



TOPSOCCER

Board of Directors President Report

AYSA Annual General Meeting

November 17, 2019

This last year we continued our focus of increasing the quality of our programs centering around the Athlete. We offered coaching and refereeing education opportunities at new locations continuing to improve the quality of overall play.

Most Beloved: Pride in team and sport, Alaska Youth Soccer.

Most Played: Increase registration numbers, appropriate competition.

Most Respected: World class players, coaches, and referees, safe places to play, professional training, host professional events.

How did we do?

- We developed a club staff training program for our Full Member Clubs.
- We have increased our membership and started new programs.
- The technical staff has continued to be more involved in our programming.
- Focused on better training opportunities for the referees of Alaska Youth Soccer.
- Continue to improve the Alaska Development Program with better player opportunities.
- Transitioned from the Abuse Prevention system to Safe Sport.
- Offered more coaching and referee education opportunities.
- Continued to host the Spring Leadership Development Seminar for our Full Member Clubs.
- Once again increased teams in State Cup and expanded the Alaska Futsal league.
- Hosted a TOPSoccer coaching course and clinic at State Cup.

Where will focus our resources next year?

- Host a statewide Grassroots tournament.
- Develop a State TOPSoccer program.
- Continue to increase the coaching educational opportunities at the grassroots level.
- Continue to host the Spring Leadership Development Seminar focusing on developing the leadership of our member clubs both on and off the pitch.

With a continued focus on the Athlete experience both at the grassroots and competitive levels we will continue to strive to make soccer the preeminent sport in Alaska.

Larry Burke
AYSA President



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Executive Director Report AYSA Annual General Meeting November 17, 2019

Alaska Youth Soccer is focused on providing the upmost supportive environment for our members by building a relationship with our membership and clubs by ensuring the daily function of the organization focuses on the participant and club needs in an open communication, collaborative, productive and efficient manner. Over the past several months I have conducted *site visits* with clubs offering administrative trainings, attending board meetings and visiting their onsite programs. The visits have included clubs in the following locations Fairbanks, Juneau, Ketchikan, Sitka (**NEW Member**), Homer, Palmer, and Anchorage. I have also continued to conduct regular communications with the club administrators and technical staff through phone calls and emails

The continued growth of AYSA programs and services have brought a multitude of new opportunities for our membership including offering the expansion of the *Alaska Futsal League (AFL)* program to include an additional two participating clubs from the Kenai Peninsula area for the 2019 session. The league has seen an increase of 11 participating teams for a statewide total of **eighty-one registered teams** this year.

The growth within the state-wide *AFL League, Futsal State Cup, and Equipment Grant* will continue to revolve as we ensure we meet the clubs and participant needs along with reaching the outlining areas to start new AFL programs within their communities.

The *Alaska 2019 State Cup* expansion to include the 11-U Division was a huge success, the overall participation in the tournament included an *additional 11 teams* this year. As our continued growth in the tournament, the quality and competition continue to be the focus for the tournament. The competition for the **sixty-six teams** were at an all-time high this year.

In addition to the State Cup competition AYSA hosted a ***UPSL Alaska City FC Exhibition game, player Meet and Greet*** along with offering the TOPSoccer State Cup Showcase, TOPSoccer Coaching Certification, *Kick-Off Breakfast, BBQ of Champions, State Juggling Championships, Sportsmanship Awards, and Youth Referee of the Match awards*. Without the assistance of the Anchorage clubs agreeing to hosts the above team activities the tournament would not have been as successful. I am truly grateful for their support and continued partnership.

AYSA has continued to support and offer an Annual Program Calendar, *Administrative Services Training*, Grassroots Coaching Pathway initiative, National D Licensing, Coaching Enhancement Grants, Referee Certification and Referee Futsal Certification. AYSA hired Brian Lux this past April as the ADP Director and has successfully implemented a revamp of the Alaska Development Program (ADP). Alaska Youth Soccer looks forward to continuing to lead the way to Inspire a lifelong passion for soccer through development, education, and promotion of the game.

AYSA Annual Program Calendar: Streamlined the district/ statewide programs to ensure that information is available to our membership and aligned with AYSA, USYS and US Soccer policies. (two-year cycle published)

Grant Applications- Three grants have been submitted outlining a platform for two new programs under Alaska Youth Soccer (AYSA) with the overall goal of player, coach and referee development and retention.

