



MICHIGAN STATE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION

MSYSA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Find all information at michiganyouthsoccer.org

JUNE 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!

STAY CONNECTED WITH THE NEW MSYSA APP

The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association is excited to announce that the official MSYSA app is now live and available to download. Designed to keep the Michigan soccer community connected, the app provides quick and convenient access to schedules, news, event information, resources, updates, and more - all from your phone, tablet, or computer. Whether you're looking for the latest tournament information, registration updates, or important announcements, the MSYSA app puts everything you need in one place.

We encourage all players, coaches, parents, referees, administrators, and supporters to download the app and take advantage of this new resource. With easy access to information across all MSYSA programs and events, staying up to date with Michigan soccer has never been easier. Download the app today through the [Apple App Store](#), [Google Play Store](#), or access the [web version](#) and stay connected with everything happening across the state!



STATE CUP & JUNIOR STATE CUP CHAMPIONS CROWNED

Champions have officially been crowned as another exciting season of State Cup and Junior State Cup competition came to a close. After months of league play, preliminary matches, and knockout-round battles, teams from across Michigan gathered to compete for state titles and the opportunity to etch their names into MSYSA history. The Spring State Cup crowned champions in the U13 and U13-U18/19 Boys age groups, with clubs including Nationals, Royal Oak FC, Michigan Burn, TBAYS, Eastside FC, Holland Rovers, TKO Premier SC, DCFC North, Michigan Rangers FC, Cap City Athletic, and DCFC Downriver emerging victorious after impressive runs through the tournament.

The future of Michigan soccer was also on full display during Junior State Cup, where champions were crowned in the U10-12 Boys and Girls divisions. Congratulations to Pato's Magic, Michigan Jaguars, Michigan Stars, Portage SC, Nationals, Michigan Hawks, Warriors SC, and TKO Premier SC for capturing Junior State Cup titles. Throughout the competition, players demonstrated tremendous skill, sportsmanship, and determination, creating unforgettable moments for teammates, coaches, and families alike.

MSYSA extends its congratulations to all participating teams, finalists, and champions for making the 2026 State Cup and Junior State Cup seasons a tremendous success. The passion, commitment, and talent showcased throughout the tournaments continue to highlight the strength of youth soccer across Michigan, and we look forward to seeing what these players and clubs accomplish next.

MICHIGAN TEAMS SHINE AT THE 2026 GREAT LAKES PRESIDENTS CUP

Twelve Michigan teams proudly represented the state at the 2026 US Youth Soccer Great Lakes Presidents Cup, held June 11-14 in Westfield, Indiana. Earning their place through strong performances in the Premier Division of the Michigan State Cup, Chaos FC, Royal Oak FC, TBAYS North Storm, Nationals Anchor Bay, Holland Rovers, AYSO United, DCFC North, Midland Fusion, Nationals Macomb, Cap City Athletic, DCFC Downriver, and DCFC Genesee competed against some of the top teams from across the Midwest. Throughout group play, Michigan teams showcased their talent, determination, and competitive spirit, continuing the state's tradition of success at the regional level.

When the dust settled after group play, an impressive seven Michigan teams advanced to the championship matches: Chaos FC, Royal Oak FC, TBAYS North Storm, Nationals Anchor Bay, DCFC North, Midland Fusion, and DCFC Downriver. Michigan's strong showing continued in the finals, where Royal Oak FC, TBAYS North Storm, Midland Fusion, and DCFC Downriver were crowned Great Lakes Presidents Cup Champions. With their regional titles secured, these four teams have earned the opportunity to represent both Michigan and the Great Lakes Region at the US Youth Soccer Presidents Cup National Championships, taking place July 7-11 in Wichita, Kansas. MSYSA congratulates all 12 teams on an outstanding tournament and wishes our national qualifiers the best of luck as they compete on the national stage!

ALYSSA HARROLD - NEW ODP COACH - ACCEPTED INTO A LICENSE COURSE

The Michigan soccer community has plenty to celebrate as Alyssa Harrold continues to make an impact both on and off the field. After being recognized as the MSYSA Girls Competitive Coach of the Year and later earning both US Youth Soccer Midwest Region Girls Competitive Coach of the Year and US Youth Soccer National Girls Competitive Coach of the Year honors, Harrold has continued to invest in her development as a coach. This year, she joined

the MSYSA ODP coaching staff, bringing her passion for player development and proven leadership to Michigan's top identification and development program.

Adding to an already impressive list of accomplishments, Harrold has also been accepted into the prestigious U.S. Soccer A License, one of the highest levels of coaching education available in the United States. The A License is designed to prepare coaches to lead high-performing players and teams while continuing to advance their understanding of the game. Harrold's acceptance into the course reflects her commitment to lifelong learning and her dedication to providing the best possible environment for the athletes she serves. MSYSA is proud to have Alyssa as part of the ODP coaching staff and looks forward to seeing her continue to grow and make a lasting impact on players throughout Michigan and beyond!

FALL STATE CUP APPLICATIONS OPEN

Fall State Cup applications are now open for the 2026/27 U14-U19 Girls competition, and teams are encouraged to submit their applications before the July 2 deadline at 12:00 noon. Fall State Cup provides teams with the opportunity to compete against some of the top clubs in Michigan while pursuing a state championship and advancement opportunities beyond the state level. Registration fees are \$795 for MSYSA-affiliated teams and \$945 for non-affiliated teams.

The competition will begin with preliminary round matches from August 8 through September 20, followed by the Quarterfinals and Semifinals, October 2-4 at the Saginaw Township Soccer Complex in Saginaw, Michigan. Teams that advance will compete for a State Cup title during the Finals, taking place October 16-18 at the Legacy Center Sports Complex in Brighton, Michigan.

Don't miss your chance to be part of one of Michigan's youth soccer competitions. Clubs can learn more and submit their application by visiting their State Cup page [here!](#)



ODP TRYOUTS INFORMATION

Registration is now open for the 2026-27 season of the ODP Program in Michigan. The program is open to players born between 2010 and 2016, giving athletes across the state the opportunity to participate in one of the country's premier player identification and development pathways. Early-bird registration opens March 1, with tiered pricing throughout the registration period. Last day to register for tryouts is July 15. Any registrations that come in after that point will automatically go into the November make-up tryout and the price will increase to \$210 for late registrations (registrations after July 15).

Tryouts for the upcoming ODP cycle will take place July 24-26, 2026, at Independence Park, where players will participate in multiple evaluation sessions with experienced ODP coaches. Athletes are encouraged to attend all assigned sessions for their age group to allow staff the best opportunity to evaluate their performance and potential. Players who are unable to attend

their scheduled sessions may request placement in an alternate tryout session, which is limited and offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

The ODP pathway provides players with high-level training and opportunities to be identified for state, regional, and national programs while continuing to play for their club teams. Participation in ODP does not prevent players from competing in other U.S. Soccer-affiliated programs, and families are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to further develop their skills and compete alongside some of Michigan's top players. To learn more, click [here](#)! ODP will stay at calendar age, we are not shifting to the new school year module.

NATIONAL 1 LEAGUE



Applications are now being accepted for the inaugural National 1 League season, with all teams required to apply by June 29, 2026, at 12:00 (noon). Scheduling will begin immediately following the application deadline, and all interested teams - including high school-aged (U15+) spring-only teams - must submit an application to be considered. Teams currently competing in the National League, NPL, GLPL, ECNL RL, NAL, GA, and other top competitive platforms are strongly encouraged to apply as the league prepares to launch a new era of elite competition in the Midwest.

Midwest District 5 anticipates offering one or two tiers of competition with approximately 8-10 matches per season, providing meaningful competition for top clubs and teams throughout the region. League fees include participation in State Cup, with U13-U14 teams paying \$1,200 for one season or \$1,600 for two seasons, while U15-U19 teams will pay \$1,200 per team. The inaugural National 1 League season will culminate in Summer 2027, where teams will have qualification opportunities to the ECNL Conference League Playoffs and Finals. For additional information, visit the [National 1 League page](#) on the MSYSA website, follow MSYSA social media channels for updates, or contact [Cara Hilliard](#), National 1 League Assistant, with any questions.

MSYSA SPRING 2026 REGISTRATION REMINDER & TRANSITION TO 26/27 SEASONAL YEAR

In preparation for the transition to the 2026/27 seasonal year, all MSYSA 25/26 events will officially close to late roster additions on July 15, 2026. Clubs are encouraged to review their registrations and ensure all player and team information is finalized before that date. Additionally, all outstanding registration, balanced, and final payments for the 2025/26 seasonal year should be submitted to MSYSA by July 31, 2026, to ensure all accounts remain in good standing heading into the new seasonal year.

Looking ahead, MSYSA registration events for the 2026/27 seasonal year will open on August 1, 2026, with registration data due in GotSport by September 23, 2026, and registration payments due by October 15, 2026. Clubs are strongly encouraged to begin the International Clearance (ITC) process now for any players born outside the United States or who have previously played

soccer internationally, as approval through FIFA and U.S. Soccer can take up to 30 days. As clubs continue through tryouts and team formation, please remember that the new age group changes will officially take effect beginning with the 2026/27 seasonal year. Early preparation will help ensure a smooth transition into the upcoming registration cycle. For any questions, please email [ITC](#).



MSPSP

Registration for the MSPSP and Great Lakes Premier League (GLPL) Fall 2026 season is now underway, and clubs are encouraged to begin preparing their teams for the upcoming season. MSPSP offers four competitive level - GLPL, MSPSP Premier, MSPSP Classic 1, and MSPSP Classic 2 - providing meaningful competition for teams throughout Michigan. Girls age groups for the fall season include U13 through U18/19, while boys opportunities are available in U13, U14, and U15 Supplemental Divisions. Team registration fees are \$475 per team, and all teams must complete registration by Wednesday, July 8.

