WHO IS DELAWARE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION (DYSA)?

THE DELAWARE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION, INC. (DYSA), IS AN AFFILIATE OF THE UNITED STATES SOCCER FEDERATION (USSF) AND UNITED STATES YOUTH SOCCER (USYS). IT IS ALSO SUBJECT TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA).

THE MISSION OF DELAWARE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION IS TO PROMOTE AND FACILITATE THE GAME OF SOCCER FOR ALL YOUTH AT ALL LEVELS OF PLAY IN DELAWARE. DELAWARE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION SEeks to work with integrity, cooperation, fairness, accountability, professionalism, collaboration, innovation, passion, and excellence in all of our actions.

WE WILL HOLD OURSELVES ACCOUNTABLE TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE BASICS AND EXPECT THAT OUR MEMBERS, AFFILIATES, AND VENDORS WILL UNDERSTAND THESE BASICS AND WORK CONSISTENTLY WITH THEM. ANY DECISION OR CONSIDERATION MADE BY OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OR OPERATIONAL STAFF SHOULD BE MADE ONLY AFTER DUE CONSIDERATION OF THESE BASICS.

DYSA MEMBERSHIP IS OPEN TO ALL SOCCER PLAYERS, COACHES, TRAINERS, MANAGERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND OFFICIALS IN THE STATE OF DELAWARE. THE GOAL OF DYSA IS TO PROVIDE A GOVERNING BODY AT THE STATE LEVEL TO FUNCTION AS AN ADMINISTRATOR OF THE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES SET FORTH BY THE NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

OUR PHILOSOPHIES MIRROR THOSE OF THESE ORGANIZATIONS IN SUPPORTING THE CONCEPT OF FAIR PLAY, WHILE PROVIDING A SAFE AND ORGANIZED PLAYING ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR YOUTH SOCCER PLAYERS.

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WHO IS DYSA?

DYSA IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SEVERAL PROGRAMS WITHIN OUR CALENDAR YEAR. THE ASSOCIATION HOLDS THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SERIES (STATE CUP) ANNUALLY TO DECIDE THE STATE CHAMPION TEAM IN EACH COMPETITIVE SOCCER AGE GROUP, 9U TO 19U. THE WINNERS OF THIS TOURNAMENT (12U AND OLDER) GO ON TO COMPETE AT THE REGIONAL COMPETITION AND EVENTUALLY TO THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS OF US YOUTH SOCCER.

THE US YOUTH SOCCER PRESIDENT’S CUP IS A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT THAT WAS DESIGNED FOR THOSE TEAMS LOOKING TO PLAY AGAINST TEAMS OF SIMILAR ABILITIES FOR A NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE. THE CUP PROVIDES A PROGRESSIVE, COMPETITIVE EXPERIENCE TO US YOUTH SOCCER TEAMS FROM THE STATE TO THE REGIONAL TO NATIONAL LEVEL. THE PRESIDENT’S CUP GIVES PLAYERS AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE AGAINST TEAMS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY AT A HIGH LEVEL FOR THE JOY AND CHALLENGE OF THE GAME. IT PROVIDES THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE A UNIQUE US YOUTH SOCCER EVENT WITH CAMARADERIE, COMMUNITY AND COMPETITION THROUGH SPORT. THIS COMPETITION IS NOT FOR TEAMS THAT EXPECT TO ADVANCE IN THE US YOUTH SOCCER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES.

OUR MICKEY WHERRY 3 V 3 IS A TOURNAMENT FOR PLAYERS 8U TO 16U. RECREATIONAL AND COMPETITIVE PLAYERS. DYSA HAS CREATED A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR THOSE ATHLETES THAT MIRROR THE PHILOSOPHY OF MR. MICKEY WHERRY. MICKEY WAS A FORMER DYSA BOARD MEMBER AND A BOARD MEMBER OF KIRKWOOD SOCCER CLUB. HIS PASSION WAS THE RECREATIONAL PLAYER, AND HE CREATED THE DYSA INTER CLUB LEAGUE FOR OUR CLUBS.