Administrative Training and Site Visits: Will continue to offer training for Club administrators and managers providing assistance, support, and guidance. The Administrative Training will also be offered at the Spring Leaderships Seminar, scheduled bi-monthly teleconferences, and onsite visits throughout the year.

Rebranding: US Youth Soccer last spring went through the process of rebranding and AYSA has started the process to rebrand the logos too ensure that they are compatible with USYS and US Soccer branding.

Club/Association Support: Providing support, and resources to Club Affiliates and Leagues on a regular basis through phone and email communications.

Outreach: Expanding AYSA profile and presence in the state through media outlets and community outreach.

TOPSoccer State Cup Showcase and Coaching Certification: The 2019 State Cup offered to our members the TOPSoccer Showcase event at no cost to our membership offering soccer games and awards. The National recognized TOPSoccer Coaching Course was instructed by the Cal South TOPSoccer Chair; Sandy Castillo.

Alaska Spring Leadership Development Seminar: The seminar was designed to provide educational information for administrators, club registers, parents, coaches, and managers. For the 2019 seminar AYSA provided an array of speakers; the *Center of Safe Sports, Pullen Insurance Services, Inc, Stack Sports, United Soccer Coaches, Changing the Game Project, US Youth Soccer Representatives, College Athletics 101, and Referee Development.*

AYSA Committees: State Cup, Recreational Development, Sanctioned League, and AFL League. Continuing to work with committees through development to ensure that the focus remains within our strategic plan and goals on the state level along with serving our membership.

Referee Development and Retention: AYSA has used a collaborative approach with the SYRA Moctar Diouf, and referee leadership within the state designed to further clarify and simplify the referee pathway in Alaska while reducing cost and barriers in an effort to support and encourage the retention, development, and advancement of referees throughout our state.

Policies: Continue review of policies/guidelines; ensuring they are up to date. Informative and current website, and easily assessable for administrators, managers, coaches and parents.

Risk Management: -Ongoing- The Adult Verification Policy requires all adults to register for their background check, read the AYSA Code of Conduct, and within the first 35 days of taking on the role giving them access to youth participants complete the initial Protecting Young Victims (**Safe Sports**) training. A refresher course will be required on an annual basis effective the calendar year following the completion of the initial training.

About InjureFree: Available to Alaska Affiliate Clubs/ Associations. This is a web-based technology service empowering child safety initiatives and risk management for youth sports organizations and schools. InjureFree provides an all-in-one solution that helps organizations maintain compliance with state and federal laws, reduce paperwork, and provide a communication platform during injury recovery including return to play documentation. We will be using this program for the ODP and Statewide Tournaments.

Futsal State Cup: (December 7-8 & 13-15, 2019 Anchorage); The Futsal State Cup will have Divisions from U9 - U19 Boys and Girls for the upcoming tournaments which will be located at two facilities in Anchorage.

Alaska Spring Leadership Development Seminar: (February 29 - March 1, 2020 Anchorage)

National Championships: Teams attending Far West Regional (9)- Boise, ID and Presidents Cup (5)- Norco, CA

Alaska State Cup: (July 30 - August 2, 2020) Location TBD

***New Alaska Cup (Recreational): Summer 2020 TBD (Co-host Cook Inlet Soccer Club)**

Thank you,

Linda J. Burke

Alaska Youth Soccer Association
Executive Director



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Alaska State Youth Soccer Association

Technical Director Report

Prepared by: ASYSA DOC Joe Wentworth

Prepared for: AYSYSA 2019 AGM

Location: Anchorage, AK

ODP Final Report 2018/2019:

Program Overview: The Alaska Development Program (ADP) is a State Run program encompassing several soccer developmental programs and opportunities for players in the state of Alaska. ADP is made up of three parts, the Olympic Development Program (ODP 2007-2002 Birthyears), the Pre-ODP (2008 and 2009 Birthyears) and the Alaska Development Program (2000-2001 Birthyears).

Alaska Youth Soccer's (AYS) programming offers, team tactical trainings, tournaments & college showcases as well as USYS National Team and MLS Development Academies identification events for players in the eight age groups (2002-2007 Birthyears).

To participate in, PRE-ODP, ODP and ADP Events as well as Olympic Development Program events players first must have tried out and been selected to the AYS State pool. After accepting a position in the pool players train to be selected to attend out of state events.