To complete team registration, clubs must enroll teams in the "MSPSP Fall 2026 Season" event in GotSport, submit the team registration fee, and complete the Club Code of Conduct form. Player registration is due by Saturday, July 11, and requires teams to build their official roster in GotSport and ensure all players complete their [SportsForms player contracts](#). Clubs are reminded that players who are not rostered and under contract by the deadline may be considered late additions and subject to additional fees. Teams should also verify that all player and coach photos are uploaded to GotSport, as these images will be used on official passcards.

As preparations continue for the fall season, clubs should ensure all team officials meet the required participation standards, including current SafeSport certification, CDC Heads Up Concussion certification, Risk Management background checks, and an updated photo in GotSport. With registration deadlines approaching quickly, now is the time for clubs to finalize their plans and prepare for another exciting season of MSPSP and GLPL competition. To learn more, head to the [MSPSP website!](#)

ODP VENDORS AT 2026 TRYOUTS

We're looking forward to an exciting time at the 2026 ODP Tryouts this July, and we're thrilled to welcome a great lineup of local food vendors to enhance the experience for players and families. Whether you're fueling up before a session or relaxing between sessions, there will be plenty of delicious options available throughout the event. Bearclaw Coffee will be on site daily from 7:30 - 11:30 AM to help kickstart your mornings, while Playa Bowls will be serving açai bowls, smoothies, and more every day from 8 AM - 6 PM. In addition, Pryde Athletics will be back again this year with their popular "Recovery Lounge," available all day, every day, offering stretching sessions, recovery boots, and other services to help players stay fresh and perform at their best.

In addition, we'll have a rotating schedule of food trucks bringing even more variety each day. Stello's Burgers will be available on July 24 from 11:30 AM - 5:30 AM, followed by Slows BBQ on July 25 from 11 AM - 5 PM, and Tacos Hernandez on July 26 from 11:30 - 5:30 PM. Kona Ice will also be on site. With so many great options both on and off the field, be sure to stop by the vendors each day and enjoy everything the tryout experience has to offer!

ODP 2027 INTERNATIONAL TRIP

MSYSA is excited to begin planning for the 2027 Olympic Development Program International Trip, where players and families will travel through Southern Germany and parts of Italy for an unforgettable soccer and cultural experience.

The trip itinerary includes visits to iconic destinations such as Munich, Verona,

Innsbruck, and the Lake Garda region, along with opportunities to tour the famous Allianz Arena, explore Neuschwanstein Castle, experience the beauty of the Alps, and attend a professional match featuring clubs from Italy's top leagues. Players will also participate in training sessions and international friendly matches throughout the trip, creating a unique blend of development, competition, and sightseeing.



The excitement surrounding the trip has been unprecedented, as the 2027 ODP International Trip has officially reached capacity for the first time in program history. Due to overwhelming interest, a waitlist has been established, and players on that waitlist will receive priority consideration when registration opens for the 2028 ODP Trip in May 2027. While details are still being finalized, the 2028 trip is tentatively planned for players born in 2014, 2015, and 2016 (subject to change). We are thrilled by the response from Michigan soccer families and look forward to continuing to provide these once-in-a-lifetime international experiences through the ODP pathway.

Soccer Parenting Blog: The Referee Shortage Isn't About Referees. It's About Parents.

A recent article from the Soccer Parenting Association challenges a common assumption in youth sports: the referee shortage is not simply a recruiting problem - it is largely a culture problem. The article argues that many referees, especially young officials, leave the game because of the negative treatment they receive from adults on the sidelines. When referees are subjected to constant criticism, verbal abuse, and unrealistic expectations, many decide the role is no longer worth the stress. As a result leagues across the country continue to face shortages that can lead to game cancellations, scheduling challenges, and fewer opportunities for players to compete.



The article encourages parents, coaches, and spectators to recognize the important role referees play in the game and to help create a more respectful environment on match day. By modeling positive behavior, showing

appreciation for officials, and understanding that mistakes are a natural part of sports, adults can help improve the experience for everyone involved. Supporting referees not only helps retain officials but also ensures that players can continue to enjoy the game in a safe, positive, and development-focused environment. To read more, [click here!](#)



Soccer Parenting Blog: Navigating Stress, Standards, and Club Culture in Youth Soccer

A recent Soccer Parenting webinar featuring Anthony DiCicco, Tom Shields, and Skye Eddy explored the growing pressures facing youth soccer families and organizations today. The discussion focused on how rising expectations, increasing stress, and the complexity of the youth soccer landscape can impact player development and overall enjoyment of the game. The presenters emphasized that while families naturally want the best opportunities for their children, it is important to keep long-term development, well-being, and love of the game at the center of decision-making. They also discussed how healthy club cultures are built through trust, clear communication, and a shared commitment among coaches, parents, and club leaders.

A key takeaway from the conversation was that successful youth soccer environments are about much more than wins and losses. Strong clubs create cultures where players feel supported, coaches are empowered to teach and develop, and parents understand their role as partners in the process. The webinar encouraged families to evaluate clubs not only by competitive success but also by the values, leadership, and developmental experiences they provide. By prioritizing collaboration, communication, and player-centered development, clubs can create positive experiences that help young athletes thrive 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

"You owe it to yourself to be the best you can possibly be."

-Christian Pulisic

KEEP IN TOUCH

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