Building the Future of Soccer in the United States

Over the past several years, U.S. Soccer has spent thousands of hours listening to players, families, coaches, referees, clubs, leagues, State Associations, and leaders from across the game. That work has led to the creation of the U.S. Way and our Pathways Strategy as a core pillar of the U.S. Way.

That work has also brought about three, clear shared ambitions:

- **U.S. Soccer Success** – We want to win major tournaments, including World Cups.
- **U.S. Soccer Everywhere** – We want soccer to be the #1 played sport in every community across America.
- **U.S. Soccer is Yours** – We want everyone to feel ownership of soccer's future in the U.S.

Just as importantly, it has helped us identify what needs to change to achieve those ambitions.

The organizations and leaders who built soccer in America have accomplished a tremendous amount. But if we want different results for the next generation, we cannot continue operating the same way we have for the last fifty years.

We're here to tell you that the soccer community is ready to change and work together. It's time.

Too many families struggle to navigate the soccer landscape. Too many talented players are missed. And the experience a participant receives can vary dramatically depending on where they live.

We believe the future requires a more connected approach – one that brings organizations closer together, strengthens local leadership, and creates better experiences for participants.

Later this summer, U.S. Soccer will publish a broader vision for the future of the game. That vision will outline where we are headed, why it matters, and the steps we believe are necessary to create better experiences for players, families, coaches, referees, clubs, leagues, and communities.

5 Things You Should Know

1 The soccer community believes the current system needs to evolve.
No one believes the current system is meeting the moment, and we need to evolve to deliver better, more consistent soccer experiences across the country.

2 Leaders from across the game are working together.
Youth leaders from U.S. Soccer, State Associations, USYS, US Club Soccer, AYSO, MLS, NWSL, USL, ECNL, Girls Academy, SAY Soccer, and USSSA are coming together to help design the future of the game.

3 A new Local Model is being designed with state associations at the center.
State Associations will help shape a model designed to give local soccer leaders more support, better resources, and a stronger connection to U.S. Soccer.

4 Greater alignment across the game is taking shape.
USYS recently endorsed a proposal to integrate into U.S. Soccer, while U.S. Soccer continues to work closely with US Club Soccer and other organizations on the future structure of the game.

5 A broader vision for the future of soccer is coming soon.
We will soon share a vision focused on improving experiences for players, families, coaches, referees, clubs, and communities.

This Work Is Already Underway

Last week, more than 100 leaders from across the soccer community came together at U.S. Soccer to help shape the future of the game as part of the future of the U.S. Way.

State Associations. USYS. US Club Soccer. AYSO. MLS. U.S. Soccer. Leaders from ECNL, Girls Academy, USASA, NWSL, SAY Soccer, USSSA, USL, UPSL, Disability Service Organizations (DSOs), refereeing organizations, and many others are also helping shape what's next.

> "The message was clear: the future of soccer in America will be built together."

Just as importantly, one conclusion has become increasingly clear throughout this process: strong local leadership is essential to the future of soccer in America.

If we want soccer to thrive in every community, we need a model that better supports the people closest to players, families, coaches, referees, clubs, leagues, and local communities. That is why designing a new Local Model has become one of the most important priorities in this work.

The goal is to help local leaders do more of what they do best: grow the game, develop people, and create great experiences for participants.

What the USYS Proposal Means

As part of this effort, the USYS Board recently endorsed a proposal to ultimately integrate USYS into U.S. Soccer, subject to approval by the State Associations at the USYS AGM in August.

For decades, USYS and its State Associations have helped millions of players participate in the game and have played a major role in building youth soccer across the country.

At its core, the proposal reflects a belief that we can accomplish more together than we can separately.

By bringing our organizations closer together, we believe we can better support local soccer leaders, invest more in grassroots, coaching, refereeing, player development, and talent identification, and create a more connected experience for participants.

The proposal is also part of a broader effort to create greater connectivity across the youth soccer landscape. U.S. Soccer is working with US Club Soccer on the role they can play in the future model and how we can collectively deliver more value to players, families, clubs, coaches, and referees.

Looking Ahead

The future of soccer in America will not be built by any one organization.

State Associations, clubs, leagues, coaches, referees, professional leagues, disability soccer organizations, adult amateur soccer leaders, community organizations, and many others all have an important role to play.

That work is already moving. We have recently released a Framework for Player Development as part of the U.S. Way.

Over the coming months, U.S. Soccer will continue working with stakeholders across the game to refine the Local Model, publish a broader vision for the future of pathways, and identify additional opportunities to strengthen alignment, participant experiences, and support for local communities.

We are also working closely with FIFA's Technical Development Group, led by Arsène Wenger, to ensure the systems we build reflect both global best practice and the unique needs of soccer in the United States.

There is still important work ahead, but one thing is becoming increasingly clear: the future of soccer in America will be more connected, more aligned, and better positioned to serve every participant in the game.

More details on that future vision will be shared soon as part of the update on the U.S. Way.