



AUGUST 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 CLUBS SHINE ON THE NATIONAL STAGE AT THE 2026 USYS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Michigan soccer once again demonstrated its place among the nation's elite as 14 clubs represented the Great Lakes State at the 2026 USYS National Championships, held July 13-23 in Tennessee and Utah.

Teams earned their place through outstanding performances in the National League and National Championship Series, culminating in the opportunity to compete against the best youth clubs from across the country. Nine Michigan teams traveled to Tennessee, including

Michigan Jaguars, ACGR, Portage SC, PASS FC, Nationals, Michigan Rangers, and Legends FC, while five teams competed in Utah, representing Nationals, Monroe United, Eastside FC, DCFC City, and Michigan Rangers.

Michigan's success continued throughout the tournament as six teams advanced to the quarterfinals: Michigan Jaguars, ACGR, Portage SC, Nationals (with multiple teams), and Michigan Rangers. The state's impressive run didn't stop there, as Portage SC and Nationals battled their way into the semifinals, proving they belonged among the nation's top clubs. The tournament reached its pinnacle when Nationals earned a place in the National Championship match, where they capped off an unforgettable season by capturing the 2026 USYS National Championship. Their title run is a testament to the dedication of the players, coaches, and families who have worked tirelessly throughout the year.

Congratulations to every Michigan club, player, coach, referee, and supporter who helped make this year's National Championships a tremendous success.

Your commitment, sportsmanship, and passion for the game continue to showcase the strength of youth soccer throughout Michigan. We are incredibly proud of each team that represented our state and look forward to seeing Michigan continue to compete - and succeed - on the national stage for years to come.

NATIONALS UNION 10G ACADEMY CAPTURED USYS U16 GIRLS SUPER GROUP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Michigan soccer celebrated an unforgettable moment this summer as Nationals Union 10G Academy was crowned the 2026 USYS U16 Girls Super Group National Champion. After an incredible run through the USYS National Championships, Nationals proved they belonged among the nation's best, combining skill, resilience, and teamwork to earn one of the highest honors in youth soccer. Their championship journey was the culmination of a remarkable season that began with capturing the 2026 Michigan Fall State Cup and then an undefeated group stage at the National Championships.



The knockout rounds showcased the team's determination and championship mentality. Nationals first earned a dramatic 4-3 penalty kick victory in the quarterfinals after battling back to advance, followed by an impressive 2-0 semifinal victory over the Southern California rep to secure a place in the national final. In the championship match, Nationals once again rose to the occasion, defeating the South Texas rep 2-1 to bring the USYS U16 Girls Super Group National Championship back to Michigan.

MSYSA extends its heartfelt congratulations to the players, coaches, families, and supporters of Nationals 10G Academy on an extraordinary accomplishment. Their commitment, perseverance, and passion for the game have earned them a place in Michigan soccer history while proudly representing both their club and the Great Lakes state on the national stage.

FALL STATE CUP & DIRECTORS ACADEMY SEASON KICKS OFF

The excitement of a new season is officially underway as both the 2026 Fall State Cup and MSYSA Directors Academy kicked off on August 8. Across Michigan, players, coaches, referees, and families returned to the field to begin another exciting year of competition and development. In Fall State Cup, teams have started their pursuit of a state championship, with every match bringing clubs one step closer to the knockout rounds and the opportunity to compete for a title later this fall. The tournament once again features many of Michigan's top U14-U19 girls teams, all striving to make their mark on one of the state's premier competitions.

At the same time, the Directors Academy has begun another season dedicated to long-term player development for U10-U12 athletes. The Academy continues to provide meaningful competition in a learning-focused environment where players can grow technically and tactically while enjoying the game. With an emphasis on coaching education, player development, and ability-based competition, the Directors Academy remains one of Michigan's premier developmental platforms for young players. MSYSA wishes the best of luck to every player, coach, referee, and club participating in both programs and looks forward to another memorable season across the state.

38 MICHIGAN ODP PLAYERS EARN REGIONAL TEAM SELECTION



The Michigan State Youth Soccer Association is proud to announce that 38 ODP players have been selected to the 2025/26 ODP Regional Team, recognizing them among the top players in the Midwest Region. This year's selections include 22 boys and 16 girls, a tremendous accomplishment that reflects the talent, dedication, and hard work displayed by these athletes throughout the ODP season. Earning a place on a Regional Team is a significant milestone in the ODP pathway, providing players with the opportunity to compete alongside and against some of the best players from across the region while continuing to develop under the guidance of top coaches.

The next step for these athletes will be the ODP Interregional Event, where Regional teams from across the country will come together for elite competition and additional player identification opportunities. The girls will compete November 21-25, while the boys will travel January 14-18, 2027. MSYSA congratulates all 38 players on this outstanding achievement and wishes them the best of luck as they represent Michigan and the Midwest Region on the national stage. We look forward to watching them continue to grow both on and off the field as they take the next step in their ODP journey!

ODP WINTER TRAINING POOL & MAKE-UP TRYOUT INFO



The 2026/27 Michigan ODP July Tryouts were another tremendous success, bringing together hundreds of players from across the state for an exciting weekend of evaluation, development, and competition. In addition to outstanding soccer on the field, families enjoyed a great event atmosphere with a variety of local food truck vendors serving coffee, acai bowls, burgers, barbecue, tacos, smoothies, and more throughout the weekend. Returning favorites like Pryde Athletics' Recovery Lounge also helped enhance the player experience by offering stretching sessions, recovery boots, and additional recovery resources between matches. Thank you to all of the players, families, coaches, referees, volunteers, and vendors who helped make this year's tryouts such a memorable event.