Events and opportunities for AYS players:

- Alaska Sub-Regional, Anchorage, AK
- Small State Friendlies, Boise, ID
- Timbers Alliance Showcase, Portland, OR
- ODP Championships, Phoenix, AZ
- PacNW Showcase, Seattle, WA
- Portland Timbers Friendship Cup, Portland, OR (not attended)
- ADP College Tour-Oregon & Washington
- USYS West Regional Camp-McMinnville, OR
- USYS Inter-regional, Phoenix, AZ or Boca Raton, FL

Goals Met:

- Small State Friendlies
- Addition staff brought on for Sub-Regional
- Scouting of HS and Club Matches
- reduce travel expenses, and calendar

Goals Not Met:

- Shirt Sponsor
- Trainer at all ODP Events and training Inter-regional event
- Increase participation

Events:

- Sub-Regional Camp; August; 2008-2001 B&G S
- mall State Friendlies; November; 2006-2002 B&G
- Timbers Alliance Showcase; December; 2004-2000 B&G
- ODP Championships; January; 2006-2002 B&G
- PACNW Showcase; January; 2002-2000 B&G
- Portland Timbers Friendship Cup; May; 2008-2005 B&G
- ADP College Tour; July; 2004-2001 B&G

Coaching Education Overview: U.S. Soccer is committed to providing all coaches, from beginner to advanced, with education tailored to their experiences and the needs of their players. The Coaching License Pathway consists of a series of courses designed to meet the specific needs of a coach at every step of the way. U.S. Soccer believes education is a journey, and our goal is to provide the necessary tools, guidance, and mentorship a coach requires.

Highlights:

- 2 Grassroots Instructors Obtained License: Brian Lux & Jason Leonardis
- A-Youth License Completed
- USC Director of Coaching Diploma

2019 Grassroots Course Completed: Anchorage 9v9 Course; Ketchikan 9v9; Ketchikan 11v11

Events Attended:

- USC Coaches Convention; Chicago, IL
- U.S. Soccer Grassroots Instructor Mini-Workshop (Mentoring and Assessing), Chicago, IL
- Club Development Managers Workshop, Chicago, IL
- Grassroots Instructors Workshop, Kansas City, KS

Recommendations:

- All districts required to host a minimum of one grassroots course per calendar year.
- Minimum license standard for all coaches in competitive minimum D license.
- Recreational programs host/offer Grassroots Licensing to all volunteer coaches.



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ADP Director Report AYSA Annual General Meeting November 17, 2019

Alaska Development Program (ADP) (2019-2020 Seasonal Year)

Events: Sub Regional Camp was the most successful it has been, nearly doubled the number of players from last year's camp. Looking at ways to improve for 2020, including adjusting schedule to get more meaningful field time and classrooms/presentations in the evenings. Want the kids to get as much soccer as possible but also have time to relax and have fun off the field.

Boise Friendlies: Hugely successful event! We sent 8 teams to the event this year. Arrived on Wednesday to have 2 days of training with the coaches and players to really start to dial some things in and get the groups comfortable with each other. This was shown by the results over the weekend, every team did very well, a couple of them coming away without a loss. 95% of the players will be the same for the Phoenix event so that continuity should be a big help compared to past years. Had more coaches involved than in the past, but this will lead to better experiences for the players. Added **Team Genius** as an evaluation software as well to improve the player feedback experience.

Portland, Phoenix, Seattle: Teams are looking solid, will update as the events occur.

Site Visits: The district trainings have been very successful, the numbers for all of the trainings were very good. The sessions outside of Anchorage were especially well-received. I have had a lot of comments from those in Fairbanks, Kenai, Ketchikan and Juneau that they love that they have more access to the program and that we are reaching out to them rather than them coming to us. The teams that we are taking comprise a large number of players from non-Anchorage areas, much more so than in the past. As an example, the 08 Boys team that is going to Phoenix has 3 from Ketchikan, 6 from Anchorage, 1 from Homer, and 3 from Fairbanks. The Ketchikan and Homer players would not have been seen had it not been for the visits. Though percentage wise this age group has more than others, all of the age groups were positively impacted from these areas.

Future Plans: Expand the site visits to capture even more players and involve more coaches. Now that the seeds have been planted there will be greater participation moving forward. Would like to tie in some grassroots coaching education as well, this has proven difficult so far due to lack of participation. Currently I am head coach for the 08 Girls and 08 Boys teams, with the goal of passing them on to my assistants next year to recycle back down to the 09s. I want to be as hands on with their first ODP experiences to make sure that we have solid age groups moving forward. This went well and has so far, but I may turn the reins over to them in Phoenix to allow me to be more involved with the other teams. The schedule made it difficult to see other groups and I want to be sure to give them as much time as possible.

