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OHIO
SOCCER
ASSOCIATION

MERGER & RATIONALE SUMMARY [10/9/20]

Why is Ohio North and Ohio South Merging?

- Both State Associations conducted surveys with their memberships on what they were doing well and areas of improvement. After reviewing the results, it became clear that we could address many of those issues by merging.
- Opportunity to operate a 'Big Tent' concept to eliminate the fractured soccer landscape in Ohio and create a new entity that will revolutionize soccer in Ohio.
- Focus on connecting communities through soccer.
- Address the cultural differences in our members so that the smaller community-based leagues/clubs feel as much a part of the new Association as the larger city/districtwide leagues and clubs.
- Opportunity to rewrite bylaws, policies, etc., to be opportunity focused, not limiting, and better serve our members through statewide consistency.
- At 90,000+ players, there is a significant increase in the marketability of becoming the largest State Association in the Midwest and top 10 in the country. These are resources to be re-invested back into our membership.
- Opportunity to emerge from COVID-19 crisis in a position of strength.
- With combined assets (staff and financial), uniquely positioned to help our members grow and more effectively address their needs.
- Combined assets will allow us to further invest in programming and grow the game.
- Capitalize on shared staffing expertise and experience.

Who Are the Members?

- Both leagues and clubs will be full voting members of the Ohio Soccer Association. Currently 40 out of the 55 State Associations have clubs as members - we needed to move in that direction.
- There will also be an opportunity for additional non-voting membership categories.

OSA - Districts

- There will be seven (7) Districts. Each was created with geography, population, and culture in mind.
- Each District will have an equal vote.

OSA - Board Structure

- The new Board of Directors will have 11 voting members.
- Two (2) officers (President and Vice-President) will be elected by leagues and clubs in a statewide election.
- Seven (7) District Directors will be elected by leagues and clubs in district elections.
- Two (2) At-Large members nominated by CEO and approved the Board.

Timeline for Merger

- As per Ohio Revised Code (ORC), the new Constitution will be called the Code of Regulations.
- There will be an opportunity for our members to review and ask any questions they might have.
- To help with this, community Town Hall meetings via Zoom to be held over the coming weeks.

- In addition, Ohio North will host an [OSA](#) page on its website that will have summary details of the new organization and Frequently Asked Questions.
- Once members have had an opportunity to comment, Ohio North and Ohio South will present the proposed merger to its members for approval.
- Following endorsement by both State Associations' memberships, a petition of merger will be submitted to U.S. Soccer and [US](#) Youth Soccer for their approval.
- If endorsed by our members, the Ohio Soccer Association will begin play next year for the 2021 – 2022 season.

Cups and Programming for 2020 - 2021

- Both Ohio North and Ohio South will remain operational through Spring 2021 and conduct programming as normal. This includes leagues and tournaments.
- In addition, teams in NCS/State Cup and Presidents Cup will qualify for Regionals/Nationals still as Ohio North and Ohio South.

Town Hall Calls for Further Information

- Community Town Hall meetings via Zoom will be held over the coming weeks to share information and answer questions where possible. These dates will be announced in the coming weeks and recorded for anyone that cannot attend.

Stay Connected!    @OhioNorthSoccer

#EXPERIENCEON