



**Ohio Soccer Association
Merger Information
10/09/20**



WHY THE MERGER?

- 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 rewrite constitution, bylaws, policies, etc. to reflect the greater flexibility our members have been asking for
- No one has ever understood why we are split. Unify the state and connect all communities, irrespective of geography or population
- For those that wish, minimize travel locally and outside of Ohio due to greater membership numbers
- 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.
- Greater level of competition for Clubs and potential for substantial growth for leagues
- More focus/attention to Grassroots & Recreational soccer growth and connecting communities through soccer





WHY THE MERGER?

- State-wide Consistency in application of policies/bylaws/etc.
- 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
- Unique time in history. Many youth sports groups are struggling financially. Opportunity to emerge from COVID-19 crisis in a position of strength due to combining of assets
- Combined assets will allow us to further invest in programming and growing the game
- Combined membership will increase to 90,000+ players with growth potential in excess of 125,000 players. The benefit/value proposition to potential sponsors on becoming the largest State Association in the Midwest and top 10 in the country. These are resources to be re-invested back in our membership
- Greater ability to serve the needs of the membership
- Pride in becoming the model State Association in today's marketplace
- Capitalize on additional staffing, expertise & experience





INTEGRATION TEAM MAKEUP



Skip Gilbert



Drew Hiatt



Tom Condone



Jen Fickett



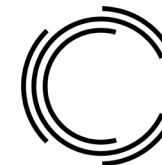
Tom Turner



Gordon Henderson



Bill Glaze



Brad Stinson



Jordan LaRocca





TIME INVESTMENT: APRIL - NOW

Meetings	143 Hours x Integration Team Members
Research & Creation	120+ Hours x Integration Team Members
People Involved	11 Core People + 23 Board Members + Many Others Talked to for Reference



WHAT DOES THE MERGER TIMELINE LOOK LIKE?

- Member vote to agreement of merger for Ohio North on November 30 and Ohio South on December 1. Filing with the State of the Ohio Soccer Association (OSA) in mid December
- Hiring of CEO to oversee the new organization. CEO has full operational control over staff and programming
- Both Ohio South and Ohio North 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 South and Ohio North
- At the same time, OSA will be open for registration and programming by February 2021 for the 2021 – 2022 season
- Both offices will be retained through and after the merger.
- A transitional Board of Directors will serve until the first member meeting of the Ohio Soccer Association in March 2021. The first Board of Directors will be elected at that time by the members; leagues and clubs.
- Transitional board will model the make up of the new organization board

