



JULY 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!

MICHIGAN TEAMS SET FOR USYS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN TENNESSEE & UTAH

The MSYSA is proud to recognize the outstanding clubs that have earned the opportunity to compete at the 2026 USYS National Championships taking place July 13-23 in Utah (Boys) and Tennessee (Girls). After months of hard work, dedication, and success throughout the league and State Cup play, these teams have advanced to youth soccer's biggest stage and will represent Michigan against the nation's top competition.

Representing Michigan in the Boys National Championships are Nationals Union 13B Black, Monroe United Black 12B NL, Eastside FC 2011B Black, DCFC City 10B Rouge, Michigan Rangers 09B Elite, and Cap City 07/08B

Grey. On the Girls' side, Michigan will be represented by Michigan Jaguars 2014G Pre GA 1, ACGR Academy 12G Elite, Portage SC 12G Green, ACGR Academy 11G Elite, PASS FC 10G Navy, Nationals Union 10G, Michigan Rangers 09G Elite, ACGR Academy 07/08G Elite, and Legends 07/08G Black.

Congratulations to all of these players, coaches, clubs, and families for reaching the final tournament of the season. Earning a spot at the USYS National Championships is an incredible accomplishment and a testament to the commitment and dedication each team has shown throughout the year. We wish all of our Michigan representatives the very best of luck as they compete on the national stage. Go represent Michigan with pride, enjoy every moment, and bring home some hardware! Stay tuned next month to read about the results...

MICHIGAN TEAMS SHINE AT THE 2026 NATIONAL PRESIDENTS CUP

Four Michigan teams proudly represented the state at the 2026 USYS Presidents Cup National Championships in Wichita, Kansas, after earning regional titles at the Great Lakes Presidents Cup. Congratulations to Royal Oak FC 2013G Green, TBAYS North Storm '12B White, Midland Fusion 10 Green, and DCFC Downriver 07/08B Elite for advancing to the national stage and competing against the top Presidents Cup teams from across the country. Their hard work, dedication, and success throughout the season were on full display as they proudly represented Michigan.

Michigan continued to make its mark throughout the tournament, with TBAYS North Storm '12B White and DCFC Downriver 07/08B Elite advancing to the semifinal round after impressive performances in group play. From there, DCFC punched its ticket to the championship match, where the team delivered a dominant 3-0 victory over Burke Athletic Club (Virginia) to capture the USYS Presidents Cup National Championship. The championship run capped off an incredible season for the team and served as a fitting conclusion as many of these players prepare to move on to the next chapter of their soccer careers. MSYSA is incredibly proud of everything they accomplished and congratulates all four Michigan teams on representing our state with class, determination, and excellence on the national stage.

FALL STATE CUP CLUBS SET

The stage is set for the 2026 Fall State Cup, as teams from across Michigan prepare to compete in one of the state's premier youth soccer competitions.

This year's tournament features an impressive 156 teams representing 44 clubs in the U14 - U19 Girls age groups, highlighting the continued growth and strength of competitive soccer throughout Michigan. Teams will begin their journey with preliminary matches taking place August 8 - September 20, all to earn a spot in the championship rounds.

The road to a State Cup title will continue with the Quarterfinals and Semifinals on October 2-4 in Saginaw, Michigan, before champions are crowned at the Finals, taking place October 16-18 at the Legacy Center Sports Complex in

Brighton, Michigan. MSYSA is excited to welcome teams from AC Grand Rapids, Athletic SC, Bay Area SA, BC Fire SC, Cap City, County Western, DBSS, DCFC, DCFC South Oakland, Elk Rapids FC, Flint Area United SC, Force SC, Fury Futbol Club, Great Lakes Alliance, Huron SA, Kalamazoo SC, Lakeshore FC, Legends FC, Liverpool FC-IA MI, Michigan Burn, Michigan Jaguars, Michigan Rangers FC, Michigan Tigers FC, Michigan Wolves, Midland SC, Midwest United, Midwest United FC SCOR, Nationals, PASS FC, Petoskey YS, Plymouth SC, Portage SC, Rapids FC, Reeths-Puffer YSC, Royal Oak FC, Saginaw Township SA, Southwest Michigan SC, TKO Premier SC, TBAYS, United Soccer Athletes, Warriors SC, West MI Galaxy, and West MI Premier SC.