PRESIDENT’S CORNER

THE ASSOCIATION ALSO ADMINISTERS THE STATE’S OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. THE US YOUTH SOCCER OLYMPIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IS A NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR PLAYERS. THE PROGRAM IDENTIFIES AND DEVELOPS YOUTH PLAYERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE TO REPRESENT THEIR STATE AND REGIONAL ASSOCIATIONS. AT THE STATE ASSOCIATION LEVEL, POOLS OF PLAYERS ARE IDENTIFIED IN EACH ELIGIBLE AGE GROUP AND BROUGHT TOGETHER AS A TEAM TO DEVELOP THEIR SKILLS THROUGH TRAINING AND COMPETITION. FROM THE STATE POOLS AND SUBSEQUENT TEAMS, PLAYERS ARE IDENTIFIED FOR REGIONAL AND NATIONAL POOLS AND TEAMS. DE ODP TEAMS ARE COMPRISED OF SOME OF THE BEST DELAWARE PLAYERS IN VARIOUS AGE GROUPS. THIS IS A SYSTEM WHEREBY POTENTIAL U.S. NATIONAL TEAM MEMBERS AND OLYMPIC HOPEFULS CAN BE IDENTIFIED AND DEVELOPED TO THEIR FULLEST POTENTIAL.

DYSA ALSO OFFERS SEVERAL COACHING CLINICS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR OUR UPCOMING CLINICS AT WWW.DYSA.ORG

CLUB NEWS

DYSA HAS MANY OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE TO OUR MEMBER CLUBS, COACHES, PARENTS, AND PLAYERS. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT US AT EXECUTIVEDIRECTOR@DYSA.ORG
USYSA NATIONAL LEAGUE INTRODUCES ENHANCED FORMAT FOR NATIONAL EVENTS

The US Youth Soccer National League is excited to introduce an evolved competition format and pathway for its national events, beginning in the 2023-24 seasonal year.

The new national event pathway will allow the very best teams from the National League’s club-based and team-based leagues to come together in a common, unified pathway. Every team attending national events will compete in meaningful games, with the ability to ultimately advance to the USYS National Championships.

“We cannot wait for the players and teams to experience the excitement and competitive atmosphere that will come with the enhanced competition format and pathway provided at our national events,” said Simon Collins, National League Commissioner. “We have listened to feedback from teams and clubs, and we’re confident this will lead to more meaningful games and a great atmosphere that will be even more appealing to all in attendance, including college coaches and scouts.”

Regular season league play – in the National League conferences and Elite 64 – will provide teams with advancement into the national event pathway, beginning with either the conference playoffs or the Elite 64 playoffs.

Regular season performance determines qualification and placement into the national events.

Any team travels to a national event, it is guaranteed to play meaningful games with the chance to ultimately advance to the USYS National Championships.

Based on performance at its respective playoff event, each advancing team is placed into an appropriate pool at its national league P.R.O. event – increasing the likelihood of all games being competitive and evenly-matched.

Each conference – 14U-18/19U age groups will advance combined across all national league competitions – creating more flexibility and a higher, more consistent competitive level in a combined 14U-18/19U age group.

Each national event will feature either a championship or a pool winner and encourage players to compete with a focus on team success.

A competitive environment with meaningful matches provides an ideal setting for college coaches and scouts to evaluate players.

More information on gameplay formats at the national events will be available later this spring. All national events will be scheduled to reduce high school soccer conflicts, with the goal of allowing high school soccer players to elevate their national league experience.

The new national event pathway for its national events, beginning in the 2023-24 seasonal year.

More information on gameplay formats at the national events will be available later this spring. All national events will be scheduled to reduce high school soccer conflicts, with the goal of allowing high school soccer players to elevate their national league experience.

The conference playoffs or the Elite 64 playoffs, teams in the 14U-18/19U age groups will advance to national league P.R.O., where conference teams and Elite 64 teams will compete against each other for the opportunity to qualify for the USYS National Championships. Under this new format for national events, national league teams will enjoy several benefits of the evolved competition that enhance their overall experience:

• Every regular season league game, whether in the conferences or Elite 64, continues to be meaningful.
• Regular season performance determines qualification and placement into the national events.
• Any team traveling to a national event, it is guaranteed to play meaningful games with the chance to ultimately advance to the USYS National Championships.
• Based on performance at its respective playoff event, each advancing team is placed into an appropriate pool at its national league P.R.O. event – increasing the likelihood of all games being competitive and evenly-matched.
• The 14U and 18/19U age groups will be combined across all national league competitions – creating more flexibility and a higher, more consistent competitive level in a combined 14U-14/19U age group.
• Each national event will feature either a championship or a pool winner and encourage players to compete with a focus on team success.
• A competitive environment with meaningful matches provides an ideal setting for college coaches and scouts to evaluate players.

