Happy New Year!

2022 Futsal State Cup

The 2022 Futsal State Cup took place on January 7–9, 2022 at Pro Sport Monroeville. The competition featured play for 10U, 12U, 14U, 16U, and 18U age groups. For game results, click here. To view photos from the Futsal State Cup, click here.

ODP Player To Attend US Youth Soccer National Training Camp

2007 Girls ODP Player Robin Reilly has been selected to attend the US Youth Soccer ODP National Training Camp. The camp will run from Jan. 27 through Jan. 30 in Tampa, FL.
Spring Presidents Cup

The 2021–22 Presidents Cup will be held April 1–3, 2022 at various locations around the Pittsburgh area for the U15–U19 age groups. Registration is open for teams planning to enter this spring's competition. The tournament is open to PA West Soccer member clubs. Registration can be completed with the US Soccer Connect system.

The PA West Soccer Presidents Cup is part of a national championship series and a regional qualifying tournament. PA West Soccer Champions will proceed to the Eastern Region Presidents Cup. The 2022 Regional Presidents Cup will held June 17–22, 2022 in Charleston and Barboursville, WV.

Regional champions advance to the National Presidents Cup. The 2022 event will be held July 7–10 in Greensboro, NC.

For more info, click here.

PA West Soccer Open Tournament

The PA West Soccer Open Tournament is set for June 2022. The tournament takes place on the beautiful campus of Edinboro University with 50 acres of soccer fields.

This US Youth Soccer affiliated tournament offers a wide range of competition, from community based recreational plus travel teams to higher level competitive teams that play statewide from U10–U19.

For U10's we offer both a competitive bracket and a festival. All other age groups offer up to four levels of competition.

For more info, click here.
Registration is currently open for the PA West Soccer State Cup. The State Cup will be held on May 21-22, and June 4-5 featuring competition for U12 through U19 clubs.

The purpose of this competition is to determine the PA West Soccer representative for the respective age groups at the Region I Tournament of Champions. Should a team win the regional competition, that team will represent PA West Soccer and Region I in the US Youth Soccer National Championships.

This is a restricted tournament. To be eligible to play in the PA West Soccer State Cup and subsequent Regional and National Championship games, a team must play in a PA West Soccer sanctioned League and be in good standing with said league. All 12U, 13U, and 14U teams must play in both the fall and spring sessions of said PA West Soccer sanctioned league to be eligible to compete in the PA West Soccer State Cup. For registration and more info, click here.

Thank You and Hello

We thank Cristine Henderson for her years of service to the game as the West District Director. She served as the West District Director for 10 years after being elected in January 2012. She also served on several Youth Board Committees and was President of Mars Soccer prior to taking the West District post.

We welcome Aaron Wollerton as the new West District Director. Mr. Wollerton was elected unanimously by the West District clubs to fill to void created by Ms. Henderson’s retirement from the position. Mr. Wollerton had been serving as the West District Deputy Director. He is also President of Mars Soccer.
Acknowledgments

Egauoje With Nigerian National Team at AFCON

PA West Soccer’s Technical Director Dr. Terry Egauoje joined the Nigerian Super Eagles coaching staff for the African Nations Cup (AFCON) in Cameroon. The tournament kicked off on Sunday, Jan 9.

PA West Soccer agreed to the Nigerian Football Federation request to allow Dr. Egauoje’s call up to the Super Eagles coaching staff.

The Nigerians are in Group D with Egypt, Sudan, and Guinea-Bissau in the competition. Games are slated for January 11, 15, and 19.

beIN provides coverage of the AFCON.

AFCON was postponed from 2021.

Former PA West Soccer Player Heading To Israel To Play Pro Soccer

Former PA West Soccer player Dixon Veltri has signed a two-year professional soccer contract with Maccabi Emek Hefer WFC of the Israel Women’s Premier League. Veltri was a three-year letterwinner in the previous three seasons for the Pitt Panthers after transferring from UNC–Wilmington, where she played her freshman year.

Veltri will join past University of Pittsburgh teammates Juliana Vazquez and Amai Pena as the third player under head coach Randy Waldrum to play professionally.

Veltri plans to start playing for Emek Hefer in December 2021, after earning her master’s degree in sustainable engineering from the University of Pittsburgh.
US Youth Soccer (USYS) is excited to launch its new elite performance tier of competition — National League Elite 64 — which will kick off in the fall of 2022 and provide club-based competition for the top boys and girls youth soccer clubs in the United States.

The launch of USYS National League Elite 64 (Elite 64) coincides with a new official partnership between USYS and STATSports, which will provide inaugural Elite 64 clubs with unparalleled access to the world’s most advanced performance wearable technology.

Featuring six age groups (13U, 14U, 15U, 16U, 17U and 18/19U), Elite 64 features year-round competition for the top 64 boys clubs and top 64 girls clubs in the country. The 64 clubs in each gender will be geographically positioned into eight groups of eight clubs, providing an annual competition calendar that includes...

A minimum of 14 league games over a 10-month season, with a schedule created to aid a player’s periodization and involvement in high school soccer.

The Elite 64 Finals and Showcase. All teams attend, and top regular season finishers compete in championship brackets, with winners in select age groups advancing to the USYS Champions Cup.