We look forward to another exciting season filled with competitive matchups, memorable moments, and the opportunity to showcase the incredible talent within the Michigan soccer community. Best of luck to all teams competing in the 2026 Fall State Cup!



ODP TRYOUTS INFORMATION & PROGRAM UPDATES

Registration is still open for the 2026-27 Michigan ODP season. The program is open to players born between 2010 and 2016, providing athletes across the state with the opportunity to participate in one of the country's premier player identification and development pathways. Registration for July tryouts will officially close on July 15, 2026. Any registrations submitted after July 15 will automatically be placed into the November make-up tryout, and late registration pricing will increase to \$210.

Tryouts for the upcoming ODP cycle will take place July 24-26, 2026, at Independence Park. Players will participate in multiple evaluation sessions led by experienced ODP coaches, and athletes are encouraged to attend all assigned sessions for their age group to allow staff the best opportunity to evaluate their abilities and potential. The full tryout schedule is now available on the [MSYSA website](#) and has been shared across our social media channels. As a reminder, ODP will remain based on calendar birth years and will not shift to the new school year model.

The ODP pathway provides players with high-level training, competitive opportunities, and the chance to be identified for state, regional, and national programs while continuing to compete with their club teams. Looking ahead, Michigan ODP is excited to have nine teams registered for the 2027 Far West Championships in Arizona this January. Michigan is looking to build on last year's success after the 2008 Boys State Team captured the division championship at the 2026 event, marking a memorable achievement for the program.

Additionally, MSYSA is currently working on finalizing upcoming ODP101 and Goalkeeper Academy (GKA) opportunities, with two potential training locations being explored. More information regarding dates, locations, and registration details will be released soon. We look forward to another exciting year of

NATIONAL 1 LEAGUE



The Midwest District 5 N1 League is excited to welcome and congratulate all teams participating in the inaugural season. As a new competitive platform begins, we look forward to bringing together talented players, coaches, and clubs for a year filled with high-level competition, development opportunities, and memorable moments on the field. Best of luck to all participating teams as they help set the foundation for the future of the N1 League!

The inaugural season will feature clubs from across the region, including AC Grand Rapids, Michigan Tigers FC, Nationals, Perrysburg SC, Royal Oak FC, DCFC, DCFC South Oakland, Midland SC, TBAYS, Lakeshore FC, Legends FC, MI Rangers FC, TKO Premier SC, MDA, Waza FC, MI Jaguars, Pato's Magic, Fort Wayne SC, BC Fire SC, Monroe United, Michigan Power FA, Eastside FC, Carpathia Kickers, Farmington SC, Holland Rovers, and United Soccer Athletes. We are excited to see the competition, growth, and success that this first season will bring!

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

In preparation for the transition to the 2026/27 seasonal year, all MSYSA 2025/26 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 balances 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. Fall registration data must be submitted in GotSport by September 23, 2026, with registration payments due by October 15, 2026. MSYSA events will officially close to Fall registrations on October 29, 2026, and Winter/Spring registration events will open on November 2, 2026. Clubs are encouraged to plan ahead and complete all necessary registration requirements before each deadline.

As clubs continue through tryouts and team formation, please remember that the new age group formation changes will officially take effect beginning with the 2026/27 seasonal year. To assist club administrators with building teams in GotSport, please review the [Managing the Age Group Formation Change in GotSport: What Clubs & Teams Need to Know](#) resource, along with additional information available on the [MSYSA website](#).

Clubs are also strongly encouraged to begin the International Transfer Clearance (ITC) process now for any players born outside the US or who have previously played soccer internationally. Approval through FIFA and US Soccer

can take up to 30 days, so early submission is recommended to avoid delays in player eligibility. For any questions regarding the process, please contact [MSYSA ITC](#). Early preparation will help ensure a smooth transition into the upcoming seasonal year.

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE (COI) UPDATE FOR THE 26/27 SEASONAL YEAR

As MSYSA prepares for the transition into the 2026/27 seasonal year, clubs are reminded that COIs will officially roll over on September 1, 2026. Current 2025/26 COIs will remain valid through August 31, 2026, and updated certificates will become available following the seasonal year transition.

