

Michigan

ALLIANCE

Ann Arbor
Brighton
Canton
Northville



Nationals



Working Together to Bring Out the Very Best

More can be accomplished for the benefit of our top level players by coming together

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CREATING THE MICHIGAN NATIONALS? AND HOW IS THIS DIFFERENT FROM MY PRESENT CLUB?
The Michigan Nationals is an extension to your club and is created with the top level player in mind. It allows for the player to stay and play in their community while receiving top level coaching and exposure to high profile tournaments where they can receive the same level exposure as the top clubs in the country.

SO ARE YOU TELLING ME I CAN PLAY ON THIS TEAM AS WELL AS MY CURRENT CLUB TEAM? In short, YES! In fact the Michigan Nationals encourage you to stay on your local club while taking advantage of the exceptional coaching and exposure that the alliance team will provide. We not only believe it is healthy for young players to play in environments with which they are familiar but to play in an atmosphere where they are respected and encour-



aged to develop as respectable, contributing citizens of society.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO PLAY ON A MICHIGAN NATIONALS' TEAM? Quite simple really! You must be a registered player in one of the four member club teams that make up the Michigan Nationals- namely, Ann Arbor Arsenal, Canton, Brighton, or Northville. And you must try out and be one of the top 25 players selected.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST FOR ME TO PLAY ON THIS TEAM? It is estimated that each player will pay approximately \$225 that will go to training expenses, US Club Soccer registration fees, uniforms, and other administration expenses.

WHAT OTHER COSTS ARE THERE? It is important to understand that 25 players will be on on any given team; however, up to only 18 players will

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WHAT IS US CLUB SOCCER

History

US Club Soccer was founded in early 2000 as the National Association of Competitive Soccer Clubs (NACSC) by a group of soccer club coaching directors, representing several well known soccer clubs from different geographical areas. The organization held meetings, launched its first website, and grew to over 140 registered members in 35 states. As a result of this effort, in July, 2001 the organization applied for and was granted membership in the United States Soccer Federation. This provided a seat on the USSF Board, and allowed the organization to sanction soccer clubs, teams, competitions, and events in the same manner as any other USSF member. The number of clubs that registered online grew to over 250 by the end of 2001, and the organization changed its name to US Club Soccer.

Philosophy

US Club Soccer is built on the belief that:

--Soccer clubs are the key to player development in the U.S., and while the State Associations play an important role, as the vast majority of their players are at the recreational level, rules that foster equal playing opportunities have been their priority.

--We have spent too much time governing competitive soccer rather than encouraging its growth. The business of the day to day development of top youth players rests with the competitive soccer club. A business-friendly environment must be created to develop programs and services which assist the competitive club and player, provide a minimum of rules and regulations to assure basic fairness, and allow clubs the flexibility to build programs that meet their needs. For example, in all US Club Soccer sanctioned competitions, players will be allowed to "play up" in age if their club so chooses, and travel permissions will not be required to attend events in other states.

--Clubs must work together to grow the club system. This includes speaking with a collective voice on important issues affecting them; assisting clubs organizationally and technically through our technical committee, staff, and club services programs; and coordinating player development with national teams and professional clubs.

be taken to any one tournament. These players will pay an additional \$125 per tournament they attend.

SO YOU MEAN NOT ALL PLAYERS THAT MADE THE TEAM WILL GO TO ALL TOURNAMENTS? Yes. Remember the purpose of the Michigan Nationals is to showcase the best talent. Once you make the team you will receive excellent training and guaranteed attendance at one tournament only.

HOW THEN WILL THE COACHES DETERMINE WHO GOES TO THE TOURNAMENT? Simple....performance, who is working hard at training, who is coachable, who shows up for all training sessions. All these will be used to determine the players that will attend the next tournament. The Nationals believe each player must *earn* the honor of being selected each and every training session.

HOW MANY TOURNAMENTS WILL THE TEAM ATTEND? All boys teams will go to the Raleigh Shootout on Nov 15-16 (Raleigh, NC), GIT Dec 6-7 (Atlanta, GA), and the Tampa Sun Bowl Dec 26-30 (Tampa, FL). The girls teams will attend the Triumph Cup Nov 22-23 (Atlanta, GA), Raleigh Invitational Dec 6-7 (Raleigh, NC), and the Disney Classic Dec 27-30 (Orlando, FL).

