A New Era for Youth Soccer

Our vision for empowering local leaders
to better the game

MASSACHUSETTS
MTOC
1998 WINTER INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT
Pensacola, Florida '81 Region II Team
Indiana
State Cup
L.A. AZTECS YOUTH SOCCER SCHOOL
THE BEST SOCCER IN CALIFORNIA!
Sports Unlimited
Special Edition
$2.00
CHAMPIONS
YOUTH SOCCER
Our love for the game started with many of you.

Pathways Future Vision

What we have built.
What is changing.
Built for the people who play.

Our Starting Point

What we've built together

The three-year journey began with **the request to listen, understand, and engage more meaningfully**. Your collaboration and commitment have provided **the foundation for the future**.

1,400+

Direct stakeholder engagements
Across 60+ member organizations and stakeholder groups.

3,000+

Survey responses
From coaches and technical leaders nationwide.

52

State Associations opted in to Cohort 1
Committed to co-design the local model.

ALSO COMPLETE OR UNDERWAY

- **Ecosystem review:** multi-year feedback effort
- **State-by-state** financial & structural analysis
- **Service & operating model** design underway
- **Competition Architecture**: future-state tiers
- **USSF ID** integrations and soccer data solutions
- **USYS & US Club** path-forward diligence in motion

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Our Vision

Our 3 generational ambitions

The next 5 years through the 2031 Women's World Cup represent a legacy moment for soccer in America

01

U.S. SOCCER SUCCESS.

Develop players who compete at the highest levels and win major international tournaments, including senior World Cups.

02

U.S. SOCCER IS YOURS.

Players, families, clubs, coaches, referees, and the organizations that serve them. All understand their role. The game belongs to them.

03

U.S. SOCCER EVERYWHERE.

Accessible and high quality in every community in America. Boys and girls equally.

OUR WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

2026 Men's World Cup

2027 Women's World Cup

2028 Olympics

2031 Women's World Cup

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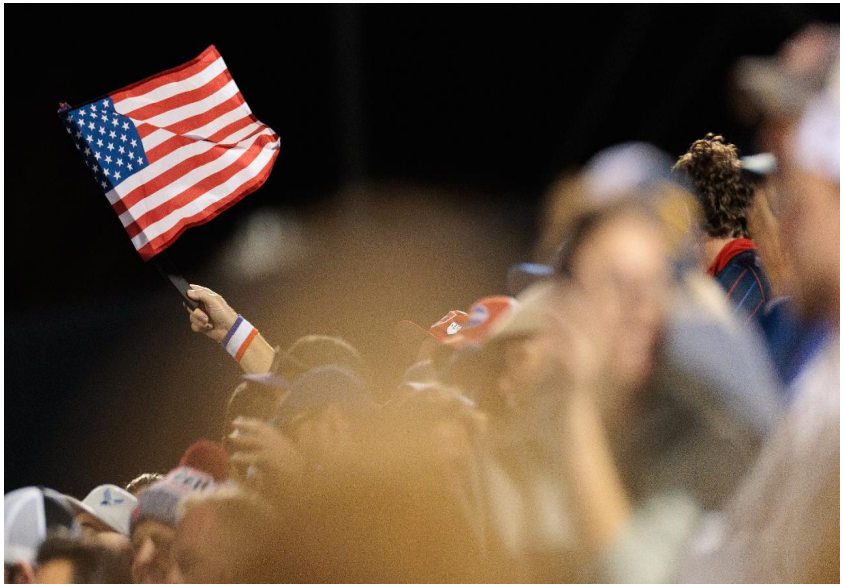
Why Now

The case for change



THE STORY THE ECOSYSTEM CONTINUES TO TELL (illustrative):

A player in **California** has access that a player in **Mississippi** does not.

A family moves from **New Mexico** to **Texas** where 'Competitive Club Soccer' looks and means something totally different.

An elite player in **rural West Virginia** is invisible to the pipeline.

Territory and affiliation battles are expanding. Costs continue to rise.

Lack of clarity remains. Players continue to be left behind.

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To meet our shared ambitions, we need to change

You have a critical role for ensuring we keep the needs of local players at the center

While our mission is to be In Service to Soccer and to serve **every player** and **every family** at **every level,** the current system results in…

- High Costs
- Disparity in Access
- Systemic Inefficiencies

The future is for a soccer landscape with **clear, credible pathways** tailored to **all goals**, with…

- MORE PARTICIPANTS
- MORE QUALITY EXPERIENCES
- REDUCED FINANCIAL BURDEN

First and foremost, your role is to support and strengthen South Texas Youth Soccer. Together with U.S. Soccer and State Associations across the country, you'll help refine the future model, validate solutions, and bring the vision to life in your community.

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Reminder of What Matters Most – Those We Serve

For players and families.