For players who were unable to attend the July tryouts or are interested in the event, MSYSA is now accepting make-up tryout registrations for the 2026/27 ODP season through November 1. The make-up tryout schedule, location, and session information will be finalized and shared with registered participants during the first or second week of September, providing another opportunity for players to be evaluated and enter the ODP pathway. To register a girl player, [click here](#). To register a boy player, [click here](#).

For those who attended the July tryouts and were selected to advance to the Winter Training Pool, a reminder that training fees are due by August 31. Timely payment will secure each player's place in the next phase of the ODP program as they continue their development and pursue future state, regional, national, and international opportunities. Congratulations to everyone who advanced, and we look forward to another exciting year of Michigan ODP!

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 TRANSITION TO 26/27 SEASONAL YEAR

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.

As we begin the 2026/27 seasonal year and Fall 2026 registration, MSYSA is offering a series of virtual Registration Office Hours to help clubs and administrators navigate registration in MSYSA events. These sessions are designed as an open opportunity to bring your questions, troubleshoot registration issues, and get the support you need rather than a formal class. Office hours will be held via Zoom on Monday, August 10 from 1-2 PM, Tuesday, August 25 from 7-8 PM, and Monday, August 31 from 1-2 PM. Clubs are encouraged to share this opportunity with administrators and others within their organization who may benefit. To learn more, [click here](#)!

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. 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](#)!

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

As the 2026/27 seasonal year gets underway, MSYSA has released its latest list of important dates and deadlines for clubs, teams, and families. Fall State Cup preliminary matches for U14 to U19 Girls began August 8 and will run through September 20, followed by quarterfinals and semifinals October 2-4 and finals October 16-18. The inaugural National 1 League season also kicked off August 8 and will run through November 15, with registration and roster deadlines set for July 31. Meanwhile, the MSPSP Fall season began August 8 and will conclude November 15.

Clubs should also keep several upcoming registration deadlines on their calendars. September 15 is the deadline for clubs requesting MSYSA Registration Assistance to submit all required data, while September 23 is the deadline for registration data to be entered in GotSport; submissions after that date will be subject to late fees. Registration payments are due October 15, and clubs that have not made a payment by that date will have a \$100 late payment fee added to their existing registration fees. For ODP, Winter Training Pool fees are due August 1, the makeup tryout is tentatively scheduled for November 21 with registration open through November 1, and the first installment for the March 28 ODP overseas trip was also due August 1. Clubs and families are encouraged to review the full [MSYSA Important Dates and Deadlines](#) document and plan ahead for the upcoming season!

U.S. SOCCER CONTINUOUS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) SERIES

U.S. Soccer Coaching Education has launched a new Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Series, a national webinar series designed to support coaches throughout their professional journey. The monthly learning experiences will connect current research, coaching practice, and the evolving needs of player development, with each month featuring a different coaching theme. The August theme, "Supporting Better Player Development," will explore how coaches can better understand the individual needs of players and create meaningful learning environments that encourage growth, confidence, decision-making, and active participation.

Two learning experiences will be offered in August, providing opportunities for coaches at different stages of their education. On August 13 from 1-2 pm ET, volunteer, Grassroots, D, and C licensed coaches can participate in Understanding Young Players: Creating Engaging Learning Experiences. To register, [click here](#). On August 27 from 1-2 pm ET, C, B, A, and Pro licensed coaches can join Knowing the Individual: Supporting Player Development in Complex Environments. Both sessions are designed to encourage reflection, dialogue, and practical ideas that coaches can bring directly into their own environments. To register, [click here](#). Coaches interested in continuing their education and expanding their approach to player development are encouraged to register for the sessions.

Soccer Parenting Blog: New Team? Here's How Parents Can Help Build a Positive Team Community



A recent Soccer Parenting article explores why positive team culture is one of the most important factors in a young athlete's experience, extending far beyond wins, losses, or standings. A healthy team culture creates an environment where players feel valued, supported, and connected to both their teammates and coaches. When athletes experience a genuine sense of belonging, they are more likely to develop confidence, enjoy coming to training, remain engaged in the sport, and continue playing for years to come. The article emphasizes that successful teams are built on trust, respect, communication, and shared values - not just talent or results.

The article also reminds readers that building a positive culture is a shared responsibility. Coaches establish expectations through leadership and communication, parents contribute by encouraging sportsmanship and supporting all players on the team, and athletes help create an environment where teammates feel included, respected, and motivated to improve together. When everyone embraces these roles, teams become stronger not only on the field but also off it, fostering lifelong friendships, resilience, and personal growth. Rather than focusing solely on outcomes, clubs that prioritize community and positive relationships create experiences that help players develop both as athletes and as individuals. To read more, [click here](#)!

Soccer Parenting Blog: Soccer Dad, Postscript: How to Make an Ending Happy



A recent Soccer Parenting article reflects on the final chapter of the youth soccer journey, encouraging parents to think beyond results and instead focus on the lasting impact the game has on their children.

Whether a player's career ends in high school, college, or continues beyond, the article emphasizes that every soccer journey eventually reaches its conclusion. The goal for parents is not to avoid that ending, but to help ensure it is one filled with pride, gratitude, and positive memories. By supporting their child through every stage of the experience - not

just the highlights - families can help create a healthy relationship with the game that lasts long after the final whistle.

The article also reminds parents that one of the greatest gifts they can give their child is allowing them to own their soccer experience. Rather than defining success by championships, scholarships, or playing time, parents are encouraged to celebrate growth, resilience, friendships, and the life lessons learned along the way. When the focus remains on enjoyment, personal development, and unconditional support, players are more likely to leave the game with confidence, appreciation, and memories they will carry for a lifetime. A happy ending isn't measured by where a player finishes - it is measured by whether they still love the game because of the journey they experienced. 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

"A good soccer player plays where the ball is. A great soccer player plays where the ball is going to be."

- Johan Cruyff

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