

# Vermont Soccer Association

Vermont Soccer Association is a National State Soccer Association affiliated with the US Youth Soccer and the US Soccer Federation. The following services and programs are available to all members. The state office exists to serve the needs of the membership. Let us know what you need.

## State Office

Vermont Soccer Association has an Executive Director, Meg Munson, and an Administrative Assistant to help serve the 10,000+ players in the state of Vermont. They are available to answer your questions or resolve your problems. If you have any questions about the registration software, the registration of players, member passes, rosters, travel applications, insurance, hosting tournaments, bylaws, US Youth Soccer, Region I, ODP, or anything else call the VSA office at 859-9601 or email [admin@vermontsoccer.org](mailto:admin@vermontsoccer.org). Vermont serves approximately 10,000 members comprised of players, coaches, referees, club directors and officers. The following services are available to all clubs, leagues, and teams.

## Insurance

Members of VSA are covered under our liability and secondary medical insurance. Certificates of liability coverage for clubs and leagues, as well as any property that is used for practice or games, are available upon request. Descriptions of liability and medical coverage are available on-line. Non-profit Directors and Officers Insurance is offered by VSA. Please call the office for more information.

## Registration

Vermont Soccer Association utilizes the online registration program of Blue Sombrero designed specifically for National State Associations for registration of all members. Club versions of the software are available to all member clubs. Please contact Blue Sombrero at [info@bluesombrero.com](mailto:info@bluesombrero.com) or visit them at [www.bluesombrero.com](http://www.bluesombrero.com).

## Coaching Clinics and Licenses

Coaching clinics are available to all clubs and leagues at a nominal cost. It is the goal of VSA to provide our youth with a truly rewarding experience. We strongly encourage recreational coaches to complete age-specific youth module courses. The youth modules expose coaches to developmentally appropriate activities that are fun and challenging for every young player, and should help to ensure that our youth develop a life-long love of the game at an early age. Our State Coaches, Dave Seward and John Werner, are available to schedule coaching clinics for your club. Please contact the State Office to set a date for a coaching clinic. All coaches present at the clinics receive an official US YOUTH SOCCER coaching manual which includes information on the art of coaching, learning through game activities, tactical and technical concepts, and many other topics related to coaching youth soccer. Please see our website [www.vermontsoccer.org](http://www.vermontsoccer.org) for a schedule of coach licensing courses.

## State Competitive Programs

Vermont Soccer Association hosts the Vermont State Cup Tournament which is a part of the US Youth Soccer National Championship series. The tournament is for the more competitive teams in the U-12 through U-18 age brackets. The tournament is held in the spring & the winners advance to the Region I Championship Tournament in early July. The Region I Championship Tournament will be held in West Virginia this year.

## State Recreational Programs

Our recreational programs include low-cost coaching courses & referee certification. The Kohl's American Cup is a festival designed for the recreational player. It provides a tournament atmosphere for the recreational player without the competitive pressures of other tournaments. Vermont Soccer Association is currently looking for Volunteers to participate on the Kohl's American Cup Festival Committee. Anyone interested in being a part of this exciting event may call 802-859-9601.

## Olympic Development Program (ODP)

Players who are more advanced in their playing skills and desiring personal advancement in their playing ability are given such opportunity through ODP. The program identifies and develops youth players throughout the country to represent their state association, region, and the United States in soccer competition. Open tryouts are held in early November. Players are selected via the open tryouts as well as recruiting by State Coaches. These teams attend the ODP Region I Tournament and occasionally a few other events as a team. Players also attend the Region I ID Camp for the opportunity to be identified and named to their age group Region I ODP pool of players which may give them the chance to compete against other Regional teams across the nation and abroad. For more information visit our website: [www.vermontsoccer.org](http://www.vermontsoccer.org).

## **TOP Soccer**

TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based training and team placement program for young athletes with disabilities, organized by youth soccer association volunteers. The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and playing soccer to any boy or girl, who has a mental or physical disability. Our goal is to enable the thousands of young athletes with disabilities to become valued and successful members of the US Youth Soccer family. How do I participate? Visit our website [www.vermontsoccer.org](http://www.vermontsoccer.org) for more information.

## **REFEREES**

The Vermont Soccer Referee Committee offers certification and re-certification courses throughout the year to potential new and seasoned referees. Soccer is growing in Vermont and more referees are always needed. Certified Referee Assignors now assign referees to games. Information on certification classes, assessment programs, instructor's courses, and assignor courses is available on the website: [www.vermontsoccer.org](http://www.vermontsoccer.org).

## **HOSTING EVENTS**

Information on how to run a tournament for your club/league is available through the state office. Tournaments must be sanctioned by the state for teams from other clubs within and outside of Vermont and the United States to participate and for the insurance to be in effect. There are a few forms that must be filled out and sent to the state office before it can be sanctioned. Hosting a tournament or jamboree requires Application to Host Form to be completed and returned to the State Office, along with appropriate fees, for approval. Any event without Permission to Host is a non-sanctioned event and all insurance coverage will be null and void. Applications must be submitted 90 days prior to the proposed dates. If foreign teams, including teams from Canada, will be invited and/or attending, permission must be granted by USSF. Please call the office for more information.

## **TRAVEL & TOURNAMENTS**

Teams traveling to **some** out-of-state tournaments must have a *Permission to Travel* form signed by the State Registrar. The application is available at the State Office or on our website. Allow 2-3 days for approval of application. Confirm with the hosting club of the tournament whether or not the form is needed. Permission to travel is not required for a team registered in Vermont to participate in tournaments in Vermont.

- **Procedure for Permission to Travel**
  - A US Youth Soccer application for Travel form must be filled out and signed by the Club Coordinator, Team Manager, or Coach. Such forms may be mailed or brought directly to the Vermont Soccer Association along with the \$10.00 fee per form.
  - A team must submit the Application to Travel 30 days prior to the tournament. If the 30 day timeframe is not met, a \$25.00 fee will be imposed and **MUST** be paid at the time of submission to the VSA.
  - The following are required documents needed to process your Application for Travel:
    - US Youth Soccer Application for Travel form completed**
    - One copy of your current, signed State Roster**
    - A copy of the tournament's Permission to Host form signed by their State Association.**

VSA Administrators will compare the Permission to Host form with the team's Application to Travel form to verify that the team meets the requirements for the tournament they are traveling to. The Club, Coach, and Team Players are to be in good standing with VSA when Permission to Travel is granted.

## **PLAYER AND COACH PASSES**

VSA will provide player and coach passes to teams. Passes will be printed by VSA and returned to the club's registrar with approved rosters. Passes should then be signed by players, have pictures affixed on back and returned to VSA for validation. Pictures should be CURRENT and a maximum of 1"x 1". Once processed, passes will be returned to the registrar for distribution to coaches. PLEASE ALLOW 2-3 WEEKS for this process.

## **MULTIPLE ROSTERS**

Players may register and play on multiple teams within the same season. Players playing on more than one team must pay registration fees for EACH team. Tournament and league rules may prevent players from playing on two teams within the same age bracket in the same tournament or league. Please check league and tournament rules BEFORE submitting rosters.

**PLAYER AGE CLASSIFICATION (Appendix 1)**

Player age cutoff date is August 1<sup>st</sup>. In each registration packet is a chart of age categories for the year 2008-2009. An easy way to determine age classification is by how old the player will be before Aug 1<sup>st</sup>. If the player is playing in a U10 age division, he or she cannot turn 11 before August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**INSURANCE CLAIMS**

Insurance claim forms are available at [www.bollingersoccer.com](http://www.bollingersoccer.com). Completed forms should be sent to the VSA office for signature and forwarding to the insurance carrier.

**MEDICAL RELEASE FORM (Appendix 3)**

USYSA and VSA's insurance company require coaches to have a signed medical release form for each player with them at all practices and games. In the event that a player needs emergency medical attention this form will be necessary to have a player treated if a parent or guardian cannot be reached.

**RELEASE to Play Out-of State**

Release to play Out-of State form is required for any team or individual wishing to participate with a team or league outside the state of Vermont.

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Vermont Soccer Association holds their Annual General Meeting in March each year. All affiliated clubs and leagues are required to send a representative to the AGM. This year's AGM will be on March 21 at the Soccer Center in Essex Junction. For more information please check the website.

**VSA REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND DATES TO REMEMBER**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>
Nov. 9 & 16	Olympic Development Team Tryouts	Tree Farm Recreational Facility
Jan. 16	Division I Rosters/Fees/Forms Due	Submit to VSA Office w/fees
Jan. 16	State Cup Applications Due	Submit to VSA Office w/fees
Mar. 13	Division II/III Rosters/Fees/Forms Due	Submit to VSA Office w/fees
April 10	<b>STATE CUP ROSTER FREEZE DATE</b>	
May 15	Kohl's American Cup Applications Due	Submit to VSA Office w/fees
May 15,16,17	State Cup Preliminary Matches	Tree Farm Recreational Facility
May 30,31	State Cup Finals	Tree Farm Recreational Facility
June 1	VSL High School Division Rosters/Fees/Forms Due	Submit to VSA Office w/fees
June 6	Kohl's American Cup – U10 Festival	Tree Farm Recreational Facility
June 7	Kohl's American Cup – U8 Festival	Tree Farm Recreational Facility
July 2-7	US Youth Soccer Region 1 Championships	West Virginia
July 20-26	US Youth Soccer National Championships	Lancaster, Massachusetts