

# DYSA CHRONICLES



The latest news from Delaware Youth Soccer

**U.S. Soccer Federation and US Club Soccer Launch New Shared Services Partnership**  
*New Partnership is Part of U.S. Soccer's Pathways Strategy to Create a More Unified, Player-Focused and Affordable Soccer Ecosystem*

The U.S. Soccer Federation today announced that it has entered into a new strategic relationship with US Club Soccer as part of the organization's ongoing Pathways Strategy to make soccer more affordable, drive higher participation and produce more world-class players for its national teams. Under the terms of this managed services agreement (MSA), leading global sports, music, and entertainment company Wasserman, who previously managed US Club Soccer's internal operations, will enter into a new strategic partnership with US Soccer and U.S. Soccer will take over operational shared services of US Club Soccer's internal operations from Wasserman.

As part of this new agreement, U.S. Soccer will support US Club Soccer's core back-end operations, including HR, IT, and finance. This approach enables both organizations to focus on better support to clubs and leagues, participation growth, and affordability across the ecosystem. This management services agreement also reflects U.S. Soccer's commitment to building a system that works better for everyone in the soccer ecosystem and marks a natural next step in U.S. Soccer's broader Pathways Strategy.

Pathways is focused on three goals: lowering the cost of running soccer programs so more people can participate affordably; growing access and opportunity across all levels of the game; and improving the experience for players, coaches, parents, referees, leagues, and clubs to provide better, more accessible developmental opportunities.

## IN THIS ISSUE

**US Soccer Federation & US Club Launch New Shared Services Partnership**

"Our focus at U.S. Soccer has never been clearer - we exist in service to every player, coach, and referee in this country. And we know that people are seeking a youth soccer system that is more aligned, more transparent, more affordable, and easier to navigate," said Dan Helfrich, Chief Operating Officer at the U.S. Soccer Federation. "This relationship with US Club Soccer is a critical first step toward making this happen, as they are a critical connector of clubs and leagues across the country. We will continue to pursue additional ways to accelerate our Pathways strategy and bring the US Way to life.

"This is a momentous time for our organization and the sport," said Mike Cullina, CEO of US Club Soccer. "We've often told our staff, board and league partners: 'If it's good for soccer, it's good for US Club Soccer.' The order of that statement is intentional; we've always considered ourselves as serving the sport first, trusting that by doing so - even structuring ourselves as such - that our organization will grow. This is a huge step forward in unifying soccer, and we appreciate the trust placed in the US Club Soccer team to serve the sport."

Cullina is helping to lead the transition and will remain as CEO of US Club Soccer. For US Club Soccer staff, its thousands of clubs and leagues, and more than 800,000 annual participants nationwide, operations remain the same, with the added benefit of more direct access to U.S. Soccer's systems, expertise, and support. U.S. Soccer is also engaging with other National Associations and members to explore managed services agreements and related areas of collaboration. These discussions are focused on improving coordination and supporting a more connected competitive environment aligned with the Pathways Strategy. U.S. Soccer will actively work with members interested in this new partnership model in the future.

For more information on U.S. Soccer's Pathways Strategy visit: <https://www.ussoccer.com/pathways-strategy>

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## CLUB NEWS



**U.S. CENTER FOR  
SAFESPORT**  
CHAMPION RESPECT. END ABUSE.

SAFEGUARDING

The Center for SafeSport is offering free live and on-demand trainings for coaches and administrators around the 2025 MAAPP. Please feel free to share [THIS RESOURCE](#) within your membership, which also includes information about addressing emotional & physical misconduct, creating positive & inclusive environments, and other abuse prevention resources.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Bria ([bduvall@ussoccer.org](mailto:bduvall@ussoccer.org)) or Sophia ([smiller@ussoccer.org](mailto:smiller@ussoccer.org)).

# DYSA CHRONICLES

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY: CHAD REED, DYSA PRESIDENT  
DYSA MEMBERS,

THIS PAST YEAR WAS ONE OF PROGRESS AND POSITIVE TRANSITION FOR THE DELAWARE YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION. WE FOCUSED ON STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, ENHANCING MEMBER SERVICES, AND SUPPORTING PLAYER DEVELOPMENT ACROSS RECREATIONAL, COMPETITIVE, AND TOPSOCCER PROGRAMS, WHILE CONTINUING TO PRIORITIZE ACCESS, INCLUSION, AND A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR MEMBER CLUBS, BOARD MEMBERS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND PARTNERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED DEDICATION AND SUPPORT. YOUR COMMITMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO THE GROWTH OF THE GAME IN DELAWARE, AND TOGETHER WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD A STRONG AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR YOUTH SOCCER.

### LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING STATEWIDE:

FEB. 21-22, 2026	KENT COUNTY FUTSAL CLASSIC, KENT COUNTY PARKS & REC.
MARCH 21-22, 2026	DE FC SPRING CLASSIC, HOCKESSIN, DE
MAY 2 & 3, 2026	ANNUAL MICKEY WHERRY REC. TOURNAMENT, KENT COUNTY
MAY 16-17, 2026	2 <sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL BEACH CUP, RIVER SOCCER COMPLEX
JUNE 6-7, 2026	ODP EAST REG. TOURNAMENT, TBD
AUG. 29-30, 2026	RUSH TO THE SHORE CUP, OCEAN CITY MD



### DYSA Awards Luncheon

DYSA will be hosting our Annual Recognition Awards luncheon on February 1 at Wild Quail Country Club. This year we received over 30 nominations for the various categories. **Congratulations to this year's winners!**

**Kaitlyn Schech***Kent County Parks & Rec., Administrator of the Year-Female*  
Nomination forwarded to USYS

**Tom McCauley***, Concord Soccer, Administrator of the Year-Male*

**John Andrews***, River SC - Volunteer of the Year*  
Nomination forwarded to USYS

**Danielle Parker***, Concord Soccer*  
Rec Coach-Female

**Kyle Gaffney***, Concord Soccer*  
Rec Coach-Male

**Shannon Anfuso***, Delmarva Rush, Comp Coach-Female*  
Nomination forward to USYS

**Nick Hess***, DEFC, Comp Coach-Male*  
Nomination forward to USYS

**Beckett Green***, River SC*  
TopSoccer Buddy (2024)

**JP Sarant***, DEFC, TopSoccer Buddy-Male (2025)*  
Nomination forwarded to USYS

**Angelina Mangano***, Concord SC, TopSoccer Buddy-Female (2025)*

**Michael Wikol***, DEFC, TopSoccer Coach*

**Robert Bussiere***, Concord, Lew Atkinson Mentor*

**Sam Burns***, DYSA/ODP*  
Hall of Fame

**Rebecca Mais***, River SC*  
Hall of Fame

**Bill Sturdivant***, DYSA*  
Hall of Fame

### Executive Director Report

by: Sebastian Acosta-Nijamkin

DYSA leadership attended the 2026 United Soccer Coaches Convention, an important opportunity to engage with the broader youth soccer community and stay aligned with the rapidly evolving landscape of the game. Soccer in the United States continues to change at every level, and this event provided valuable insight into what lies ahead for players, clubs, and state associations.

While in attendance, we met directly with leadership from both US Youth Soccer and U.S. Soccer. These conversations allowed us to share concerns specific to Delaware, advocate for our clubs and families, and better understand upcoming initiatives and structural changes that will impact youth soccer nationwide. Having a seat at the table ensures that DYSA remains informed, proactive, and positioned to serve as a strong voice for our state.

We also connected with a wide range of companies and organizations focused on enhancing the youth sports experience. These meetings centered on identifying new resources and tools that can support our clubs and benefit players, families, and referees across Delaware. Our goal is to continue expanding access to education, wellbeing, safety, and development opportunities for every stakeholder in our game.

There is a great deal of momentum building as we move into 2026. Between the evolving national landscape and the excitement surrounding the upcoming 2026 FIFA Men's World Cup, youth soccer is entering a period of renewed energy and visibility. DYSA is well positioned to capitalize on this moment, strengthen our programs, and elevate the experience for everyone involved in soccer throughout the state.

We are excited about what's ahead and look forward to sharing more details on new partnerships and initiatives as they take shape.



## US Youth Soccer Partnership

GotSport and US Youth Soccer Association have renewed their partnership for another five years, reinforcing their shared commitment to grow youth soccer nationwide.

The decision follows recent leadership changes at US Youth Soccer that add seasoned experience and strengthen development across all levels.

Under the renewed agreement, GotSport will continue to provide their state-of-the-art integrated solutions to US Youth Soccer, streamlining competition management, membership registration, communication, analytics, and day-to-day administrative operations.

These tools create a seamless experience for all stakeholders, benefitting players, coaches, referees, families, and administrators. With GotSport's comprehensive platform, the US Youth Soccer Association can remain focused on growing the game and supporting its state associations.

