



### **What does this change mean for my current DMSA or Seton Roadrunners team?**

- DMSA will be co-branded with Bethesda SC in the U8-U12 age groups.
- Beginning at the U13 age group (when games switch to 11v11/full field), DMSA teams will become Bethesda Royal teams.
- Seton Roadrunners FC teams will become Bethesda Red teams for all age groups.
- This partnership aims to provide competitive teams for every age group and facilitate a player pathway that accommodates different skill levels.

### **Why does DMSA change to Bethesda Royal at the High School level?**

- Avoiding a conflict of interest at the high school level is essential.
- We want to provide club soccer opportunities for all players in our community, not just those who decide to attend DeMatha and Seton.
- Bethesda SC allows neutrality and alleviates implicit pressure to attend DeMatha or Seton.
- Selection for High School teams is separate from that of Club High School teams, and this partnership strengthens their boundaries.

### **Who will Coach my team?**

- Our coaching staff will largely remain the same, with some changes to specific team assignments.
- We are adding some new coaches and operations staff. These appointments will be announced after tryouts when we know the final numbers and ages of the teams.
- The partnership with Bethesda SC opens the doors to additional staffing resources.
- Our players will have access to the Bethesda Goalkeeper coaches.
- Coach Parnell has been named the Director of Player Development within Bethesda SC. His role will be to facilitate the assessment and placement of players with Bethesda Royal/Red teams.

### **Where will we train and play home games?**

- We will continue operating outside the local Prince George's County area.
- Elizabeth Seton High School field will continue to be one of our home fields.
- We will also be utilizing other fields in Prince George's County.

### **When does this change take effect?**

- This partnership will take effect on July 1st, 2024. The Spring season will continue as usual for the DMSA and Seton Roadrunner FC teams.
- Information about 2024-2025 season tryouts will be provided in the upcoming weeks.

### **How does this partnership impact player fees?**

- DMSA and Seton Roadrunners have historically had some of the lowest player fees in the area. However, player fees must be increased to ensure our teams have the right resources, staffing, and programming.
- This fee increase will take effect for the 2024-2025 season.
- Payment plans will be available.

### **What happens with summer camps?**

- We are still working through the details of the summer programming.
- We are committed to offering summer programs, just like in previous years.

### **How does this change benefit the players?**

- The current youth club soccer ecosystem is mainly dependent on youth soccer leagues. Entry into these higher-level, competitive leagues is not feasible nor possible for DMSA and Seton Roadrunner FC teams as they are currently constructed.
- Partnering with Bethesda SC will allow our players to be registered as Bethesda SC players and included in player pools that are eligible for MLS Next and ECNL teams at the age-appropriate teams.
- As it currently stands, a DMSA or Seton Roadrunner FC player would have to leave the Club and go to a tryout for an MLS Next or ECNL club (i.e., Bethesda SC) with the hopes of being seen and approved in the small window of a tryout session or two.
- This partnership will support the development of Bethesda SC players in larger player pools and offer an internal pathway for evaluating and selecting all players.
- This change also opens up the coaching, staffing, and programming resources available to our players and families.
- By being registered under the Bethesda SC umbrella, we will have opportunities to enter more competitive tournaments.
- We will also have access to other Bethesda teams for scrimmages and additional off-season programming.

### **How competitive is Bethesda SC?**

- Bethesda SC teams have had a long history of success. The boys' teams play in the two top leagues nationally, MLS Next and NAL. The girls' teams play in the top league nationally, ECNL. The Club also has teams that compete in the USYSA Region 1 League, EDP, NCSL, and Super Y Summer League. Bethesda SC teams participate in the Maryland State Cup and Maryland President's Cup, and the Club is a four-time national champion.
- Bethesda SC currently has over 75 girls and boys teams.
- Bethesda SC currently tiers teams as follows: MLSNext/ECNL (Academy), NAL/ENRL (Blue), and EDP/NCSL (various colors).
- Bethesda SC players have had success with Bethesda SC teams and beyond. Bethesda SC players have earned National Team call-ups in their youth and senior national teams. Bethesda SC has had over 75 players play professionally since 2000.
- Bethesda SC has an extensive pathway to college programs for both boys and girls teams and provides a reliable path for players to compete at the next level. In the past 20 years, BSC has placed over 500 players in Division I, II, and III schools across the United States. Those schools include every Ivy League school, Stanford, Duke, Georgetown, the University of Maryland, and the University of North Carolina. BSC is committed to providing its players with every opportunity to play at the college level and enrich their lives by obtaining a college education.

### **How many tournaments will we play next season compared to our current schedule?**

- Bethesda SC hosts one of the largest tournaments in the country each year in November. It draws one of the largest college coaches in attendance in the country, and teams come from all over the country to attend.
- This tournament has historically been difficult for our teams to enter. This partnership guarantees entry into that tournament as all Bethesda teams are registered and included.
- We are still working through the remaining tournament schedule.

### **What happens with Tryouts?**

- Tryouts for the DMSA/Bethesda Royal/Bethesda Red teams are currently being planned, and the dates will be shared as soon as they are confirmed.
- This spring, the primary goal of tryouts will be to create one competitive stand-alone birthyear age group team in as many age groups as possible.
- If you would like to try out for MLS Next or ECNL-level Bethesda teams, please contact Coach Parnell. He will connect you with the corresponding Director to follow up on tryouts.
- If you know any players interested in joining our membership, please get in touch with Coach Parnell ([phegngi@bethesdasoccer.org](mailto:phegngi@bethesdasoccer.org)).

### **How does this impact the training and game schedule?**

- DMSA, Bethesda Royal, and Bethesda Red teams will continue to operate out of local Prince George's County, just as we have been doing.
- The training and game schedule will remain similar to what it is now.
- U8-U12 (Foundation Phase) players will train twice a week. During the Winter Season, Foundation Phase players will train indoors with Futsal training one weeknight and participate in games in the **Bethesda Futsal League** on the weekend.
- U13-U19 (Development Phase—High School Phase) players will train twice a week all season. High School players will have one optional session during the season and resume the two sessions/week cadence once High School Soccer concludes.
- If a DMSA, Bethesda Royal, or Bethesda Red player is selected to be promoted to the academy-level teams (MLS Next or ECNL), that player would be offered the opportunity to train and play with those teams, primarily in the Montgomery County area.
- Multiple Bethesda teams can and do play in the same leagues. The Club Directors work together to connect all of the teams and players.
- For questions about Additional Small-Group or Supplemental Training, please get in touch with Coach Parnell.

### **Will we need to purchase new uniforms?**

- Yes. All players must purchase new uniforms for the 2024-2025 season.

### **Will we need to re-register for next season?**

- Since all teams will be under the Bethesda SC umbrella for the 2024-2025 season, we must switch systems.
- All current DMSA/Seton FC members will be invited to join the new teams next season.
- We will ensure our teams fully comply with the protocols of MSYSA (Maryland State Youth Soccer Association).
- While no one loves filling out online forms, we appreciate your understanding and compliance.

**What happens next?**

- We encourage all families to send at least one parent or trusted adult to the Town Hall to learn more about this partnership.
- Once tryouts are announced, all players will need to formally register for tryouts using the links that will be provided.
- Enjoy the spring season!