The 2021 Annual General Meeting of PA West Soccer Association will be held on Sunday, July 11, 2021. The meeting is set to convene at 2:00 PM with registration beginning at 1:00 PM. The AGM will be held at Heinz History Center in Pittsburgh.

The meeting’s agenda will include approval of the 2021-22 budget, consideration of any proposed amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws of the association, and election of officers.

The officers set for election this year are President, Secretary, and two Members At-large.

Attendance at the AGM is mandatory for all affiliated clubs. Proxies are accepted but an individual may only hold a proxy for one club. Not having a representative at the meeting will result in a $300.00 fine.

### IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES

**2021 PA West Soccer State Cup**
- First Round - March 15 - April 9
- Second Round - April 10 - May 20
- Semi-finals - May 22 - 23
- Finals - June 5 - 6

For all information on our State Cup, [click here](#).

**2021 PA West Soccer Open Tournament**
- Registration Deadline- May 10, 2021
- Week One- June 18 - 20, 2021
- Week Two- June 25 - 27, 2021

For more information regarding the PA West Soccer Open Tournament, [click here](#).

If you are creating a risk management application for a volunteer position and have been a resident of Pennsylvania for ten years or longer, you can submit a Notarized Residency Affidavit in lieu of your FBI criminal background check. A PDF of our Residency Affidavit can be found on the Risk Management page of our website.

To visit our Risk Management page, [click here](#).
TIME TO SUBMIT PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

At the 2021 PA West Soccer Association Annual General Meeting of the State Council on Sunday, July 11, 2021 will consider proposed amendments to the association governing documents.

Proposed amendments to the PA West Soccer Constitution and Bylaws are due May 11, 2021. All members, officers and Executive Board members, the division directors and committees have the right to submit proposals for amending the Constitution or the Bylaws.

All proposed amendments must include the current Constitution or Bylaw provision in its entirety followed by the proposed amendment. The current provision should have strike through marks through any language to be removed and the proposed amendment should have all new language underlined. The submission should also explain the rationale for the proposed amendment.

Amendments will be reviewed by the Constitution and Bylaw Committee. The committee will present the proposed amendments at the AGM; it may also make recommendation about each proposal prior to the vote for that proposed amendment.

Amendments to the Constitution must receive approval of 2/3 of eligible votes. Amendments to the Bylaws must receive a simple majority vote of eligible votes.

Amendment proposal submissions should be sent to PA West Soccer, 111 Whitehead Lane, Suite 200, Monroeville, PA 15146. If you have questions you may contact Tim McCoy at 412-856-8011 during normal business hours.

MARCH TOWN HALL WEBINARS

This March, PA West Soccer held three Town Hall Webinars for our members.

- On March 11 we held our U.S. Soccer Connect Town Hall. U.S. Soccer Connect’s Scott Garfinkel and Natalie Brown walked clubs through new features and tools that align with the state configurations and requirements.
- On March 16, Dave Farra and Ryan Elsass of David Physical Therapy and Sports medicine joined us for our Injury Prevention and Recovery Town Hall to prepare our coaches and players for the spring session.
- On March 18, Alison Kocoras, our U.S. Soccer Safe Sport Administrator, joined us for our Safe Sport Town Hall. Alison reviewed the requirements of Safe Sport, offered examples of Safe Sport issues from prior years, and looked forward to the evolving landscape for keeping players, referees, and coaches safe.

To view any of the presentations from our PA West Soccer Town Hall Speaker Series, click here.
NOMINATIONS SOUGHT
FOR 2021 ELECTIONS

Annually the PA West Soccer General Council elects a portion of the Board of Directors at the association’s Annual General Meeting. The 2021 AGM will include election of President, Secretary, and two Member-At-Large positions. The deadline for a candidate to submit the required information to the Nominating Committee is May 11, 2021.

The Nominating Committee seeks candidates for each of these positions. The committee reviews the submitted information and forwards each candidate’s information to the State Council for review prior to the meeting.

Per the association Nomination Policy, candidates must submit a letter of interest, a resume, proof of state required clearances, and a completed/signed PA West Soccer Conflict of Interest form by the above deadline. Letter of interest and resume should include the following information: position being sought, qualifications for the position, background information, and vision/goals for the position being sought. Conflict of Interest form/policy may be obtained by contacting Executive Director Tim McCoy at the state office.

Per the revised policy, candidates must be in attendance at the AGM; further, candidates may not be nominated from the floor during the meeting. Interested individuals should send a letter of interest and their soccer resume to PA West Soccer Association, 111 Whitehead Lane, Suite 200, Monroeville, PA 15146, Attn: Nominating Committee.

The President sets the agenda and presides over all meetings of the PA West Soccer Executive Board. The President also attends all meetings of US Soccer Federation, US Youth Soccer, US Adult Soccer, and serves as an ex officio member of the PA West Soccer Adult and Youth Boards. The position requires travel to various regional and national meetings as well as, participation in East Region conference calls. The President must also be able to handle emails and calls from members. The President works directly with the Executive Director to ensure the decisions of the Executive Board are being executed.

The Secretary is responsible for maintaining the minutes of the Executive Board. The individual must be able to work with the state office personnel to insure proper maintenance of the association records.

Members At-Large are responsible for attending all Executive Board meetings, serving on committees as appointed by the President, and reporting on the activities of the committees they chair.