"This agreement affirms the strength, reliability, and long-term value of our platform. As we continue to support US Youth Soccer's mission, we are also investing in innovation, with new cutting-edge tools in development that will be introduced at the United Soccer Coaches Convention in January 2026." — Gavin Owen-Thomas, President & CEO, GotSport

GotSport's cutting-edge platform, designed to evolve alongside the needs of the sport, enables US Youth Soccer to deliver an inclusive, efficient, and future-ready experience to stakeholders at all levels.

For more information about GotSport and its services, visit [www.gotsport.com](http://www.gotsport.com).  
To learn more about the US Youth Soccer Association, visit [www.usyouthsoccer.org](http://www.usyouthsoccer.org).

## DYSA State Cup and President's Cup Events

Registration is now open for the Delaware State Cup and President's Cup. Details are below:

### DELAWARE STATE CUP (U11 and U12 Age Groups Only)

Maryland will be hosting a U11 and U12 Age Group regional event for the winners from each state's State Cup. In Delaware we will follow the same format that we have done before. Teams will register for the State Cup event. If we have more than one team registered for the event then we will either have a game or group play, depending on the number of teams registered. Team registering for the U11-U12 Delaware State Cup that either win their age group or are the only team registered will be required to attend the Regional event. The regional event information is below. The registration deadline will be March 11, 2026.

[Click here to register](#)

### DELAWARE STATE CUP (U13-U19 Age Groups)

Fee: There are no fees to enter at the state level. In Delaware we will follow the same format that we have done before. Should there be more than one team in an age group, teams will self schedule games to determine a state champion. Games must be completed by April 1. Teams are responsible for ref fees, ref assigning fees and field fees at the state level. The team that is crowned the state champ will advance to the appropriate regional event and will be responsible for the entry fee and any other fees associated with the event.

### PRESIDENT'S CUP (U13-19 Age Groups)

Founded in 2008, Presidents Cup is US Youth Soccer's second-tier national competition. The Presidents Cup highlights competition, camaraderie, and community among participating teams. In Delaware we will follow the same format that we have done before. Should there be more than one team in an age group, teams will self schedule games to determine a state champion. Games must be completed by April 1. Teams are responsible for ref fees, ref assigning fees and field fees at the state level. The team that is crowned the state champ will advance to the appropriate regional event and will be responsible for the entry fee and any other fees associated with the event.

### TEAMS MAY ONLY PARTICIPATE IN ONE EVENT AT THE STATE LEVEL.

For complete information and to register for one of the events, please visit our website at <https://www.dysa.org/tournaments/>

Questions regarding any of the events can be directed to Laura Sturdivant at [Laura@dysa.org](mailto:Laura@dysa.org) and Sebastian Acosta-Nijamkin at [sacosta@dysa.org](mailto:sacosta@dysa.org)



## Delaware ODP Update - 2025-2026 Campaign & Winter Camp Success

**by: Tyler Bastianelli, Director of Talent Identification & ODP**  
**Delaware Youth Soccer Association**

I was extremely impressed by the players' attitude, effort, and overall level of play throughout the camp. The quality of performances made the selection process highly competitive as we finalize the roster to represent Delaware at the East Region Tournament in June 2025.

We plan to begin sending invitations to selected players between January 26 and January 31, 2026. Once an invitation is received, please review your calendar promptly and complete registration as soon as possible to secure your roster spot. Invitations will have an approximate seven-day response window; after that deadline, we will move to the next player on our depth chart and extend additional invitations as needed.

Below, you will find links to photo albums from Winter Camp, captured by our outstanding volunteer photographers. I hope you enjoy viewing them as much as I did. You are welcome to download and share the photos with family and friends.

Thank you again for your participation and commitment to Delaware ODP.

### Delaware ODP Winter Camp Photo Albums

Day 1: December 26, 2025

[Photo Album 1](#)

[Photo Album 2](#), Patrick Breslin Photography

Day 2: December 29, 2025

[Photo Album](#)

[Photo Album 2](#)

\*If you have photos you would like to share, please email [tyler@dysa.org](mailto:tyler@dysa.org) and I'll provide information on where to upload them so I can share with our ODP Program families.

### East Region ODP Tournament details:

**Dates:**

**June 5-7, 2026 (for 2009-2011 age groups)**

**& June 6-7, 2026 (for 2012-2014 age groups)**

**Location:**

**Girls: Tuckahoe Turf Farm in Hammonton, NJ**

**Boys: PA Classics in Manheim, PA**

### Note to Delaware ODP Players:

We will continue to closely monitor ODP player performances through ongoing scouting efforts and regular communication with club coaches and contacts. Please remain focused, committed to your training, and physically prepared in the coming months so you are ready to perform at your best should you be selected to represent Delaware at the East Region Tournament.