ARE YOU A CHANGEMAKER? INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT SOCIAL IMPACT IN SOCCER? JOIN US ON JUNE 13TH FOR OUR ALL-NEW PLAYMAKERS’ SUMMIT, PRESENTED BY US SOCCER. THE NEW SUMMIT WILL FEATURE INSIGHTFUL PANELS ABOUT SOME OF THE MOST PRESSING ISSUES FACING SOCIAL IMPACT AND SOCCER TODAY.

CONFIRMED PANELISTS INCLUDE COMMISSIONER DON GARBER, CINDY PARLOW CONE, SOLA WINLEY, MANA SHIM, AND EVAN WHITFIELD, AMONG OTHERS.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE PLAYERS SELECTED TO REPRESENT DELAWARE ODP IN THE EAST REGION ODP TOURNAMENT!

DELAWARE ODP WILL BE ENTERING 10 TEAMS FROM UNDER-12 THROUGH UNDER-16 IN THE EAST REGION ODP TOURNAMENT.

THE PLAYERS SELECTED TO REPRESENT DELAWARE AT THE ODP EAST REGION TOURNAMENT WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BE SELECTED TO THE EAST REGION ID POOL CAMP, AND ULTIMATELY TO BE SELECTED TO THE EAST REGION TEAM FOR INTERREGIONAL EVENTS!

THE PREPARATION TRAINING SESSION ON JUNE 7, 2023 AT KIRKWOOD SPORTS DETAILS WILL BE SENT OUT ON FRIDAY, MAY 19, 2023.

THE EAST REGION TOURNAMENT GAME SCHEDULE IS BEING FINALIZED AND WILL BE SENT TO THE ROSTERED PLAYERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 2023 FROM 2-3:30PM AT RIVER SOCCER CLUB
REGISTRATION IS STILL OPEN!


THE SESSION STRUCTURE WILL INCLUDE:
- ACTIVATION PHASE TO GET THE PLAYERS PHYSICALLY READY TO PLAY.
- TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE TO DEMONSTRATE AND TEACH TECHNICAL SKILLS.
- SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY + SMALL SIDED GAMES.
- COOL DOWN PHASE.

RECAP INFORMATION:
DELAWARE ODP WINTER CAMP 2022
LOCATION: CHASE FIELDHOUSE INDOOR TURF FIELD
THE DELAWARE ODP WINTER CAMP PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PLAYERS TO TRAIN AND COMPETE IN AN ELEVATED, PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENT TO ASSIST IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLAYERS.
I am very excited to continue to grow and improve the Delaware ODP Program and the staff and players are doing an incredible job.

December 28, 2022 - Delaware ODP Winter Camp (Birth Years: 2008-2005) - Photo Album
December 29, 2022 - Delaware ODP Winter Camp (Birth Years: 2012-2009) - Photo Album

If you are interested in the DE ODP winter camp & participating in Delaware ODP but did not attend tryouts and are not registered for winter camp, please complete the following DE ODP Player Interest Form.

Objective of Delaware ODP

The objective of our DE ODP tryouts is for our staff to identify the top players in Delaware to be selected for our winter camp and future ODP events! This is a great opportunity for players to showcase their ability in front of our Delaware ODP staff.

We are looking for players with a strong technical base, tactical understanding of the game, the ability to solve problems on the field, capable of dealing with the stresses of the game through mental strength, and high levels of physical fitness.

The mission of the ODP program is to provide a first-class experience and assist with the development of the players, provide experiences to work with our elite staff, help the players learn to perform in a new environment outside of their comfort zone at their clubs, and provide a platform to be identified by East Region scouts and college coaches.

2021-2022 Delaware ODP Recap

We are looking forward to building on the Delaware ODP 2021-2022 performance which included:
- 50 players selected to the East Region ID camp
- 15 players invited to the East Region Call-back camp in Virginia
- 9 players selected to represent the East Region Team at the Interregional event in Orlando in November 2022!
- 2 players selected to the USYS national team for events:
  - O Mason Csapo, 2007 boys, selected to the USYS National Team, captained the team in the Dallas Cup & were crowned champions!
  - O Owen Miller, 2009 boys, selected to the USYS National Team for Las Vegas Mayor’s Cup and were just named champions!
HENLOPEN SOCCER CLUB JOINS RUSH

HENLOPEN SOCCER CLUB, SOUTHERN DELAWARE’S LARGEST SOCCER PROGRAM, HAS OFFICIALLY PARTNERED WITH THE LARGEST SOCCER CLUB IN THE WORLD TO BECOME DELMARVA RUSH.