01
Clearer language for what your child is playing in.

02
System-wide approach to making soccer safe

03
One identity that follows your child through soccer.

04
A way to compare clubs honestly.

05
More chances for your child's talent to be seen.

06
A known timeline for when the changes arrive.

This is being built for you.

Overview of the Local Model

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Why The Local Model Changes The Game

How the local model translates to making soccer better for participants

1

More trained leaders where soccer actually happens

- Federation-supported coaching, referee, and player development reaches every market – not just the biggest clubs or cities.
- Every player should have access to quality coaching and safe, supported environments close to home.

2

Families can finally navigate the system

- Connected pathways make it easier for players and families to understand opportunities, move between levels, and find the right environment.
- Players are matched to the level, ambition, and experience that fits them best.

3

National strategy shows up locally

- National resources and strategy combine with local leadership to grow participation, improve experiences, and expand access in every market.
- Instead of disconnected efforts, local and national priorities work together.

4

More investment reaches communities

- Shared infrastructure reduces duplication and frees up investment for coaching, refereeing, player development, and local support.
- More resources stay focused on participant-facing impact.

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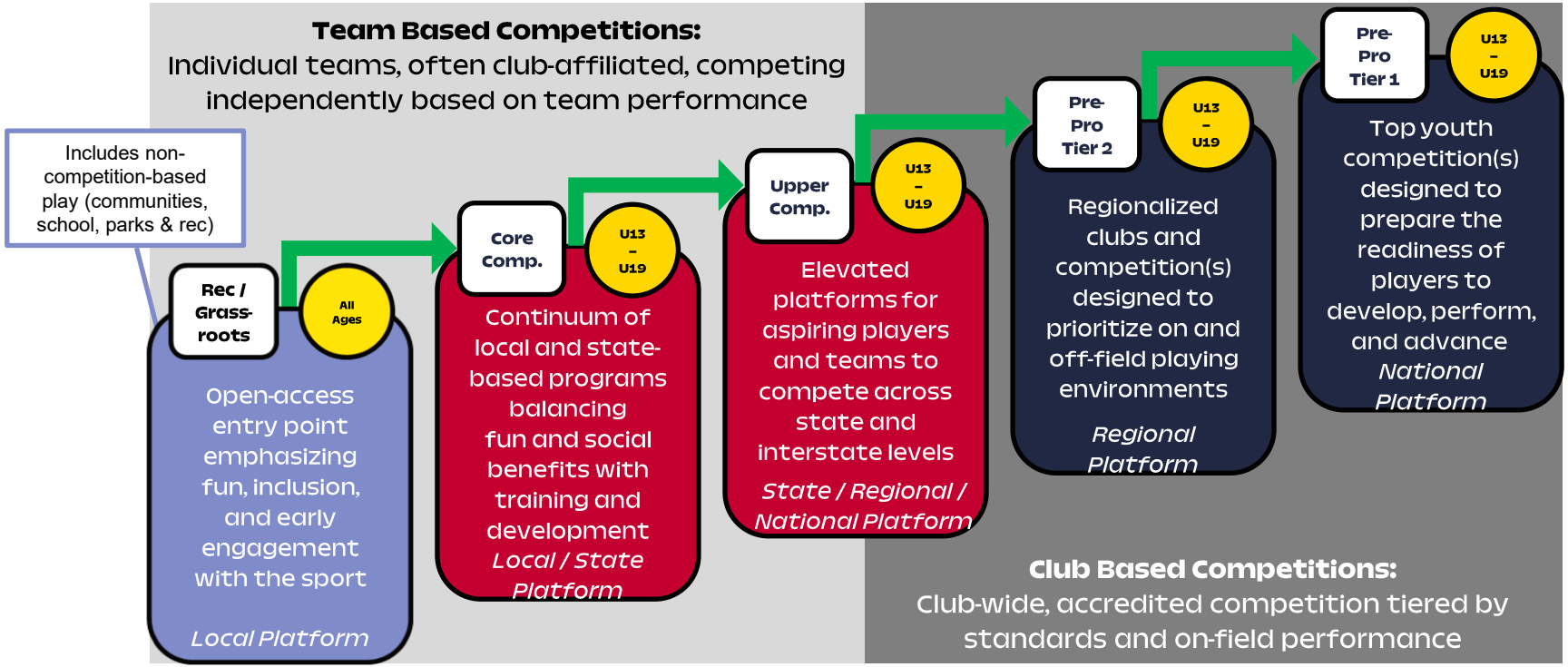
UNDER REVIEW

Proposed Competition Architecture

To effectively implement and sustain a new competition architecture, regional and local offices will partner with stakeholders to uphold standards and provide ongoing support.



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Components of a local model

The concept is designed to govern, convene, and develop the game at the community level

Why this is **critical** to achieve our shared goals:

- **Winning Youth World Cups and producing globally elite players requires one integrated system –** not 50+ fragmented state programs
- **50–60% of players in some states operate under different sanctioning bodies** with inconsistent standards – the current model can't deliver national consistency
- **Duplicated costs across registration, competition, and development** limit what reaches families and players
- **The 2026 World Cup and 2028 Olympics create a once-in-a-generation alignment window**; the local arm model is how we use it

CORE PILLARS OF A LOCAL OPERATING MODEL

GOVERN

Protect the game through trusted standards, oversight, and compliance

CONVENE

Unite local partners to grow participation and expand soccer's reach

DEVELOP

Build local capability to deliver and sustain high-quality soccer experiences

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These are example core functions of the local office

Look familiar? That's because State Associations already do much of what the future model requires. The difference is greater alignment, stronger local empowerment, and a broader role in growing the game.

GOVERN Authority & Integrity	CONVENE Reach & Community	DEVELOP Quality & Capacity
Participant Registration	Business Development & Partnerships	Talent Identification / ODP
Competition Sanctioning & Club Accreditation	Government Relations & Advocacy	Coaching Education & Development
Safeguarding & Risk Management	Events & Activation	Referee Education & Development*
Discipline & Dispute Resolution	Operations & Shared Services	Club & Program Development

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Vision for the Future: 2026–2031

Five implementation phases, anchored by two hard commitments

PHASE 1: DIRECTION	PHASE 2: TESTING	PHASE 3: LAUNCH	PHASES 4–5: SCALE
Starting now through end of 2026	Through Summer 2027	★ Key Commitment Point — Summer Fall 2027	2028 through 2031
• Get clearer on the overall model and key decisions / milestones for phased implementation	• Leagues engage on what Pre-Professional standards require	• Pre-Professional competition launches	• Local model expands as components are ready
• Standards published for input before evaluation begins	• Local model tested against real SA funding, governance, and operations	• Connected data capabilities and public club directory	• More clubs, leagues, coaches, and referees enter standards
• Safe Soccer Clearance live, organizations can adopt now	• National coaching CPD launches January 2027	• Initial local model components turn on with the state associations	• Full system in place across rec, competitive, & pre-pro

By 2031: More people playing, staying in the game longer, and enjoying soccer in every community.

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What This Means for You

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Nobody Knows Your Market Better Than You Do.

That's the whole point of this model.

01

MORE ACCESSIBLE

Address the cost, travel, and complexity barriers unique to your community.

02

BUILT FOR YOUR PLAYERS

Standards and support that flex to what your families actually need – not a one-size-fits-all system.

03

REAL LOCAL INVESTMENT

Resources and investment power to grow the game your way.

Our goal is to empower local leadership, backed by a national system build to support it, to improve how players find the game and fall in love with it for a life-time.

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South Texas: Your Role in the Future of Soccer

The future model starts with strong local leadership. South Texas will continue to lead soccer in your community, with greater support, broader responsibilities, and more opportunities to grow the game.

GOVERN YOUR GAME

- Continue leading governance, registration, sanctioning, and safeguarding locally
- Be the trusted local leader for clubs, leagues, referees, and coaches

GROW YOUR COMMUNITY

- Build stronger partnerships with schools, parks, municipalities, businesses, and donors
- Help bring soccer to more players in more communities

DEVELOP MORE PEOPLE

- Expand coaching, refereeing, talent identification, and player development
- Connect more players to the right opportunities closer to home

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What This Means for You

South Texas becomes the local leader connecting your community to the full strength of U.S. Soccer.

ASSOCIATION LEADERS & ADMINISTRATORS

- A named local partner with a direct line to U.S. Soccer resources and standards
- More capacity-building support, in market
- Less redundancy in processes that take you away from high-value activities
- An integrated governance system that clarifies how soccer is organized and supported

CLUB LEADERS

- A clear path to foundation-level recognition, then further designation over time
- Shared administrative tools, such as registration, insurance, safeguarding that should reduce cost and complexity
- Stronger local and regional competition structure, closer to home

COACHES

- A national CPD program with modular, role-specific learning – not just another license
- Referee and coach development connected through the U.S. Way
- Access to national coaching resources through your local office
- Actual humans in your local community to support your needs

Importantly, we will need better-aligned governance, a greater focus on growing the game locally, and funding models designed to invest in participation

HBO FEATURE FILM

TAKE THE SPACE

THE STORY OF HOW AMERICAN SOCCER WAS REBUILT FROM THE GROUND UP.

U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION

A film about the people who decided the future of soccer was worth fighting for.

COMING SOON

2031

Share your feedback to U.S. Soccer directly

...And thank you. We appreciate everything you do for this game today and into the future.

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