Up to three national showcases taking place alongside National League P.R.O. — creating a cannot-miss scouting opportunity with the top club-based and team-based national competition.

The ability to advance to the USYS Champions Cup, where Elite 64 Finals winners in the 14U–17U age groups can compete for an international title against other domestic and international champions.

The option to play in the USYS National Championship Series via entry into their respective USYS State Cup.

For more info, click here.
How we show our love of our children as a sports parents can be challenging. One of the ways to overcome these challenges is to help your child. Help comes in many forms; some is positive and some is actually negative.

Let’s take a look at some forms of help.

“Let’s kick around.” This activity might not be considered "help" by most but it should. The time spent kicking the ball around is a chance for both of you to discuss the achievements and stresses of the day. It provides an opportunity to communicate in an informal setting that doubles as physical activity. Plus, there are coaching free touches on the ball. It’s a great way to connect.

“I’ll talk to your coach about your playing time.” This is a bad form of help. Your child learns self-reliance if you make them talk to their coach. Running interference or having difficult conversations for them undermines their growth as a person.

“Failing is part of life.” Thomas Edison once quipped that he never failed while creating his light bulb but that he learned thousands of ways not to make a light bulb. Acknowledging to your child that mistakes and failure is part of life, part of learning, and part of growing is a good form of help. It will help them embrace challenges.

“Let me help you with that.” This is one that can go either way. It’s okay to lend an extra hand where one is needed; like holding a piece of a model in place while other elements are attached. It’s not okay to build the entire model to ensure your child gets a good grade. The first form of “help” teaches them it’s okay to need help and to ask for it. The second form of “help” isn’t really help and it teaches them cheating and shortcuts are okay.
“You’re not your brother; it’s okay he’s better than you.” Kids often compare themselves to siblings and peers. Explaining and reminding them that every child is different and develops at their own age while help lower the stress of meeting an unreachable standard that might months or years away. As parents we should remind ourselves of the same thing as well; it’s easy to want our child to be on par athletically with the kid down the street or to be as smart as a sibling. It’s not only unrealistic but it’s unhelpful for both child and parent.

“It was not your fault.” Protecting your child from the consequences of their mistakes is a bad form of help. Helping your child to rationalize or place blame on someone else is counter to teaching them to embrace and learn from mistakes. Owning the errant pass, the own goal, broken window, or crashed car is an important life lesson that you keep them from learning when you enable them to place blame elsewhere.

“Spend time with people who make you better.” Sage advice that should start early because as children grow older and start to become more independent parental influence wains. But understanding they have a choice of spending time with people who will help or people who will waste their time is important.

We try to show our kids we love them. Some ways are healthy while others are not. The simplest way is to say, “I love you.”
Youth Board Approves Misconduct Rule Changes

The PA West Soccer Youth Board started the year by taking a stance against poor behavior, specifically by the adults involved in the game. The Youth Board unanimously approved changes to section 5.1 of the Youth Division Playing Rules.

The revised section of the rules provides greater detail to discipline for players and coaches. Notably, there is now a section specific to spectator.

The section pertinent to spectators identifies inappropriate behavior that is cause for removal from the sideline and stronger punishment for repeat offenders. It also holds coaches and clubs more accountable for sideline behavior.

The player section provides better guidance for red card suspension and card accumulation. The details how additional suspensions affect dual-rostered players.

The coach section acknowledges that coaches are now shown cards. Additionally, it now mirrors the player portion for card accumulation and additional discipline.

The revisions are established to provide greater clarity and address increasing issues from the sidelines during games. The rules are effective for the spring playing session.

Coaching Courses

Introducing the New Blended Grassroots Format:

PA West Soccer is now offering all courses in the New Blended Format – each course has 2 parts, the first Meeting is a virtual webinar that is done online, the second meeting is a field component that will take place in person. All coaches must complete BOTH components to get their license.

Mandatory Minimum Coaching Licenses requirements to coach in PA West Soccer – Click Here

To view the list of available coaching courses, click here.
STATE OFFICE STAFFING

All office staff can be reached at the email addresses listed below:

Executive Director, Tim McCoy – tim@pawest-soccer.org
Director of Coaching, Terry Egwaujo – doc@pawest-soccer.org
Office Administrator, Cheryl Mignogna – cheryl@pawest-soccer.org
ODP Director, Paul Halford – odp@pawest-soccer.org
Coaching Administrative Asst., Amy Fogle – afogle@pawest-soccer.org
Digital Communications Coordinator, Jared Murphy – jared@pawest-soccer.org

Important Dates

- Blended 7 v 7 pt 2 (In Person) – 2/13/22
- Blended 9 v 9 pt 1 (Virtual) – 2/2/22
- Blended 9 v 9 pt 2 (In Person) – 2/13/22
- Blended 11 v 11 pt 1 (Virtual) – 2/9/22
- Blended 11 v 11 pt 1 (Virtual) – 2/11/22
- Blended 11 v 11 pt 2 (In Person) – 2/13/22
- Blended C License pt 1 (Virtual) – 2/28/22
- Blended C License pt 2 (In Person) – 6/14 – 6/17
- Spring Presidents Cup – 4/1 – 4/3/22
- Open Tournament – 6/17 – 6/19, 6/24 – 6/26/22