



# **IN SERVICE TO SOCCER**

Quarterly Progress Update

Q2 2025



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## Quarterly Progress Update – May 2025



As a key step in our commitment to transparency and communication, U.S. Soccer is excited to share the first quarterly progress update on our In Service to Soccer strategy. This summary report highlights select updates across our core strategies, providing organizations with up-to-date information and status. As we move forward together, we'll continue sharing regular progress updates to highlight key milestones in our efforts to advance our three core ambitions: soccer everywhere, soccer success, and soccer investment.

Our ambition is to ignite a national passion for soccer—because we believe it’s more than a sport; it’s a force for good that can unite and inspire communities across the country.

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## U.S. WAY

### UNIFIED YOUTH CALENDAR

We had a successful beta testing period of the Unified Youth Calendar with national member organizations and other key stakeholders in April.

This tool will raise awareness of youth events and support early resolution of overlaps for our members, ensuring players don't have to choose between club and country events.

The full calendar will be available on [ussoccer.com](https://ussoccer.com) later this spring, with access details shared via the U.S. Soccer member newsletter.



### ARTHUR M. BLANK U.S. SOCCER NATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

We remain on track for a Spring 2026 opening, with operational planning well underway.

Members will benefit from the facility by hosting or taking part in competitions, conferences / meetings, and member experiences.

We've started engaging members to understand how you hope to use the facility and will begin accepting 2026–2027 event reservations in the second half of 2025.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

In April, we hosted coaches and technical leaders from pre-professional clubs at our Youth National Team camp in Atlanta – this was an initial pilot allowing U.S. Soccer to connect the ecosystem with the U.S. Way philosophies and resources.

Additionally, we have kicked off a segment-based needs analysis to inform how our coaching education can be tailored to, and best support, our coaches, clubs, and members across all parts of the ecosystem.







## SOCCER FORWARD FOUNDATION

Soccer Forward Foundation, our 2026 FIFA World Cup legacy program, is a key driver in U.S. Soccer's overall vision that soccer is a force for good. It will support our membership's efforts to expand access to soccer in their local communities.

Soccer Forward looks to expand the impact of the sport through three ways forward: (1) Soccer: For Everyone, Everywhere, (2) Soccer: For Health, and (3) Soccer: For Excellence and Development at all Levels in the Women's Game.



### COLLABORATION & BEST PRACTICES

At U.S. Soccer's SheBelieves Summit, we announced that U.S. Soccer will integrate the current operations of Kynisca Innovation Hub (KIH) – Kynisca's platform dedicated to revolutionizing how female athletes train – into the Soccer Forward Foundation.

With an initial \$25 million investment from Michele Kang, this partnership reinforces a shared commitment to pioneering research and establishing standards for women's soccer. The insights from this research, shared through our digital knowledge hub, will help members accelerate advancements in the women's game through science, innovation, and elevated best practices.



### SOCCER IN COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS

In April, we hosted our first two community spotlight events in California, celebrating how local organizations—LA Recreation and Parks, Football For Her, and Cal South—are using soccer as a tool for youth development and empowerment.

We will continue to leverage these spotlights to distribute learnings from successful programs—helping members replicate and scale impact.





## SOCCER SERVICES

### DISABILITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

In March 2025, we completed a current state audit to assess existing resources across the ecosystem and help identify key gaps and unmet member needs.

This summer, 101s per disability discipline and grant funding application guides will be published to support DSOs as they offer programming and look to apply for funding.



### SAFE SOCCER CLEARANCE PROGRAM

This May, we will formally launch the Safe Soccer Clearance Program, supported by a nation-wide marketing campaign. This program will simplify and strengthen membership safeguarding by centralizing key requirements into one system, offering a unified and reliable clearance process that reduces risk and supports safer environments.

We are actively working with our member organizations to support implementation planning and encourage organizations to reach out to [safesoccerclearance@ussoccer.org](mailto:safesoccerclearance@ussoccer.org) to find out how they can adopt the program.

### REFEREES

We continue to celebrate the referees across all levels of the game, introducing three new national referee awards. The inaugural Fernando G. Alvarez Referee Champion Award was presented to Don Wilbur at our Annual General Meeting.

We have initiated Referee Abuse Prevention Program Phase 3, aimed at centralizing reporting through our Safe Soccer Clearance Program, enhancing accountability and streamline the process. This program will help protect referees, support their development, and grow our officiating community.



### PLAYER REGISTRATION

The National Associations – USYS, AYSO, and US Club -- agreed to move to September 1 as the player registration cycle starting for the 2026-2027 playing year. There is no registration change for the 2025-2026 playing year. We will be launching a tool on U.S. Soccer's website, which will streamline members' registration process by allowing an individual to enter a player's birth date to see their respective age grouping choices.



## CLOSING REMARKS

The momentum at U.S. Soccer continues as this April, U.S. Soccer and Concacaf partners were announced as the sole bidders for the 2031 FIFA Women's World Cup. We are excited about the opportunity to host this record-breaking event and are committed to delivering a tournament that leaves a lasting legacy - one that elevates women's soccer across the world and inspires future generations of players and fans.

We will continue to provide regular updates on the progress of our *In Service to Soccer* strategy. For any questions or additional information, please contact [memberprograms@ussoccer.org](mailto:memberprograms@ussoccer.org).



**Next quarterly  
update coming in  
September 2025**