused, high-quality training environment led by experienced ODP staff.

PreODP registration for 2016 birth year players is now open, offering younger athletes an introduction to the ODP pathway. It costs \$130 and includes a Nike

drawstring satchel, Nike PreODP shirt, and 10% off registration for any 2016 player who registers for ODP state team July tryouts.

In addition, ODP Season 2026/27 registration opens on March 1 for players born between 2010-2016. We encourage families to register early and continue developing within Michigan's premier player identification and development program.

AD STORE

The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, in partnership with Pearl Street Consulting, is proud to launch the 2026 edition of the Michigan Soccer Tryout Guide. This annual publication - officially recognized as the Michigan Soccer Magazine - will be distributed via email in late April to early May 2026 to more than 90,000 registered players, coaches, and families across the state. The guide serves as a comprehensive resource featuring club tryout information, coaching education articles, local tournaments, camps, and more.

Advertising in the Michigan Soccer Tryout Guide provides a valuable opportunity to connect with Michigan's statewide soccer community and promote your organization's upcoming programs and events. Clubs and partners are encouraged to reserve space early, as Ad Store pricing will increase by 10% on March 27, 2026. The Ad Store officially closes on April 3, 2026, and all advertisements and payments must be submitted by this deadline to be included in the publication. For complete details and ordering information, please [click here](#).

MSYSA SPRING 2026 REGISTRATION REMINDER

As we prepare for the upcoming Spring 2026 season, MSYSA would like to remind all clubs and teams of the key registration deadlines. All Spring 2026 registration data must be finalized in GotSport by April 22, 2026, at 11:59 PM.

Please ensure that all players, coaches, team officials, and rosters are fully updated and accurate before the deadline to avoid any eligibility issues as the season begins.

Additionally, the final registration payment for Spring 2026 is due to MSYSA by May 25, 2026. Clubs are encouraged to plan ahead and complete payments on time to ensure a smooth start to competition. We appreciate your attention to those important dates and look forward to another successful spring season across Michigan!

Please keep an eye out for more Spring Registration emails over the coming weeks.

If your club has players born outside of the US or who have played soccer outside of the US, now is the time to start the International Transfer Clearance (ITC) process if the player does not yet have ITC approval. It can take up to 30 days to get approval from FIFA/US Soccer, so early application is key for eligibility. See the [MSYSA ITC page](#) or reach out to ITC@michiganyouthsoccer.org if you have questions.

2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING RECAP

The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association recently held its Annual General Meeting (AGM), where the 2025 Actions of the Board were approved alongside the adoption of several MSYSA and MSPSP bylaw amendments, effective February 14, 2026. Club and league representatives also welcomed three new member organizations - Chelsea SC, Dearborn Heights SC, and United Soccer Academies - and approved MSYSA's budgets for Fiscal Years 2026 through 2028, as well as the MSPSP budget for the 2026-2027 year. During the meeting, Denise Moote was elected President, joined by Dave Turrill as Treasurer and Doug Prim as Recreational Director, each serving two-year terms, while Bre Brendsel, Connie Campbell, Mike Egnotovitch, Anthony Spica, and Wendy Zielen were elected as District Commissioners for one-year terms.



Committee leadership appointments were also announced across several key areas, including Budget & Finance, Bylaws & Standing Rules, State Cup/JR State Cup, Discipline & Appeals, Recreational, Participant Safety, TOPSoccer, Soccer for Success, and AGM Minutes Approval. Following the AGM, Tina Ramirez was elected by the Board of Directors to serve as Vice President through the 2027 AGM, and Connie Campbell was elected Recording Secretary for the same term, prompting a forthcoming North District Commissioner election on February 23, 2026. Looking ahead, the 2027 AGM will take place in the Metro Central District, with additional details to be announced.



MSPSP

The Michigan State Premier Soccer Program (MSPSP) Spring Season will run from March 5 through June 12, with official rosters and passcards becoming available on March 4. Teams needing documentation before that date must request Early Passcards at a cost of \$50 per team. Two optional Season Kickoff Meetings will be held on March 4 and March 18 at 6 PM, with full details to be shared on the MSPSP website. Player roster additions are permitted throughout the season, with Phase 1 late additions costing \$25 per player through March 4 and Phase 2 additions increasing to \$50 per player once the season begins on March 5.

Looking ahead to the summer months, MSPSP will again offer its Summer League, providing an official "Club Friendlies" environment focused on conditioning, sportsmanship, flexibility, and continued development. The Summer League season will take place June 15 through July 26, culminating in an August 1 championship match in Lansing. Registration costs \$250 per team, with an early bird discount reducing the fee to \$200 for teams enrolled by April 24. The team registration deadline is May 8, and rosters must be finalized by June 2. If any team withdraws after the deadline of May 8, there is a withdrawal penalty fee of \$200. Open to MSYSA-registered Premier, Select,

and Elite players across boys and girls U13-U19 age groups, the league will feature regional East and West divisions, a minimum of five matches, flexible roster rules, and opportunities for guest passcard players. MSPSP looks forward to another competitive and development-focused summer while conditioning to evaluate feedback to enhance the program in future seasons. If you have any questions, please reach out to [MSPSP](#) or head to the [website](#)!

