



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Maryland Soccer Foundation Recognized by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services as National Youth Sports Strategy Champion**

**Germantown, MD** – The Maryland Soccer Foundation was recognized as a National Youth Sports Strategy Champion by the United States Department of Health and Human Services today for their role in providing sports opportunities for the youth of Montgomery County, Maryland and across the region. The Maryland Soccer Foundation, which operates the Maryland SoccerPlex and Soccer Association of Montgomery, has a mission to provide world-class fields and programming for the Maryland community.

The NYSS, released in September 2019, called for a national strategy to increase youth sports participation. The NYSS is the first Federal roadmap with actionable strategies to increase participation in youth sports, increase awareness of the benefits of youth sports participation, monitor and evaluate youth sports participation, and recruit and engage volunteers in youth sports programming.

Matt Libber, Executive Director of the Maryland Foundation, said, “The Maryland Soccer Foundation, Maryland SoccerPlex, and SAM Soccer are honored to be a part of the National Youth Sports Strategy. We look forward to continuing our mission to provide soccer and sports opportunities to the youth of Montgomery County and Maryland.”

The Maryland Soccer Foundation was recognized as a NYSS Champion for its work to provide soccer opportunities to youth players in low-income areas, particularly with Latino families. The Maryland Soccer Foundation also focuses on the whole person by building character, sportsmanship, and healthy lifestyle habits.

NYSS aims to unite U.S. youth sports culture around a shared vision: that one day all youth will have the opportunity, motivation, and access to play sports — regardless of their race, ethnicity, sex, ability, or ZIP code. NYSS Champions represent organizations that are working towards achieving this vision.

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### **About the Maryland Soccer Foundation Plex**

The Maryland Soccer Foundation operates the Maryland SoccerPlex which features a combination of 24 professionally maintained, regulation-sized soccer fields, an award-winning stadium field, Maureen Hendricks Field, and overall, some of the highest quality facilities in the country. The Foundation also operates the Soccer Association of Montgomery (SAM), a recreational soccer program and league. The mission of the Foundation is to create a fun, nurturing, and safe environment for all participants. [www.mdsoccerplex.org](http://www.mdsoccerplex.org)



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**ABOUT THE NATIONAL YOUTH SPORTS STRATEGY:** The National Youth Sports Strategy is an essential resource for policymakers and key decision-makers in youth sports. It aims to unite U.S. youth sports culture around a shared vision: that one day, all youth will have the opportunity, motivation, and access to play sports — regardless of their race, ethnicity, sex, ability, or ZIP code. The National Youth Sports Strategy is the first Federal roadmap with actionable strategies to increase participation in youth sports, increase awareness of the benefits of youth sports participation, monitor and evaluate youth sports participation, and recruit and engage volunteers in youth sports programming. <https://www.health.gov/our-work/physical-activity/national-youth-sports-strategy>