Please note that only MSYSA Direct and Associate Members are eligible to request COIs directly through MSYSA. Clubs that are not Direct or Associate Members should contact their scheduling league to request the appropriate Certificate of Insurance. Thank you for your attention as we prepare for another successful soccer year!

MSPSP



The MSPSP Fall 2026 season is just around the corner, with league play officially kicking off on August 8. As clubs prepare for another exciting season of competition, now is the time to review important registration and roster deadlines. Phase 1 Late Player Additions begin on July 113 and carry a \$25 per player fee. The league scheduling period will take place July 17-28, followed by the release of official team documents, including passcards and rosters, on August 4. Once the season begins on August 8, Phase 2 Late Player Additions will go into effect with a \$50 per player fee. The Fall 2026 season will conclude on November 16.

Clubs that require passcards or rosters before August 4 may request [Early Passcards](#) for a \$50 per player fee. As teams finalize preparations for the upcoming season, MSPSP encourages clubs to stay on top of important deadlines and ensure all roster and registration requirements are completed. Best of luck to all the teams [as they get ready for another exciting fall season!](#) [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 AM - 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!

Along with all of these amazing vendors that will be onsite during tryouts, Gleaners will be collecting non-perishable food items for a food drive! Be sure to clean out your pantry - make sure nothing is expired!

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.

MSYSA JOINS SOCCER AT SCHOOLS PROGRAM

MSYSA is excited to be a part of the Soccer at Schools Program, a new initiative designed to introduce the game of soccer to students and create more opportunities for children to get involved in the sport. The program focuses on bringing soccer directly into schools by providing a fun, accessible, and engaging environment where students can learn the fundamentals of the game while staying active and building confidence.

Through Soccer at Schools, students will have the opportunity to develop basic soccer skills, improve teamwork, and experience the benefits of physical activity in a positive setting. This program helps create a pathway for new

players to discover their love for the game while continuing MSYSA's mission of growing soccer throughout Michigan communities. We are excited to help bring the joy of soccer to more students and inspire the next generation of players! To learn more, [click here!](#)

Soccer Parenting Blog: The Future of Youth Sports Depends on Adults



A recent article from Soccer Parenting highlights the important role adults play in shaping the future of youth sports and creating positive environments for young athletes. While players are often expected to demonstrate respect, teamwork, and sportsmanship, the article emphasizes that coaches, parents, and spectators must hold themselves to those same standards. Through initiatives like The Sideline Project Certification, Soccer Parenting encourages adults to recognize the impact of their words and actions on the overall game-day experience for players, referees, coaches, and families.

Creating a better youth sports culture starts with the commitment of the adults surrounding the game. By focusing on encouragement, respect, and positive sideline behavior, parents and coaches can help players develop confidence, enjoy the game, and continue growing both on and off the field. The article serves as a reminder that protecting the future of youth soccer is a shared responsibility, and when adults lead by example, everyone involved benefits. To read more, [click here!](#)



Soccer Parenting Blog: Raising Strong and Resilient Athletes: A Parent's Guide to Long-Term Athletic Development

A recent article from Soccer Parenting highlights the importance of focusing on the long-term development of young athletes, both physically and mentally. Featuring insights from performance coach Paul Bower, the article emphasizes that before focusing on creating elite athletes, the priority should be helping children become confident movers, durable competitors, and resilient individuals. Building a strong athletic foundation through a variety of movements, experiences, and challenges allows players to develop the skills they need to continue growing throughout their soccer journey.

The article also reminds parents that resilience is built through the process of learning, adapting, and overcoming obstacles. Success in youth sports is not only about results, but about creating environments where athletes can develop confidence, handle adversity, and maintain their love for the game. By encouraging growth, supporting effort, and allowing players the opportunity to face challenges, parents and coaches can help prepare athletes for success 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

"Every single day I wake up and commit to myself to becoming a better player."

- Mia Hamm

KEEP IN TOUCH

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Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, Inc. | 9401 General Drive Suite 120 | Plymouth, MI 48170 US

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