CHRIS NICHOLS, HENLOPEN SOCCER CLUB BOARD PRESIDENT, OFFICIALLY SIGNED THE LICENSING & SERVICES AGREEMENT TO MAKE HENLOPEN SOCCER CLUB NOW DELMARVA RUSH. THIS PARTNERSHIP WILL BRING EXPANDED PLAYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE LOCAL YOUTH THROUGH MASSIVE INVESTMENTS IN TEACHING PLAYERS THE GAME OF SOCCER, FURTHERING THE EDUCATION OF THOSE COACHING SOCCER, AS WELL AS PROVIDING PATHWAYS FOR LOCAL PLAYERS TO PLAY IN RUSH SELECT, WHICH ALLOWS RUSH PLAYERS EXCLUSIVE ACCESS TO REGIONAL TEAMS ON THE EAST COAST, WITH THE CHANCE TO PLAY NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

"IN ADDITION TO ADDING RESOURCES FOR OUR TRAVEL PROGRAM, JOINING RUSH ALLOWS HENLOPEN SOCCER CLUB TO KEEP ITS COMMUNITY TIES WITH ITS SAME LOCAL BOARD AND MEMBERSHIP. WE NOW GET THE ADDDED RESOURCES FOR REC COACHES AND PLAYERS SO THAT OUR SUCCESSFUL RECREATIONAL PROGRAM WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND OPERATE UNDER THE HENLOPEN NAME," SAYS CHRIS NICHOLS.

THE DIRECTOR OF COACHING FOR HENLOPEN SOCCER CLUB, NICK VITALE, HAS WORKED WITH RUSH SOCCER IN ARIZONA AND PENNSYLVANIA PREVIOUSLY. HE HOLDS A UNITED EUROPEAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (UEFA) "A" LICENSED, ONE OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL COACHING LICENSES A PERSON CAN ATTAIN. NICK SAID, "RUSH ENABLES THE LOCAL CLUB TO MAINTAIN THEIR IDENTITY AND SERVE THE COMMUNITY, WHILE OFFERING THE SKILLED PLAYERS AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES TO TRAIN AND PLAY AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS."

SERVICING THE DELMARVA REGION AND 800 MEMBERS, DELMARVA RUSH ALONG WITH NICK VITALE, DIRECTOR OF COACHING, ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW PARTNERSHIP.

GOODBYE TO A LEGEND!

ON MAY 3, 2023, DELAWARE LOST A SOCCER TITAN. HOWARD O. GERKEN PASSED AWAY AT THE AGE OF 80 AFTER A BATTLE WITH PARKINSON’S DISEASE. HE DEDICATED OVER FIVE DECADES TO SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH EDUCATION AND YOUTH SOCCER.

HOWARD IS THE FOUNDER OF RIVER SOCCER CLUB AND RAN RECREATIONAL LEAGUES LONG BEFORE RIVER SOCCER CLUB WAS BORN. TO MANY, HE IS KNOWN AS THE ‘GODFATHER’ OF SOCCER IN SUSSEX COUNTY. FROM RUNNING RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS TO ORGANIZING TRAVEL TEAMS TO ESTABLISHING RIVER’S TOPSOCCER PROGRAM, HE DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO PROVIDING BOYS AND GIRLS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES THE CHANCE TO PLAY SOCCER.


A CELEBRATION OF LIFE IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 8 AT INDIAN RIVER HIGH SCHOOL IN DAGSBORO. HOWARD WILL BE GREATLY MISSED, BUT HIS LEGACY OF RIVER SOCCER CLUB WILL LIVE ON.
DYSA is pleased to have the support of these sponsors for the 22/23 soccer season:

Interested in becoming a sponsor or partnering with DYSA?

As many of you know, Delaware Youth Soccer (DYSA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation so sponsorship donations are 100% tax deductible. Your support helps children become successful in developing their soccer skills but more importantly, helping them learn teamwork, hard work, and sportsmanship.

Also, it allows us to improve our soccer programs and facilities, provide scholarships for worthy players and offset the cost of participation. Some of the benefits of sponsorship for businesses are exposure to a broad customer base, company and product exposure; and, showing community support.

As a sponsor your logo will be included on our website. DYSA has many opportunities for you or your company to show their support of our youth players from scholarships, to business listings, or interested in creating your own giving level, DYSA is available to help you choose the right opportunity for you! For more information on how to become a sponsor or partner with DYSA, please contact treed@dyso.org