Questions regarding the open positions or the new nomination process may be addressed to Executive Director Tim McCoy by email at tim@pawest-soccer.org.
Over the weekend of March 26–28 we held our annual PA West Soccer Presidents Cup. This tournament is part of a national Championship series and a regional qualifying tournament. PA West Soccer Champions will proceed to the Eastern Region Presidents Cup. We would like to congratulate the following championship winners:

**Boys**
- U15 Victory SC 2006 Thunder
- U16 Beadling Elite South
- U17 Hotspurs 2004 North Blue

**Girls**
- U15 Century V West 2006
- U16 SCS United 2005 Black
- U17 Hotspurs 2004/05 Blue
- 18/19 Allegheny force FC 2002

*Our 18/19 Boys Championship match will take place April 7, 2021.

For scores, schedules, and a complete list of champions and finalists, visit the Presidents Cup page at pawest-soccer.org.

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**Ticket to the 2021 USYS National Championships Punched!**

Congratulations to our Century V Steel 2006 Blue Girls team for making their way through the US Youth Soccer National League Playoffs! These players have earned a direct path to the USYS National Championships.

Annually, the final leg of the nation's most elite and prestigious cup competition provides teams with the opportunity for additional exposure to collegiate and national staff scouts as well as a chance to capture the USYS National Championship title in their respective age group.

Well done girls!
Our After School Adventure Camps are fun and interactive experiences built around your child's favorite games. The purpose of these camps is to provide a fun, educational experience led by SafeSport-certified Gamer Guides!

To learn more about our community & sign up, click here.

We are excited about our winter battle pass for kids to connect, have fun, and play video games with each other. Learn more about our community & sign up: https://cutt.ly/PA-West-Esports

To register, click here.
Upcoming Blended Grassroots Courses

PA West Soccer will be offering three new Blended Grassroots courses. The online portion will take place the following dates:

- **Blended 7v7 Part I- April 6, 2021**
  - Part II will be held April 8 at Burkett Park, McKees Rocks
- **Blended 7v7 Part I- April 27, 2021**
  - Part II will be held May 15 at Larry Mills Park, Plum
- **Blended 9v9 Part I- April 29, 2021**
  - Part II will be held May 15 at Larry Mills Park, Plum
- **Blended 11v11 Part I- May 4, 2021**
  - Part II will be held May 15 at Larry Mills Park, Plum
- **Blended 4v4 Part I- May 6, 2021**
  - Part II will be held May 15 at Larry Mills Park, Plum

To register for our coaching courses, [click here](#).

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**We Still Have Space for Our Blended D License Course!**

We are currently accepting applicants for our upcoming Blended D License Coaching course.

The Blended National D license is a 40 to 45-hour course, that begins in April 19, 2021 with an online experience and ends with a one-day on-field component in April/2021. The course is designed for the grassroots coach working with youth players U6 to U13 in a participation driven environment and focuses on all four game models as outlined in the Player Development Initiatives (4v4 / 7v7 / 9v9 / 11v11).

To register for our Blended D License course, [click here](#).
US YOUTH SOCCER NEWS

- US Youth Soccer Recognizes Women’s Leadership
- US Youth Soccer Announces New Host for 2021 National Championship
- USYS Introduces National League Pro

For all information on US Youth Soccer, visit usyouthsoccer.org.

US SOCCER NEWS

- Open Cup Committee Decides Not to Play Opening Round Of U.S. Open Cup Due to COVID-19
- 2021 U.S. Soccer ENational Team to Be Determined During U.S. Soccer ENT Open in Early April

FOR THE GOOD OF THE GAME

Five Questions with PA West Soccer’s Director of Coaching, Terry Eguaoje

In celebration of the upcoming spring soccer season, we sat down with PA West Soccer’s own Director of Coaching to share his coaching experiences and wisdom.

When did you first discover soccer?

While growing up in the Ancient City of Benin, in Nigeria – we had very limited choices when it came to sports. We all played football, as it is called in Africa and around the world. I played mostly “Street Soccer” – unorganized pick-up games with kids and friends from my neighborhood. We also played soccer in school during recess or break-time. For the most part we played with-
no soccer shoes, shin guards, or bibs to differentiate teams. The first time I played organized soccer growing up was in High School, where we had a Physical Education teacher that doubled as our coach.

**How has your experience playing soccer influenced your coaching methods?**

The most fun I had playing soccer was when it was self-organized or unorganized playing with friends. I have always believed in the saying that “the game is the best teacher,” which to me simply means that kids will develop new skills and ideas about the game if they are in the right game environment; even without instructions from a coach or adult. As a coach, I learned to give players room to make their own decisions during practices and games – yes, that may mean that they make mistakes and learn from those mistakes.

**What is one piece of advice would you give a first-time coach?**

For them to look for every available opportunity to educate themselves and grow as a coach by attending coaching clinics and coaching courses. They should look for a coaching mentor to bounce ideas with.

**What do you think is the key to inspiring passion for the game in young players?**

FUN – if kids have fun playing soccer, they will then look to watch it more on TV. As they get older, they will consider becoming a coach, referee, or administrator of the sport. We all (especially coaches) have to do everything in our power to make sure that kids are having fun both in games and practices.

**Who is the current player to watch in the professional world of soccer?**

There are so much good soccer players in the world at the moment – but I will name a few American players that are doing really well globally – the likes of Gio Reyna, who plays for Borussia Dortmund in Germany, Christian Pulisic who plays for Chelsea FC in England, Chris Richards who plays for Bayern Munich in Germany as well. On the women's side we have a lot of great players from Alex Morgan, Calli Lloyd, Julie Ertz, to Megan Rapinoe, the list can go on-and-on. The US Women’s team is ranked number 1 at the moment in the FIFA world ranking.