### ODP Process, 2025-2026 Campaign Summary:

The Delaware ODP Program is for Under-12 to Under-18 players, and the first step is to attend tryouts in August. Then for the player to be selected at tryouts or get recommended and be selected to our Delaware ODP Player Pool Winter Camp.

Winter Camp is used to identify the best players in the Delaware State Player Pool to then select to represent Delaware in the East Region Tournament in June 2026. Our Delaware state teams have been very successful in competing with the other states in the East Region, and we have had a strong number of players selected to the next phase of ODP.

The East Region Tournament is used by the East Region staff to identify and select players to the East Region Summer ID Event Pool Camp (top players in East Region) in July 2026.

The East Region Summer ID Event Pool Camp, July 2026, is used to pick the top 18 players to represent the East Region in the Interregional Event in January 2027 competing against the other regional teams.

The Interregional Event is used by the USYS ODP National Team staff to identify the best players from the Regional Teams to be selected to the USYS ODP National Team which will attend an event (domestic or international) the following Summer in 2027.





## New Balance Footwear Store

### **Instructions**

1. Set up an account at <https://www.newbalanceteam.com/>
  1. You must sign up to purchase from a team store
2. Access the store via link below
  1. You must be logged in before clicking the team store link
  2. You can also view your team's stores in your account's "Locker"
3. Check out like any standard online shopping experience
  1. Items are automatically discounted
4. For questions on completed orders, or for help logging in or checking out:
  1. Refer to your order confirmation email
  2. Contact Customer Care
    1. <https://www.newbalanceteam.com/customer-care>

### **Store Link**

[New Balance Footwear Store Link](#)

Passcode: NBFW25

### **Size Chart**

Go to Help at the bottom of the store

Size Guide will be in the bottom left corner

### **Questions**

Text or call (844-628-3267)

Email Customer Care at [customercare@newbalanceteam.com](mailto:customercare@newbalanceteam.com)





**KENT COUNTY FUTSAL CLASSIC** *Hosted by Route 1 Sports*

**Location:** Kent County Parks & Recreation Dover, Delaware

**Dates:**

- **Boys:** Saturday, February 21, 2026
- **Girls:** Sunday, February 22, 2026

**Event Highlights:**

- 5v5 Indoor Soccer (4 field players + 1 Goalkeeper)
- Open to U8–U15 Teams
- Each Team Guaranteed 3 Games
- Fast-Paced 25 minute Matches
- Championship Awards for Each Division

**More Info + Registration:** [route1sports.org/delawarefutbolacademy/tournaments](https://route1sports.org/delawarefutbolacademy/tournaments)





**ROUTE 1 SPORTS is hosting the Coastal Shootout**

- Delaware Turf Sports Complex – Frederica, DE
- April 18–19, 2026
- Open to U8–U19 Boys & Girls Teams

Join us for a competitive, fun-filled weekend on premium turf fields at one of the top facilities in the region!

More info & registration please visit: [route1sports.org/delawarefutbolacademy/tournaments](https://route1sports.org/delawarefutbolacademy/tournaments)

# DYSA CHRONICLES

## CLUB NEWS

*Prioritizing Wellbeing Across Delaware Soccer*  
*by: Sebastian Acosta, Executive Director*

DYSA continues to strengthen its commitment to player development, community support, and holistic wellbeing across Delaware soccer.

Recently, representatives from DYSA attended the USYS Grassroots Symposium, where new opportunities were explored to enhance the player experience and overall wellness within our soccer community.

### *Focusing on Wellbeing with Roundglass Living*

DYSA has officially joined forces with Roundglass Living, US Youth Soccer's new official wellbeing partner. Through this collaboration, all DYSA players, coaches, administrators, and parents will receive free access to holistic wellbeing resources designed to support mental, physical, and emotional health.

The Roundglass app will also provide valuable insights into statewide trends related to player needs, helping us better understand and support our members. This partnership comes at no cost to DYSA or any affiliated clubs.

More details will be shared in the coming weeks as we prepare for the official announcement on the DYSA website and social media platforms.

DYSA remains dedicated to fostering a positive, inclusive, and healthy soccer culture across Delaware, one that supports both the growth of the game and the wellbeing of every participant.



MICKEY WHERRY RECREATIONAL  
TOURNAMENT 2026  
BOYS AND GIRLS  
AGE GROUPS

**SAVE THE DATE**

**MAY 2 & 3, 2026**  
Kent county Parks and Rec Center  
For more information contact  
[recreation@dysa.org](mailto:recreation@dysa.org)



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SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP

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DELAWARE REFEREE  
DYSA  
USA SOCCER REFEREE PROGRAM



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