U.S. SOCCER FEDERATION

The Local Office Model

Frequently Asked Questions for State Association Members

U.S. Soccer is working with State Associations to build a network of local offices. This guide explains what the proposed model would mean for clubs, leagues, and other members, and what to expect while U.S. Soccer and each State Association work through the details.

SECTION A

What the model means for local soccer

1 Why is U.S. Soccer building a local office model?

Our shared ambitions are to win major tournaments, make soccer the number one played sport in every community, and ensure everyone feels ownership of its future. Achieving them depends on what happens locally: whether people have places to play, good coaching, appropriate competition, and positive experiences.

We are building a national network of local offices to connect U.S. Soccer's resources with local expertise, bring more investment into communities, and support the organizations delivering the game. We want a system that can sustain progress across generations.

2 Who would local offices serve?

Local offices would serve all members and participants in their geography, regardless of affiliation or non-affiliation. Existing clubs and leagues remain central, alongside schools, parks, community programs, adult soccer, and other playing environments.

The goal is a local team focused on the health of the entire soccer community. Specific program, registration, service, and funding arrangements will be defined as the model develops.

3 What support would clubs and leagues get?

Local teams would help more people begin and keep playing, expand affordable opportunities, support safer and more positive experiences, and strengthen development for players, coaches, and referees. They would also build community partnerships, connect grassroots and professional soccer, and help attract resources.

Clubs, leagues, schools, parks departments, and other providers remain essential to delivery. The local office's role is to help them succeed and connect their efforts across the broader soccer community.

4 How could this make soccer more affordable?

We intend to address the costs families actually face. Better competition design can reduce unnecessary travel. School and municipal partnerships can expand access to affordable fields. Shared services can reduce administrative costs for clubs and leagues, and more recreational and small-sided options can give families affordable choices.

We will need to track actual family costs and how efficiencies are used, including lower fees, scholarships, better coaching, and financial sustainability. Both reducing existing costs and creating additional affordable options matter.

SECTION B

Local leadership and funding

5 Who would make decisions about soccer in our state?

Local knowledge, relationships, and initiative are essential. We want local leaders to have meaningful agency to respond to their communities, set priorities, and shape how we grow the game within clear national expectations.

A local office would be part of U.S. Soccer, which would hold final responsibility for operations, employees, and resources. The next phase will define local decision rights and how Council input informs decisions. Where perspectives differ, we intend to work through them together in good faith.

6 Would members have a vote on the transition?

Our stated intention is to preserve State Council members' U.S. Soccer National Council voting privileges, maintaining their voice in Federation governance.

Each state's legal structure, governing documents, and member approval requirements will be reviewed during diligence. The responsibilities of any entity and governing board that remain during transition also need to be addressed in the relevant agreements.

7 What would happen to State Association staff?

Our offer is to bring existing teams into U.S. Soccer intact, with a 12-month employment commitment while we work together to understand each person's strengths and contribution to the future model. The timing and details of that commitment will be agreed through transition planning.

Staff would gain access to U.S. Soccer's benefits, professional development, broader expertise, and career opportunities. Our goal is to create long-term opportunities for as many team members as possible and give talented local people more ways to contribute.

8 Would money raised locally stay local?

Yes – this is a major point to the proposed model. Our guiding principle is that money raised locally should stay local and support the communities that generated it. At full integration, operating funds and accounts are intended to transition to U.S. Soccer, with local resources continuing to support local soccer.

Existing reserves will be addressed separately with each state, including how they can be maintained and used in the soccer community's best interests.

SECTION C

What members can expect during the transition

9 Do clubs and leagues need to do anything differently now?

There is no immediate change to current registration or competition processes simply because a state begins transition planning. The details of fee flows, data access, affiliation arrangements, sanctioning, and competition relationships will be worked through before changes are implemented.

10 What does signing an MOU mean?

The MOU establishes a shared intention to explore becoming a U.S. Soccer local office and begin detailed design, diligence, and transition planning. It does not itself complete integration or require either party to enter a definitive agreement.

Some provisions are expressly binding, including expenses, public announcements, confidentiality, governing law, and forum. Completing integration requires mutually acceptable definitive agreements and the necessary approvals.

11 How can members stay informed and share feedback?

We will continue sharing information as the work develops, including what has been decided and where input is still needed. States will have ongoing opportunities to engage through regional discussions, the Waves, newsletters, planned meetings, and individual conversations over the coming months.