REST OF ODP STATE TEAMS ANNOUNCED

All remaining Olympic Development Program (ODP) State Teams were officially announced on January 31 and February 1, completing the selection process for the 2025-26 season. Across the 2009 - 2015 age groups, a total of 275 boys and 273 girls have been named to State Teams and alternate pools, highlighting the exceptional depth of talent and commitment shown by players throughout Michigan during the evaluation process. These selections represent months of hard work, dedication, and development from athletes striving to compete at the highest levels of youth soccer.

The next opportunity for these State Teams to showcase their progress will come at the ODP Subregional event in Missouri, taking place June 19-21. This competition will bring together top players from across the region, providing valuable high-level match experience and continued exposure within the ODP pathway. MSYSA looks forward to supporting these athletes as they represent Michigan and continue their development on the regional stage.

ODP ON TOUR: PARIS, FRANCE

Michigan ODP is heading overseas! ODP Season 2024/25 players will depart for an international trip to France at the end of March, embarking on an exciting eight-day tour based in Paris. This once-in-a-lifetime experience will provide players with the opportunity to compete in international matches, train in a professional environment, and immerse themselves in the global game.



During the trip, players will face international competition and receive coaching from professional club staff, offering valuable exposure to different playing styles, training methods, and soccer cultures. This international tour represents an incredible developmental opportunity both on and off the field, reinforcing ODP's mission to challenge players at the highest levels while creating unforgettable experiences that extend beyond the pitch.

Soccer Parenting Blog: Is It Too Early to Stress About College Soccer?

The journey toward college soccer can be exciting for players and families - but it can also bring unnecessary stress when expectations and timelines aren't fully understood. The Soccer Parenting article highlights that one of the biggest pressures student-athletes and their parents feel comes from jumping

too far ahead in the process, worrying about scholarships or recruitment before a clear plan has been established. The piece emphasizes that each player's development path is unique, and early comparisons or pressure can cloud judgment and take joy out of the game. Understanding the typical college recruiting timeline - including when coaches really begin evaluating players and when offers are usually made - can help families focus on realistic goals and foster a healthier soccer experience.



Rather than fixating on what's "next," parents are encouraged to support their child's development in the present: nurturing growth through consistent communication, helping them stay organized academically and athletically, and reinforcing positive experiences at training and matches. By doing so, young athletes can enjoy the journey - building confidence, resilience, and love for the game - without the burden of undue pressure. The article reminds us that soccer should enhance a player's life, not dominate it, and that when families partner with coaches in a supportive way, players are better positioned to flourish both on and off the field. To read more, [click here](#).



Soccer Parenting Blog: Youth Development in Today's Fractured Youth Soccer Landscape

The Soccer Parenting blog recently shared a recap of a powerful webinar focused on youth development in today's evolving soccer environment, where increasing pressures, early specialization, and competing interests can create confusion and anxiety for players and families. The webinar explored how well-intentioned adults can unintentionally shift focus away from development and toward outcomes - such as wins, rankings, or early recruiting - before a player is truly ready. Instead, panelists emphasized the value of age-appropriate training, focusing on fun, skill acquisition, and emotional growth, reminding parents and coaches that development is a process, not a destination.

The article highlights strategies for fostering healthier soccer experiences, including encouraging kids through challenges, prioritizing well-rounded development over early results, and reinforcing a love for the game that isn't dependent on pressure or compassion. It also underscores the importance of communication between parents and coaches, urging adults to foster environments built on trust, shared goals, and clear expectations. By focusing on what truly benefits young athletes, we help nurture confident, resilient players who are equipped for long-term success on and off the field. To read more, [click here](#).

USYS Coaching Articles: Self-Regulated Learning Process

The article highlights the importance of self-regulated learning as a cornerstone of effective coach development. Rather than simply receiving

instruction, coaches grow most when they are actively involved in planning, monitoring, and evaluating their own learning. The process encourages coaches to set goals, reflect on their practice, adjust based on feedback, and seek out new challenges - all steps that deepen understanding and enhance long-term performance. By taking ownership of their learning journey, coaches become more adaptive, resilient, and better equipped to guide players in meaningful ways.



For clubs and coach educators, fostering a culture where self-regulated learning is encouraged can elevate coaching standards across the organization. The article suggests creating environments where coaches feel safe to reflect honestly, ask questions, and engage in continuous improvement - not just follow prescribed steps. When coaches learn how to learn, they not only improve their own craft but also model lifelong growth for their players. To read more, [click here!](#)



USYS Coaching Articles: Know Who Is in Front of You

The article "Know Who Is in Front of You" underscores a fundamental coaching truth: understanding your players is key to effective coaching. Beyond formations and tactics, great coaches recognize that each player brings a unique set of experiences, motivations, strengths, and challenges to the pitch. By truly observing and listening to athletes - both in training and games - coaches can tailor their communication, instruction, and encouragement in ways that resonate with each individual. This approach strengthens trust, increases engagement, and creates an environment where players feel seen, understood, and valued.

By knowing who is in front of you, coaches are better equipped to meet players where they are in their development and guide them toward improvement. The article encourages coaches to ask thoughtful questions, adjust expectations appropriately, and continually reflect on how their interactions impact player confidence and growth. When coaches invest in understanding their athletes beyond the surface, the entire team benefits - fostering a culture of connection, respect, and meaningful development both on and off the field. To read 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.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Soccer is simple, but it is difficult to play simple."

-Johan Cruyff

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