WHAT ARE THE TEAM COLORS? Royal blue, white and black.

DO I GET TO KEEP MY UNIFORM? When chosen to attend a given tournament you will be given a uniform prior to the tournament and will return them back to the Nationals after the tournament. You however will receive a Nationals training

T-shirt, which you will wear to training sessions; and a polo shirt to be worn to all competition events which will be yours to keep.

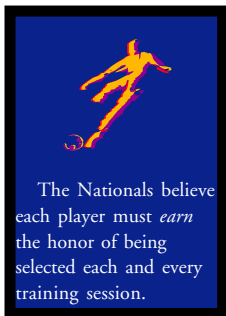
HOW MUCH WILL THE COACHES BE PAID FOR TRAINING AND TRAVELING WITH THESE TEAMS? They will be paid a stipend to reimburse them for their time, expenses, and travel. The coaches are committed to keeping expenses to a minimum, while providing top notch training for the players.

WON'T THE TOURNAMENTS CONFLICT WITH MY CLUB'S TOURNAMENTS? The Directors of Coaching for the four clubs have met and have consciously selected the tournaments the Nationals will be attending keeping in mind each individual club's playing schedule. Every effort will be made to avoid conflicting tournaments.

HOW OFTEN WILL THE TEAM TRAIN AND WHERE WILL THEY TRAIN? The Nationals will train six to nine times prior to any competition. Training site will be Canton.

ARE THERE ANY EXTRA COSTS FOR INDOOR TRAINING? No. The costs are included in the \$225 per player fee.

HOW WILL THIS AFFECT MY ELIGIBILITY TO PLAY IN THE PREMIER LEAGUE? None whatsoever. While the Premier League is governed by the Michigan State Youth Soccer Association, US Club Soccer is under the United States Soccer Federation. Two separate entities.



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I AM 15 YEARS OLD CAN I TRYOUT FOR THE U16 MICHIGAN NATIONALS? Yes. There are no rules that limit a player's ability to play up.

WHAT OTHER ISSUES SHOULD I BE AWARE OF? In the spirit of cooperation and the desire to limit potential player transfers, the directors have determined that any player that chooses to leave their present club (after being on a Nationals team) and transfer to another club within the alliance without proper authorization from the consenting clubs shall be deemed ineligible for play on any future Nationals team.

WHEN AND WHERE ARE TRYOUTS GOING TO BE HELD FOR THE 2003-2004 SEASON? Tryouts will be held August 10 at the Canton Soccer Complex for all teams. See schedule below.

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION? You can find out more at our website: www.michigannationals.com where you will find a link to coaches and Tom Murphy, club administrator.

Tryout Date

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Independence Park, Canton, Michigan

1:00pm to 3:00pm U18G, U15G, U17B

3:30pm to 5:30pm U18B, U16B, U15B

Coaches Profile

Peter Alexander

U16 Boys and U18 Girls

With a long history of involvement in Michigan soccer Pete is the Assistant Director of Coaching for the Canton Soccer Club. He holds a USSF "A" License, an NSCAA Advanced National Diploma and has been the head coach at Madonna University and substantial past involvement in the Olympic Development Program.

Bryan "Goose" Finnerty

U15 Girls

Operating owner of High Velocity Sports Group, Goose played college soccer at San Diego State University before being drafted by the Detroit Rockers where he was an All-Star selection for four consecutive years. He is currently the Director of Coaching for the Canton Soccer and holds a USSF "A" License.

Paul Kato

U17 Boys

Current Director of Coaching for the Brighton Soccer Club, Paul played four years of college soccer at Spring Arbor University. He went on to play professional soccer where he was a three time All-Star selection. Paul is active in the Olympic Development Program and holds a USSF "B" License.

Thomas Olivier

U15 Boys

Bringing a wealth of experience to the alliance, Thomas is the Director of the Ann Arbor Arsenal as well as the head coach of the Arsenal '90. He was formerly the Varsity Head Coach of Grand Ledge High and holds a USSF "B" License as well as the NSCAA Advanced National Diploma.

Mark Zathey

U18 Boys and U18 Girls

Active in Michigan State youth soccer Mark played his college soccer at Madonna University and is currently the head coach. He is the Director of Coaching of the Northville Soccer Association and also serves as an MSYSA Coaches Education Instructor as well as coaching in the Olympic Development Program. Mark holds a USSF "B" License.