Brian Lux
Alaska Youth Soccer ADP Director



2019 AYSA Annual General Report – SYRA Report

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Alaska Referees at Regional Events.

- 6 referees attended the ODP championships in Phoenix. Sam Dannenberg and Brooklyn Carver attended their first regional event.
- 6 referees attended Far West Regionals in Boise. Three of them among 200+ referees were assigned a championship game

Training & Certification

- Registered 202 Referees this year (compared to 246 last year). We decreased by 21.7%.
- Hosted a Futsal Clinic Prior to league starting in October.
- Although we are seeing a deficit in game coverage, the number of Futsal Certified officials went up by 15, including 7 new referees from Ketchikan
- US Soccer has changed the referee grade structure effective July 1, 2019. Current referees' grade levels will transition seamlessly to the new license levels. Current Grade 7, 8 and 9 referees will become Grassroots referees. Grade 5 and 6 referees will become Regional referees. Grade 3 and 4 referees will now be National referees while Grade 1 and 2 referees will be FIFA Referees. See attached diagram for more details. Alaska is discussing ways to continue the grade 7 referee grade in order to better identify referees ready to take the leap for upgrade to the regional grade, which we deem critical and necessary for promoting up and coming officials. More details to come on this.
- In an effort to line up referee and coaching education, US Soccer also launched the 'Learning Center'. It is a learning management system designed to house all U.S. Soccer educational programs. Starting with coaching and referee programs. All grassroots referee must complete this online training program.

Changes to Laws of the Game

FIFA Initiated changes to 14 of the 17 laws of the game. These laws became effective June 1. In Alaska, they will become effective January 1 2020. That gives referees the opportunity to learn about them during the certification and recertification process before applying them. See attached summary.

Outlook

- Request clubs to host/sponsor a referee clinic at no cost. The goal is to educate coaches, parents, players and recruit more referees. This will help our efforts towards improving the relationship between coaches/players and referees; and mitigate referee turnover with improved coaches/players education about the laws of the game.
- Continue to promote a culture of excellence and professionalism.
- Continue to pursue more ideas for recruitment, training and retention of referees. A recruitment and retention committee is trying to take off with goal to address referee shortage especially in Anchorage
- Looking at ways to mandate clubs to register x number of new referees every year
- Currently looking at expanding the parameters of law 5 to include the ability to show a yellow or red card to abusive spectators. As a result of the law changes enacted by FIFA in June, referees can now show team officials a yellow or red card.



REFEREE PATHWAY



Law changes

2019/20

Outline summary of Law changes

Herewith a simple outline of the main changes/clarifications.

Law 1

- A team official will be cautioned (YC) for entering the RRA and sent off (RC) for entering the VOR

Law 3

- A player who is being substituted must leave the field at the nearest point on the boundary line, unless otherwise directed by the referee

Law 4

- Undershirts can be multi-coloured/patterned if they are exactly the same as the shirt sleeve

Law 5

- Referee cannot change a restart decision after play has restarted but, in certain circumstances, may issue a YC/RC for a previous incident
- If the referee leaves the field for a VAR review or to call players back to the field at the end of a half, a decision can still be changed
- Team officials guilty of misconduct can be shown a YC/RC; if an offender cannot be identified, the senior coach in the technical area receives the YC/RC
- If a penalty kick is awarded, the team's penalty taker can receive assessment or treatment and then stay on the field and take the kick

Law 7

- Clarification of the difference between 'cooling' and 'drinks' breaks

Law 8

- The team that wins the toss may choose to take the kick-off
- Dropped ball – ball dropped for goalkeeper (if play stopped in penalty area) or for one player of team that last touched the ball at the location of the last touch; all other players (of both teams) must be at least 4 m (4.5 yds) away

Law 9

- Dropped ball if the ball touches the referee (or other match official) and goes into the goal, possession changes or an attacking move starts

