



## **2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**Sunday, August 2, 2026**

2026 has been a year for the record book! With the US, Mexico, and Canada hosting the largest, and arguably the best FIFA Men's World Cup of all time, and with MSYSA celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, we will surely not soon forget this amazing moment in time!

This past year was filled with growth, improvement, expansion, and new adventures! Coaching education courses continued to be offered near record-setting numbers, to include all female courses, with many hundreds of coaches receiving vitally important knowledge to further improve the playing environment for tens of thousands of players! More referees were recruited, licensed, and developed, bringing our total referee count in Maryland and DC to the highest number in years. Total partner clubs and leagues continue to increase as more and more organizations chose to be involved with MSYSA to help grow this beautiful game! Let's Play! further expanded into more Elementary Schools where thousands of children were able to access soccer while learning valuable life lessons designed to help improve their lives. ODP had arguably the best cycle in many years as the level of play continues to increase. Our Cups program expanded to help increase access by offering a winter cup and, for the first time ever, a U11 and U12 State Cup National Invitational Event was hosted right here in Maryland! The MSYSA Summer Soccer Academy expanded to offer a third week for the first time ever, which created an opportunity for nearly 100 additional children to experience this incredible residential soccer camp! Additionally, numerous Soccer Fests were offered in various communities to celebrate the game of soccer while helping to bring communities together. To help share, market, and promote these incredible opportunities, the MSYSA marketing and communications team expanded and is providing even greater coverage than ever before with various posts and social media platforms receiving well over 1 million views/interactions each month and with the On The Line podcast and our Kickoff publication receiving more views than ever before!

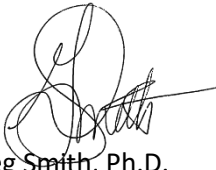
As continues to be the case, these incredible accomplishments, and many more that were not mentioned in an effort to conserve space, require a tremendous amount of work, which requires many amazing people to execute. As such, numerous new team members joined the MSYSA office staff team to include; Senior Video Producer (Paul), Competitions Administrator (Ramsay), Youth Referee

Administrator (Melissa), and our Partnership & Participant Growth Manager (Matthew). These new team members bring a wealth of knowledge, ability, expertise, and passion which has already begun to benefit the entire landscape! To put it simply, MSYSA is well positioned to have another amazing year!

2027 will be another incredible year as we work with US Soccer to continue transitioning to the local arm while executing against our strategic plan which was updated and put into place this past year. We will help to further improve the landscape by empowering clubs, teams, players, and coaches to play more meaningful matches closer to home via the newly launched United Clubs League. In all that we do, we will look to further our mission of growing the game as we work towards serving 100,000 children! Additionally, another \$45,000+ will be made available via scholarships and grants, referee assigning services will be further expanded to continue providing choice within the marketplace, and more innovative and progressive programs and services will look to be implemented in partnership with US Soccer and US Soccer's foundation, Soccer Forward!

Thank you for helping to grow and improve the beautiful game of soccer in Maryland and DC and let's have another great year!

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Smith', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Greg Smith, Ph.D.  
Executive Director