2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

New York State West Youth Soccer Association · Saturday, November 14, 2026 · Rochester, NY

It is an honor to present this annual report as we reflect on a year of transition, investment, program growth, and stronger engagement across New York State West. Our progress was made possible by the commitment of our Board, staff, district leaders, clubs, leagues, coaches, referees, volunteers, players, families, and partners. Together, we continued building a safer, more connected, and more responsive association for the members we serve.

LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

We successfully managed an important technical leadership transition. We thank Dean Foti for nearly two decades of dedicated service and welcomed Dave Kreger as Interim Technical Director, providing continuity and experienced leadership as we prepared for the 2026-2027 seasonal year.

We expanded our technical capacity through the appointment of four Assistant Technical Directors: Eric Redder, Jim Harrigan, Colton Bly, and Ryan Borcyk. Their regional support will strengthen club engagement, coaching education, player development, and the delivery of technical initiatives across our footprint.

As we begin the new seasonal year, I am also pleased to welcome four new members to the Board of Directors. Their willingness to serve brings fresh perspectives and renewed energy to our governance work. I look forward to partnering with them as we advance our priorities and remain accountable to our membership.

The Board continued its regular governance cadence, financial oversight, policy review, annual planning, and engagement with district commissioners. We also continued work to improve organizational accountability, clarify responsibilities, update governing documents, and align staffing and resources with member needs.

MEMBER SERVICE, COMMUNICATION & PARTNERSHIPS

Our staff strengthened regular coordination through weekly meetings and continued direct support to clubs and leagues on registration, risk management, insurance, competitions, and administration. GotSport onboarding, member webinars, updated club directories, website improvements, and expanded digital communications helped make information and support more accessible.

We deepened engagement with current and prospective partners across apparel, equipment, travel, technology, training, sponsorship activation, and member services. A new four-year partnership with

Capelli Sport began in June 2026, and a new relationship with Invictus Soccer Tours created an international development opportunity for New York players and families.

We continued representing NYSWYSA in U.S. Soccer, US Youth Soccer, East Region, and national leadership forums. We also communicated our support for the integration of US Youth Soccer and U.S. Soccer while emphasizing that future decisions must deliver tangible value, clearer pathways, strong local governance, and meaningful benefits for players, families, clubs, leagues, coaches, referees, and volunteers.

PROGRAMS, PLAYER DEVELOPMENT & COACHING EDUCATION

Our Olympic Development Program remained a central player-development pathway. During 2025-2026, 166 players participated in 11U Pre-ODP, 283 participated in indoor ODP training, and approximately 200 participated in the outdoor phase. Nine NYW teams attended the Northeast ODP Sub-Regional, and our teams continued through the regional tournament and identification pathway.

Coaching education reached a new high level of activity. NYSWYSA delivered Grassroots, D License, C License, state-level, goalkeeper, and Generation Next opportunities, serving 490 coaches plus additional Coaching 101/201 participants. The year also included women-only Grassroots courses, university partnerships, and the inaugural Coaches Collective workshop.

TOPSoccer continued at Binghamton University and expanded with the inaugural University of Rochester program. Project Play supported Generation Next, community festivals, and recreational initiatives designed to grow access and participation. Looking ahead, our plan is to improve district coverage, strengthen the Academy and ODP pipeline, and expand opportunities for players, coaches, and clubs.

COMPETITIONS & NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The 2026 State Cup included 28 participating clubs and 103 teams. Seven teams advanced to national competition, four reached national quarterfinals, and one advanced to a national final. We also continued to enhance the Finals Weekend experience at SUNY Cortland through the NYSW World Cup Experience and strong event support.

Lessons from the season are informing clearer competition expectations, stronger financial accountability, improved commitment requirements, and continued refinement of the State Cup format. We are also preparing to introduce a U11 and U12 Presidents Cup as an additional state competition pathway.

We launched the Excelsior League of New York, a new state-level competitive league intended to extend from Buffalo to Albany with geographically organized competition. The league is scheduled to begin regular-season play in March 2027 and represents an important step in expanding meaningful, well-governed competition for our members.

RISK MANAGEMENT, REFEREE DEVELOPMENT & FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Participant safety remained a core responsibility. NYSWYSA's Zero Tolerance Policy was updated to include Referee Abuse Prevention coverage for parents and spectators, risk-management policies and website resources were reviewed, and compliance auditing continued with club administrators.

NYSWYSA received a U.S. Soccer Innovate to Grow grant supporting referee development. This effort, together with our ongoing focus on recruiting, mentoring, education, and referee protection, reflects our commitment to strengthening a critical part of the game.

The Board maintained disciplined financial oversight while developing the 2026-2027 budget. The plan reflects stable registration assumptions, investment in Project Play and ODP growth, continued coaching education, membership grants, staffing review, and responsible management of operating costs.

LOOKING AHEAD: 2026-2027

Our priorities for the new seasonal year are clear: deepen engagement with clubs and leagues; improve communication and website resources; strengthen member service and accountability; expand ODP, Academy, TOPSoccer, coaching education, referee development, and community programming; successfully launch the Excelsior League and Presidents Cup; and ensure that staffing, governance, and financial resources remain aligned with our mission.

We enter the year with positive momentum and a stronger platform for service. The addition of our four new Board members and four Assistant Technical Directors increases both our governance capacity and our ability to support members directly throughout the state.

CLOSING

The progress reflected in this report belongs to the entire New York State West community. I offer my sincere thanks to our staff, Board members, district commissioners, committee members, partners, and the thousands of volunteers who make youth soccer possible. Most importantly, I thank our clubs and leagues for the work they do every day to create opportunities for young people to play, learn, compete, and develop through soccer. We remain committed to listening, improving, and serving with transparency, discipline, and a shared belief in the future of the game.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh Goodridge (He/Him/His)
President, New York State West Youth Soccer Association
Past Chair, USYS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee