



LOUDOUN

S O C C E R

*Developing **Champions** for Life!*

Loudoun Soccer Board of Directors Message

As 2014 draws to a close, the Board of Directors of Loudoun Soccer would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for making our Club the region's preeminent youth soccer organization. Our Club's parents, volunteers, and professional technical and administrative staffs supported each of the more than 12,000 youth and 1,000 adult soccer players that participated in one or more of Loudoun Soccer's programs this year.

Loudoun Soccer experienced unprecedented success on the field and in the community in 2014. More than 200 teams participated in our year-ending Recreational Tournament and Jamboree. [Two](#) of our travel teams reached the U.S. Youth Soccer National Championships in July, while our 98G Red team won a [State Cup](#) title just a few weeks ago. Our own Mark Ryan, Director of Travel, [won](#) both state and regional Coach of the Year awards, and is a finalist for the U.S. Soccer National Coach of the Year. Numerous Loudoun Soccer athletes received scholarships to continue their playing careers at the collegiate level. Our [adult league](#) expanded to almost a thousand players, and has become recognized as a destination Club for adult league play.

We completed the purchase of Loudoun Soccer Park this year, securing our long-term access to one of the region's flagship soccer complexes, and establishing a foundation from which to grow in terms of our on-field programming and field development strategy.

Off the field, our Club members contributed to a wide range of community and charitable causes, from the noteworthy impact of the [Team Mathias](#) cancer research fundraising efforts, to thousands of hours spent coaching youth teams and supporting our [TOPSoccer](#) program for physically and mentally challenged children as well as hosting a Soccer Fiesta for children in at-risk neighborhoods. In March, many of you participated in the first annual Loudoun Soccer [Kick into Spring 5K](#) with over 300 runners in attendance. And most recently, Loudoun Soccer was pleased and honored to be selected as a finalist for the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce's Non-Profit of the Year award. And a special thank you goes out to all of our corporate partners. It is through their generous support that Loudoun Soccer is able to continue to grow and support these programs.

2014 saw our Club make significant strides in evolving our club culture to connect generations of players through a shared love of the game. Our #RepTheRed social media campaign drew thousands of players, coaches, parents, and local students together to follow our teams as they participated in state, regional, and national competitions. Hundreds of fans traveled to the Maryland SoccerPlex to root for their fellow Loudoun Soccer clubmates in last summer's National Championships. You've responded extremely



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positively to our new newsletter format and increased emphasis on Club member communications – we continue to welcome and appreciate your feedback.

In recognition of the growth of our Club and the incredible opportunities before us, we developed a new mission statement, core values, and Club motto. At Loudoun Soccer, we are Developing Champions for Life!

As we celebrate our successes this year, we also look forward to the coming years, excited about our strong foundation and the opportunities before us as a Club. Recently, we engaged stakeholders from across the Club – volunteers, technical staff members, and administrative staffers – to elicit feedback supporting the development of our Strategic Plan. As a result of these discussions and in response to the suggestions of these stakeholders, the Board of Directors will move forward aggressively in 2015 and beyond to:

- Implement more inclusive and effective communications programs across the entirety of the Club's focus areas.
- Prioritize field and facility development to ensure our players have access to the highest quality playing surfaces possible. As our Club continues to grow along with our County, access to field space represents one of the most pressing challenges we face as an organization.
- Develop a comprehensive vision for the future of our Club. Our Loudoun 2018 campaign will serve as a blueprint for the growth of Loudoun Soccer at all levels, from recreational play to competitive travel programs to serve players of varying skills, to promoting to development of elite players, to offering life skills programming and mentoring opportunities, and increasing our Club's engagement in the fabric of the Loudoun County community. Timed to coincide with our 40th anniversary, Loudoun 2018 will celebrate our potential and build on an incredibly strong foundation.

In the coming weeks, you'll see more communication from us regarding the steps we're taking to engage our community in the growth of our Club. We want your input, and we need the time, energy, and incredibly diverse skills of the successful professionals in the Club's membership to help us reach our potential. To that end, we'll be creating a number of new committees and seeking volunteers with skills in field development, government affairs, marketing and communications, and finance/accounting.

We're also seeking [nominees](#) for several Board positions. Elections will be held at the December 8 meeting of the Board of Directors. If you are interested in running for President, Secretary, or At-Large



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Board positions, please complete the Nomination Form (available [here](#)) and submit to board@loudounsoccer.com no later than December 5, 2014.

The Board would like to express its sincere and substantial gratitude to Tom Thomas and Steve Szczypinski, both of whom are stepping down from their roles as Loudoun Soccer President and Treasurer, respectively. Tom's vision, leadership, and significant personal sacrifice were vital to the unprecedented growth and organizational evolution that occurred during his six years on the Board, while Steve was integral to the purchase of Loudoun Soccer Park and partnered with our administrative staff to ensure the Club's firm financial position. We hope that both Tom and Steve will continue to be involved in the Club's direction, and look forward to working with them in the future.

It's an exciting time to be a part of Loudoun Soccer, and we're only just beginning to realize our potential – on the field and as a vital part of the Loudoun County community. Thank you for all your support of your Club, and please continue to let us know how we can make your experience and that of all Loudoun Soccer players a positive one.