Law 10

- Goalkeeper cannot score by throwing the ball into the opponents' goal

Law 12

- Handball text re-written for greater clarity/consistency with clear guidelines for when 'non-deliberate' handball should (and should not) be penalised
- Confirmation that an 'illegal' handball offence by a goalkeeper in their own penalty area is not sanctioned with a YC/RC
- If, after a throw-in or deliberate kick from a team-mate, the goalkeeper unsuccessfully kicks or tries to kick the ball to release it into play, the goalkeeper can then handle the ball
- Referee can delay issuing a YC/RC until the next stoppage if the non-offending team takes a quick free kick and creates a goal-scoring opportunity
- The YC for an 'illegal' goal celebration remains even if the goal is disallowed
- List of the warning/YC/RC offences for team officials
- All verbal offences are punished with an IDFK
- Kicking an object is punished in the same way as throwing an object

Law 13

- Once an IDFK has been taken, the referee can stop showing the IDFK signal if it is clear that a goal cannot be scored directly (e.g. from most offside IDFKs)
- For defending team free kicks in their penalty area, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area
- When there is a defensive 'wall' of at least 3 players, all attacking team players must be at least 1 m from the 'wall'; IDFK if they encroach

Law 14

- Goalposts, crossbar and nets must not be moving when a penalty is taken and the goalkeeper must not be touching them
- Goalkeeper must have at least part of one foot on, or in line with, the goal line when a penalty kick is taken; cannot stand behind the line
- If an offence occurs after the referee signals for a penalty kick to be taken but the kick is not taken, it must then be taken after any YC/RC is issued

Law 15

- Opponents must be at least 2 m from the point on the touchline where a throw-in is to be taken, even if the thrower is back from the line

Law 16

- At goal kicks, the ball is in play once it is kicked and clearly moves; it does not have to leave the penalty area



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Recognition and Thank You's AYSA Annual General Meeting

November 17, 2019

State Cup 2019

A special thanks to the volunteers who helped throughout the tournament including setting up the complex, credentials, daily tasks, and breakdown. Without each and every volunteer who took the time to help assist in the many areas of preparing for the State Cup Tournament, Alaska Youth Soccer would not have been so successful of providing the best State Cup by far. Please send them a quick thank you and let them know I am so very appreciative of their dedication and willingness to help out.

The volunteers include; James Barndt, Brian Lubeck, Sandy Castillo, Verena Komes, Liz Huffman, Michael Baffrey, Cathy Okeson, Mindy Latteier, Venessa Brazfield, Patty Wilbanks, Dayla Leffel, Britta Manning, Mandy Easley, Shannon Hamlett, Madonna Saspa, and Christina Jones,

Alaska Youth Soccer would like to give a heartfelt thanks to **SSAAK Chugiak Soccer Club** for hosting the Kick-Off Breakfast, **Alaska Rush Soccer Club** for hosting the State Juggling Championships, **Cook Inlet Soccer Club** for hosting the BBQ of Champions, and **Anchorage Youth Soccer Club** for hosting the TOPSoccer State Cup Showcase. A special thanks to The Dome for hosting the State Cup Kick-Off Party. A grateful THANK YOU to **CISC 07 Boys, Arsenal 06, 05, 04 Boys, and Eclipse 05, 08 Girls** teams who did a fabulous job providing meals for the fifty referees throughout the State Cup Tournament!

We would like to acknowledge our appreciation for Sandy Castillo from Cal South who provided the TOPSoccer Certification Course, facilitated the TOPSoccer Showcase, and helped throughout the tournament weekend.

Thank you to AYSA's generous sponsors; Alaska Airlines, Residential Mortgage, LLC, and Marco T's Pizzeria.

A special thank you to **Orthopedic Physicians Alaska (OPA)** who provided an outstanding service to our players throughout the tournament. Thank you for your continued support of Alaska Youth Soccer Programs.

Finally, we would like to thank the following who worked throughout the year to make the Alaska State Cup Tournament possible for the players; their dedication, and efforts are greatly appreciated. Alaska State Youth Referee Administrator (SYRA), Moctar Diouf; State Cup Co-Chairs, Tara Barndt and Kathie Stacy; State Cup Committee Cathy Stone, Leslie Cater, Jane Nelson, and AYSA Board President, Larry Burke; AYSA Board Vice President, Colby Smith; Fine Designs and Sport Pins International for the quality tournament items, and US Youth Soccer for their continued support.

Sponsorships and Partnership 2019

Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc

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Denali Marketing Group

Clemson University (US Department of Veteran Affairs)

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Thank you for your Continued Support of Alaska Youth Soccer!